THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL

THE COLLECTION OF
NORTH CAROLINIANA

FC282
C363c
v.8
1998-1999

FOR USE ONLY IN
THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL
00047472457

Form No. A-368, Rev. 8/95

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/catholicnewshera1998unse

FC282
C363e
V.8
1998-1999

September 4, 1998
Volume [illegible] Number 1

****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S301 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

In

The pope's vacation
Pope uses his summer "time off" to gear up
...PAGE 7

Living the Faith
Florida priest uses magic in ministry
...PAGE 12

Missionaries of Charity open home for children
...PAGE 3

Religious and civil leaders make statement for the Islamic faith
...PAGE 3

Local News

Special collection Sept. 12-13 to benefit priests
...PAGE 11

Memorial Mass for Mother Teresa at St. Patrick's
...PAGE 10

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment
...PAGES 8-9

BACK to SCHOOL EDITION!

SEE SPECIAL 8-PAGE SUPPLEMENT

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Blessing the heart and soul of a new education center

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the chapel during the dedication ceremony of the Our Lady of Mercy Education Center at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. The new three-story facility, completed at a cost of $3.2 million, was named in honor of the Sisters of Mercy and includes 22 classrooms, two of which are computer labs. "We wanted to recognize the Sisters of Mercy for their 42 years of service to Catholic education," said Jerry Healy, Holy Trinity principal. During the Aug. 22 dedication ceremony, Healy thanked the school's long-range planning committee members, MACS board members, parents, teachers and students. "It was a much bigger task than we initially anticipated, but everyone handled the inconveniences of the last school year well," he said.

Sacred Heart CCD students help the homeless

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — WWJD is everywhere these days — on T-shirts, bracelets, in conversation. "What Would Jesus Do?"

Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from Sacred Heart Church in Brevard are answering that question. This summer, they have made dinner twice at Hospitality House, an Asheville homeless shelter for men and women, some of whom are recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. The youngsters plan to work there again in September. The students raised the money to pay for the food, helped prepare the meals, served the residents, then sat down to eat with them.

"We broke bread with them, just like Jesus did," said John Kaup, a 13-year-old parishioner.

James Gensch, who teaches the middle-school CCD class, came up with the ministry idea for his students.

"We're sheltered here in Brevard," he said. "We don't have any homeless here. In the mountains, we have people who are poor, but you'd never know."

Gensch has given food before.

"I started this program because when I was in Connecticut we did 'midnight runs,'" he explained. "We would go into New York City to Catholic Charities and hand out meatloaf sandwiches and soup on a street corner."

Churches in Brevard contribute to Transylvania County's Sharing House, which helps those who are underemployed.

"I was teaching one day, and I brought up the fact that we give money, but we don't give of ourselves," Gensch said.

The CCD instructor suggested that the students participate in a service project. He would contact their parents to obtain their approval. Eighteen students volunteered.

Gensch had heard about Hospitality House through his son's Weeblo troop. A scout's parent, who is an Asheville social worker, told Gensch about the facility located in the basement of Calvary Baptist Church.

In addition to the shelter, Hospitality House of Asheville, Inc., operates A-HOPE, a street outreach and Phoenix House, and Sojourner House, men's and women's transitional resi-

SEE HELPING THE HOMELESS, PAGE 10

Groups urge reconciliation, not retaliation for terrorism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several religious organizations have issued statements on the Aug. 20 U.S. attack on reported terrorist installations in Sudan and Afghanistan. At the close of an Aug. 20-23 joint assembly of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, CMSM's president, Marist Brother John Klein issued a statement endorsed by conference members who objected to the military action. Mercy Sister Mary Waskowiak, LCWR's outgoing president, issued a similar statement. Pax Christi USA, a national Catholic peace movement, urged prayer and fasting for peace, vigils, demonstrations and other actions to express opposition to the use of violence in battling terrorism.

Assisted suicide bad for physicians too, AMA president says

GEORGETOWN, Texas (CNS) — Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicides are not only bad for the patient, they're also bad for the physician. That's why the American Medical Association, the largest physician organization in the world, opposes both practices, the AMA's president told about 400 people attending the fourth annual Respect Life Conference for the Diocese of Austin. The conference, held at St. Helen's Parish in Georgetown on Aug. 22, heard from Dr. Nancy Dickey, a College Station family physician and first female president of the AMA. "We believe it is not our job to decide which life to shorten," Dickey said.

Arab Catholics criticize internal Israeli government memo

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Members of the Arab-Catholic community in Israel criticized a recent internal government memo describing Arabs living in Israel as "a potential strategic threat." "It is an affirmation of what Arabs feel here: There is no hope for full integration, no hope for becoming full citizens," Auxiliary Bishop Giancinto-Boulos Marcuzzo of Jerusalem said Aug. 25. He called the once secret document "dangerous and very, very sad." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied ever receiving such a report and said perhaps his Arab affairs adviser was given the report by one of the "numerous experts holding a wide variety of views" with whom he regularly holds discussions on various issues.

CNS PHOTO BY FRANK BROWN

Hill of Crosses

Women pray in front of a statue of Mary on the Hill of Crosses in Kryziu Kalnas, Lithuania. The hill, covered with hundreds of thousands of crosses, rosaries and other religious symbols, attracts up to 1,500 pilgrims each day.

Southern African bishops welcome new employment equity act

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Controversial legislation designed to close the wage gap between South African bosses and workers is "balanced and even-handed," the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference said in a submission to Parliament. The Employment Equity Act, which is also intended to put more blacks, women and disabled people in the workplace, was passed by Parliament in Cape Town Aug. 21. The legislation still must be signed by South African President Nelson Mandela. Businesses and opposition political parties have strongly criticized the new act, saying it will lead to reverse racism and deter much-needed foreign investment in the country. However, the bishops' parliamentary liaison office said in its submission, "We reject the argument that the bill 're-racializes' the workplace."

Missionary agency reports 207 victims of massacre in Congo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As more information became available, the body count from a massacre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo leapt from 37 to 207 victims, a number of them church workers. The Rome-based MISNA missionary news service reported that 207 corpses were recovered in the days after the Aug. 24 armed attack on the Catholic parish in Kasika, in the eastern part of the former Zaire. MISNA said Rwandan-backed rebels were thought to have conducted a raid to avenge an attack on their camp.

Expectations high as Milwaukee choice students head to school

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Parents transferring their children to Catholic schools this fall as a result of Milwaukee's expanded school choice program said they are seeking a religious environment, better educational opportunities, discipline and safety. Sharon Caruso told the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview that she transferred her 6-year-old twin daughters, Melissa and Miranda, from the public Fairview Elementary School to first grade at south side Blessed Sacrament Elementary because she wanted them to have the same Catholic education that she experienced while growing up. Noting there was "nothing wrong" with Fairview, Caruso said she believes Blessed Sacrament, in addition to its religious atmosphere, can offer more individual attention.

Taiwan survey on abortions spurs calls for sex education

TAINAN, Taiwan (CNS) — Catholic social and educational leaders have called for better sex education in schools in response to a survey that shows a high number of abortions among girls under 18 in Taiwan. Schools need to provide students with better sex education, said Carmela Huang Li-fen, director of St. Lucy's Center, which provides care for babies born out of wedlock and arranges adoptions, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Agreeing with Huang, Sung Hung-mo, principal of coeducational St. Dominic High School, told UCA News in late August that "as a Catholic school, we teach ethics and urge our students to cherish themselves." A survey of 238 obstetricians throughout the island confirmed 1,775 cases of abortions for schoolgirls under 18 between October 1996 and September 1997.

Some worship booklets to use new lectionary by advent

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When many U.S. parishes start using a new Sunday Lectionary for Mass this Advent, some publishers of worship booklets for use in the pew will be ready. At least three publishers — Sunday Missal Service, Liturgical Press and American Catholic Press — have confirmed that they plan to introduce the readings from the new Lectionary into the seasonal missals going out soon for Advent. The Lectionary contains the Scripture passages read at Mass.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

September 4, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 1
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 7, 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Mass for Mother Teresa
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

September 8
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center
Charlotte

September 12
Mass with Charlotte Rosary Guild
Charlotte

September 13, 11 a.m.
Mass with Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

September

7 CONCORD — The Heart to Heart Singles Group meets at St. James Church, 251 Union St. N., at 7 p.m. in the church hall. The group meets each Monday. Call (704) 786-9131 for details.

9 CHARLOTTE — A prayer group open to all people regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation or HIV/AIDS status meets at 7 p.m. in St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. The group meets each second and fourth Wednesday. Call David Brown, (704) 535-3684, for more information.

10 MOORESVILLE — A discussion program for anyone interested in learning about the Roman Catholic Church and who lives in the vicinity of south Iredell County begins today at 7:30 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., and continues each Thursday. For details, call the parish office at (704) 664-3992.

CHARLOTTE — The Couple to Couple League begins a four-part course on natural family planning at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For details and to register, call Alex or Maria Muñoz at (704) 849-0891, or Richard or Carmen Cashman at (704) 552-1334.

11 CLEMMONS — A children's fall and winter clothing sale is today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sept. 12 from 9-11 a.m. (with special items at half-price) at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Maternity, infant and children's clothing, toys and baby equipment will be available. Proceeds will benefit parish and community children's programs. Call (336) 945-4948 for more information.

12 CHARLOTTE — A financial seminar for men and women whose spouses have died is from 9-11:30 a.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway.

Religious, civil leaders says Koran is clear: Don't kill innocent

By JENNIFER REED and LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While terrorist attacks attributed to Muslim fundamentalists commanded the world's attention, religious and civil leaders distinguished between devotees to Islam and its violent fanatics.

"The Koran says ... if you kill someone who is innocent, it's as if you've killed all mankind," said Fahhim Abdulhadi, communications director of the American Muslim Council in Washington.

Many U.S. leaders believe Osama bin Laden, an anti-American, Saudi-born Muslim billionaire, was behind two recent terrorist bombings aimed at U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. Bin Laden has issued a "fatwa," or religious edict, which states: "We do not differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms and civilians. They are all targets."

But Abdulhadi said bin Laden's statement "is very clearly forbidden" in Islamic teaching.

"Allowing Osama bin Laden to speak for all Muslims is like allowing David Koresh to speak for all Christians; it doesn't work," Abdulhadi said. Koresh was the leader of the Branch Davidian sect — an unconventional offshoot of Seventh-day Adventists.

CNS photo from Reuters

Israeli rescue workers arrive at the scene of the bomb blast in Nairobi, Kenya, Aug. 8. The explosion near the U.S. embassy took the lives of more than 200 people and injured thousands.

John Borelli, associate director for interreligious relations in the U.S. bishops' Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said, "Islamic leaders are very quick to say, with us, that terrorism is wrong, terrorism violates the law of God (and that) the taking of life of innocents is always wrong.

"Muslims would be very much against anything identified as 'Islamic terrorism' just as we Christians would be against anything identified as 'Christian terrorism' as in, for example, Northern Ireland," added Borelli.

In Bucharest, Romania, representatives of more than two dozen religious denominations met to discuss aspects of faith and to pray for peace. The Aug. 30-Sept. 1 gathering was sponsored by the Rome-based San Egidio Community, a lay organization that conducts social work and mediates in areas of armed conflict.

In an Aug. 31 news conference during the San Egidio meeting, Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani, a deputy in the Iranian parliament and one of its few female members, said that Americans especially must learn to distinguish between Islam and violent acts made in Islam's name.

"We do not condone any type of terrorism," Hashemi said. "And our own people are victims of terrorism from the state of Israel, of which the U.S. government is the main supporter." Hashemi said that for years, Iran and other predominantly Muslim states have emphasized that Islam does not condone terrorism.

On Mother Teresa's birthday, sisters open new home for children

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — To commemorate Mother Teresa's birthday Aug. 26, the Missionaries of Charity opened a new home for handicapped children at a former Missionaries of Charity house in Calcutta.

The Missionaries of Charity also marked the first birthday after their foundress' death with a thanksgiving Mass and prayers at her tomb, and by welcoming schoolchildren and other visitors to their headquarters in Calcutta.

The children's home Daya Dan (give mercy) was inaugurated "as a birthday gift to mother," Missionaries of Charity superior general Sister Nirmala Joshi told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Some 30 handicapped children and four nuns now occupy the house.

Archbishop Henry d'Souza of Calcutta said Daya Dan was opened to ease overcrowding at Shishu Bhavan (children's home) near the motherhouse.

"So much is needed since the MCs (Missionaries of Charity) maintain their policy not to refuse anyone," he said.

Archbishop d'Souza recalled that on Aug. 15, 1997, while India celebrated 50 years of independence, a baby crawling with ants was left outside his house, and the Missionaries of Charity "lovingly accepted it."

At an early Mass Aug. 26, the Missionaries of Charity chapel was crowded with sisters, novices, volunteers and Mother Teresa's Indian friends.

A sister thanked God for the gift of Mother Teresa, whom she said was not physically present but was "even more close now in our minds and hearts."

After Mass, sari-clad women walked over to the Mother Teresa statue occupying the place where she used to sit at the back of the chapel, to touch its feet and bring their fingers to their foreheads in traditional Indian custom.

Groups of children from Missionaries of Charity schools visited the tomb, a practice the order has decided to allow to continue, said Sister Joshi.

More than 1,570 children visited the tomb to sing and dance for the Aug. 25-Sept. 2 anniversary period. The nuns also allowed TV camera crews and photographers to cover the service from a balcony outside the chapel and to photograph Mother Teresa's statue in the chapel and her tomb downstairs.

Cameras whirred and flashbulbs flickered, reminiscent of when Mother Teresa was alive.

Chalked on the blackboard outside the Missionaries of Charity house was "Happy Birthday, Dearest Mother" and a heart shape with Mother Teresa in it.

Mother Teresa died at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse Sept. 5, 1997, just 10 days after she turned 87. She was born in Skopje, now in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.

The Missionaries of Charity congregation has 4,000 nuns in more than 600 houses in 123 countries worldwide.

Daniel J. Taylor, founder of a Charlotte-based financial firm specializing in working with the widowed, facilitates. Future seminars will take place at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte on Oct. 10, and at Huntersville United Methodist Church, Huntersville, on Nov. 7. To register for any of these seminars, call Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216, or Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

13 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral at 4 p.m. Prayer teams meet at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass.

TAYLORSVILLE — Holy Trinity Church, 665 Main St., sponsors a "multi-culture night" at 7 p.m. The event includes a buffet for a variety of ethnic food samples, and souvenirs and artifacts from a diversity of countries. Admission is free; participants are asked to bring a favorite ethnic dish or one that represents their culture. Call Nick or Mary Baker, (828) 635-8371, for more information.

17 CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., with a free introductory session at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to register, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

GREENSBORO — The Men's 50th Annual Cursillo Weekend is at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., today through Sept. 20. The team is seeking support and active involvement from volunteers. If you are a Cursillista and are interested in supporting through prayer and other means, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377.

18 CHARLOTTE — The annual St. Ann Parish carnival is today from 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on church grounds, 3635 Park Rd. Highlights include raffles, rides, bingo, clowns, food and music. A teen dance will take place Sept. 18. Antique and classic automobiles will be at the carnival all day Sept. 19, and Charlotte team mascots will be on hand at lunch time. Raffle prizes include vacations, airline tickets and golf lessons.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience designed for married couples to strengthen their marriages and deepen their relationships by concentrating on open and intimate communications between husband and wife in an atmosphere of trust and confidence. The next weekends are at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 18-20 and Nov. 6-8. For more information, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

Hildegard of Bingen
7:30 pm Friday, October 9 to
4 pm Saturday, October 10, 1998
Sister Betty Condon, O.P.
Sister Barbara Hubbard, O.P.

A time to reflect and pray with 12th century mystic Hildegard of Bingen, a woman of her time and ours.

Pre-register by September 25

Cost: $65
$30 commuters

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says inspiration of Holy Spirit relevant in modern age

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The inspiration of the Holy Spirit has a particular relevance to the interpersonal and international relationships of the late 20th century, Pope John Paul II said.

Addressing several thousand people at a general audience Aug. 26, the pope said the modern age was experiencing a process of "communion and unity" that involves individuals, populations, races and cultures. Although marked by contradictions, this is clearly a "season of socialization" for the world, he said.

In order to overcome obstacles and dangers in this process, he said, it is important for people to listen to and accept the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The pope said the role of the Holy Spirit was an important part of God's ability to communicate with human beings and help call them to personal growth.

"The history of salvation is the progressive self-communication of God with humanity," he said.

"And if God communicates with human beings through his Spirit, the human person is continually called to give himself to God totally. This is his deepest vocation," he said.

Unlike previous weeks, the audience was held outside in St. Peter's Square, and several people in the crowd suffered faintness or dehydration in the heat. The pope returned to his summer villa outside Rome after the audience.

Pope stresses church authority to Anglican-Catholic commission

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told a Catholic-Anglican dialogue commission that the church's teaching authority must be firmly enunciated in order to confront a crisis of truth in modern society. The pope made the remarks Aug. 28 at the papal palace at Castle Gandolfo as he welcomed members of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, who were meeting in Rome Aug. 25-Sept. 3. Their main agenda item was teaching authority in the church. The pope said Christian churches should take a leading role in promoting such authority, to help remedy widespread confusion about objective moral truth.

Romanian leaders express hopes for planned papal visit

BUCHAREST, Romania (CNS) — Romanian political and religious leaders hope a planned pastoral visit to Romania by Pope John Paul II will boost national interests and promote Catholic-Orthodox dialogue. During a global gathering on peace and interreligious understanding in Bucharest, participants were upbeat about the possible effect of a papal visit being discussed for next spring. Romanian President Emil Constantinescu said in an interview that the significance of a such a trip would "go beyond the borders of Romania. It would have significance for all of southeastern Europe and the world." Foreign Minister Andrei Plesu formally invited Pope John Paul during a visit to the Vatican. Orthodox leaders also extended an invitation and were discussing the details with Vatican officials.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

What would you change back if you could?

A recent item I read asked, "Of all the numerous changes and advancements you've witnessed in your lifetime, what would you change back, if you could?"

The people who were asked this question ranged in age from 61 to 86 and their answers varied noticeably. Some were very thoughtful, like the woman, 72, who said if she could change anything it would have been "faith in myself. Due to lack of self-esteem, I lost out on many opportunities in my life." That was a sad note.

A man, 69, bemoaned the fact that he believes the United States has fallen into a state of "low morals. The Bible says thou shall not commit adultery, also fornication." But then he adds, "Most changes are fine."

Several answers focused on prayer, feeling that the banning of innocent prayers of children in school has "seriously contributed to taking away the innocence of children," as a 61-year old woman put it. And a woman, 70, calling prayer a "part of our American heritage," emphasized that "nonsectarian prayer should never have been taken out of the schools."

Another woman, 63, would "make Sundays once again a family day — when food markets and retail stores were closed so parents and children would have a quality day together, ... when the family attended church and everyone was expected at the mid-day meal."

I applauded a man for his humanitarian conscience, evident in his words, "The Brookings Institution after a four-year study concluded that the United States spent close to $6 trillion to develop nuclear industry. I would have diverted those funds for humanitarian purposes."

Others who responded regretted that neighbors didn't have coffee klatches any more, that they no longer feel safe, that the media is filled with violence and bad language, and that it's hard to have a conversation with an actual person anymore when you dial a business phone.

I found myself relating to a lot of these comments. Certainly I am sorry that my grandchildren, like all children today, cannot be sent outside to play without supervision. When I was young and was raising my children, everybody trusted their children to play outdoors with their buddies. We could send our children to the store alone without worrying that they'd meet foul play. Not so today.

But as I reflected on the question and thought about what I'd change back, I concluded that I agree with the 70-year-old gentleman who said, "I would not change anything," and went on to the changes he had witnessed that indicate the progress we're making in technology, world health and other areas. Like him, I feel that while some comforts may have been lost, and some people have discarded values, we are for the most part moving creation forward.

I think God, looking down on us, must feel proud that creation has gone a giant step forward. Like any parent who would rejoice to see his or her child progress from cave living to the computer age, I think our Father must similarly rejoice in seeing what, by his grace, his children have accomplished.

Antoinnette Bosco is a CNS columnist.

Editor's Corner

MIKE KROKOS
Editor

Extra! Extra! Welcome to the new Catholic News & Herald

As The Catholic News & Herald enters its eighth year of publication this week, you will see a new, improved, more reader-friendly newspaper.

Several months ago, Bishop William G. Curlin wrote to all priests and religious serving the Diocese of Charlotte asking them to participate in a survey concerning their Catholic newspaper. In the process, 1,200 diocesan households were also selected at random to take part in a similar poll.

The survey was only an element in nearly a yearlong process that assisted us in updating the layout, design and content of the newspaper. A focus group consisting of parishioners from throughout the diocese convened to follow up on the survey, and expertise shared from our editorial board — which consists of newspaper experts, religious and other professionals — was a part of the mix, too.

The results of the survey indicate both the religious and laity are pleased with the product that is delivered to their homes each week. Yet, most readers also want more local news in the paper. Survey respondents made requests for several new articles, with the primary appeal being for stories that would help them learn more about their faith.

From its beginning, The Catholic News & Herald has been dedicated to bringing the good news of our faith to readers throughout western North Carolina. The publication is viewed first and foremost as a tool of evangelization for every registered Catholic in the region.

You will see several new elements in this issue. On the front page is a new masthead in full color and a ladder down the left side highlighting stories featured inside. Other pages will be labeled with a header at the top to help readers identify what type of news is featured. Revamped briefs pages and a revised diocesan calendar are featured inside. A new classified ad format has been established to feature employment opportunities. Bishop Curlin has agreed to write a monthly column as well (see page 5).

We have also updated our readings feature and will dedicate space each week to "Word to Life," a Catholic News Service supplement to the weekly Scripture readings which offers a short story or anecdote on how the Scripture pertains to everyday life. The entertainment page will offer capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Upcoming television shows of interest will be reviewed. Book reviews will also become a regular feature.

Thanks to production associate Julie Radcliffe, associate editor Joann Keane, staff writer Jimmy Rostar and input from the people mentioned above, the redesign has progressed and become a reality. Each of their contributions to this project were invaluable.

A special thanks goes out to the editorial staff. Julie spent countless hours using her layout talents to help the newspaper achieve its fresh, new look. Joann, as always, was the voice of reason and eager to lend her invaluable knowledge and expertise as a 10-year veteran of the Catholic press. As a very interested staffer, Jimmy shared his opinions and insights as well.

This process will be an ongoing one. We plan to keep improving our product in the months ahead. As always, please feel free to share your ideas with us.

Light One Candle

FATHER JOHN McSWEENEY
CNS COLUMNIST

Finding peace in the midst of grief

"After my brother's death, I wondered if the hurt would ever go away." Josh was Amy Hodges' hero. By her first year of high school she had grown to depend on her "handsome, fun-loving" big brother, who was 16 years her senior.

Josh had been murdered in an abandoned pump house in a grain field near his home. But for three years, Amy didn't want to know the how and why. She avoided talking about his death with anyone, blocking out the murder investigation and the trial that followed. Looking back upon her denial of her own pain, and her family's efforts to protect her, Amy now sees that her hurt was only growing more intense.

At the urging of a friend, Amy began seeing a counselor who helped her start the long process of unraveling her fears and pain. She says: "I had never allowed myself to grieve, to feel any anger. But I didn't know how to deal with my emotions. In spite of my counselor's encouragement to allow God to help me through the pain, I could not. I felt no connection with God; I couldn't pray."

Day by day, Amy unleashed her feelings, voraciously absorbing facts about the trial from old newspapers. She asked questions and, though finding few answers, Amy gradually gained strength. At last she was at the stage where she could acknowledge her grief, and the desperate lengths she had gone to avoid crying out for help.

Finally, out of her anguish and despair, she prayed: "God, please help me."

"After a long time of silence, I felt an indescribable peace," says Amy. "Then I cried, but this time they weren't tears of deep, hidden pain. They were tears of release."

The death of a loved one comes in many ways — a spouse or parent you've loved for half a century, a child you never knew, a friend's death by suicide or violence. However it comes, the death of someone close brings shock and finality for which nobody is prepared.

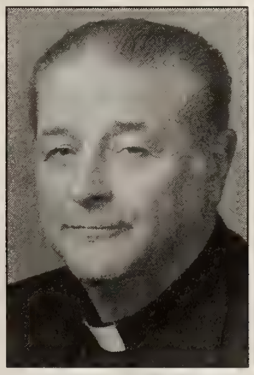
After such a heartfelt loss, it is not uncommon for any one of us to doubt God's goodness or to angrily question what kind of God would allow such tragedy to occur. If spiritual beliefs have been a comfort in the past, a temporary loss of faith when it is needed so much can be devastating. However, it has been my experience that most people find that, in time, faith not only returns but that it is more vital than ever.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, just two weeks before his death from cancer, wrote in "The Gift of Peace:" "What I would like to leave behind is a simple prayer that each of you may find what I have found —God's special gift to us all: the gift of peace. When we are at peace, we find the freedom to be most fully who we are, even in the worst of times. We empty ourselves so that God may more fully work within us. And we become instruments in the hands of the Lord."

Grief is perhaps the only human experience in which pain and anger seem to be the only emotions left to our innermost beings. Sometimes we hold on to these agonizing feelings as our only connection to the past. Yet when we ultimately get to that point where we can honestly and completely give them up to God, be prepared: you will be filled with a peace that no one will ever be able to take away from you.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers and a CNS columnist.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

A mistaken translation of the Our Father

Q. How do we explain the words in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation"? Surely God does not try to lead us into sin.

Why would such a thought be included in the Our Father?

A. You are right, of course. The Letter of James in the New Testament says clearly, "God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one" (1:13).

Obviously, therefore, that section of the Lord's Prayer is a mistaken translation, a mistake which has persisted in English Bibles, both Protestant and Catholic, for hundreds of years.

It's not possible to explore here why the change occurred, but more correct translations began to appear only in the 1960s.

The (Protestant) New English Bible reads "the test" instead of temptation. The (Catholic) New American Bible now has the words "do not subject us to the final test" in both Matthew (6:13) and Luke (11:4).

These and other recent translations of the Lord's Prayer in the Gospels are somewhat closer to the real meaning.

Interestingly, the first drafts of the new Catechism of the Catholic Church attempted to remedy the traditional mistake with a more accurate and theologically correct wording. In the end, however, the English-speaking bishops decided to keep "lead us not into temptation" because of its centuries-old usage in Catholic liturgies and devotions.

The catechism gives an enlightening and inspiring explanation of this text in its commentary on the Our Father. It acknowledges first of all that no one English word, like "temptation" or "test," can convey the rich meaning of the Greek word in the Gospels.

In this sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to keep us from the way that leads to sin, to help us unmask the lie in every temptation, whose object appears to be good, but in reality leads to death.

In other words, Christ unites us here with his battle against evil and his agony, and urges us to the vigilance that keeps our heart in communion with his (Catechism 2846-2849).

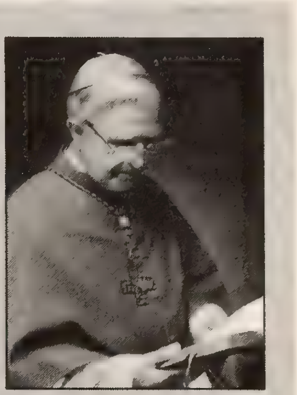
Many saints and theologians have commented extensively on the Our Father through the centuries. Their thoughts and insights are summarized well and succinctly in the catechism's extended section on this, the common and central prayer of all Christians.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Father John Dietzen is a CNS columnist.

From The Bishop



MOST REVEREND WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

A consistent theme echoed by all the groups who shared input as the staff proceeded with the newspaper redesign was a desire to hear from me as your shepherd on a regular basis. Thus I plan to use this space once a month to address what I believe are important issues of the church, update you on diocesan activities, and answer questions of faith that are important to share with our brothers and sisters.

The following is a copy of letter I mailed to our seminarians last week. I would like to share it with you.

Dear Brother in the Lord,

I am very happy to confirm in writing that you have been accepted as a candidate for the priesthood for service in the Diocese of Charlotte. I am confident that you will receive a warm welcome in your new seminary community.

This is an exciting time for the church in the South. Everywhere the Catholic population is increasing. Some have described our remarkable growth as "Pentecost in the South." Your generous response to God's call "to leave all things to follow Him" assures us of shepherds to serve our brothers and sisters in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

I beg you to keep your mind and heart centered on Jesus Christ. The late Cardinal Bernardin reminded us that we must first evangelize ourselves before we seek to evangelize the world. Evangelization is not a once-in-a-lifetime thing; it requires a day-to-day recommitment of our life to Jesus Christ. This demands that we maintain intimacy with the Lord.

Prayer is essential in the life of a priest. Pope Paul VI said that prayer "explains how we live." While there are scheduled times in your seminary when you will pray with your brother seminarians, you must also seek quiet times to be alone with the Master. Recall how often Jesus asked His disciples "to come aside and pray with Him." St. John Vianney, patron saint of diocesan priests, remains a witness to the effect of rooting our daily life in prayer.

Never forget that the Eucharist must remain the heart of our life. Priestly ministry centers around the Eucharist. Bring reverence and adoration to God's altar.

Entrust your soul to a wise and devoted priest who can guide and strengthen you as you strive for personal holiness. On ordination day, the bishop reminds deacons to "live what they preach." Allow frequent reconciliation and spiritual direction to be a source of grace to remain in God's love.

Have a special love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. The church calls her the "Mother of priests." It is through Mary that we received Jesus; through her intercession we will remain faithful to her Son.

Establish a strong bond of friendship with your brother seminarians. Priests need priests! We must not live as "loners" but as brothers. I thank God daily for the support offered my brother priests.

Be assured that you have a special remembrance in my Masses and prayers. You also have the prayers of our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese, whom you will one day serve in priestly ministry.

I look forward to meeting you during my visit to your seminary. Please do not hesitate to call on me for any assistance I can offer.

Imam, rabbi and cardinal in dialogue

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A cardinal, a rabbi and an imam agreed Aug. 23 that love and mutual respect are crucial to interfaith dialogue. A three-way dialogue of Catholicism, Judaism and Islam was co-sponsored by the Catholic Focolare movement and the Baltimore Archdiocese at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. It featured nationally prominent representatives of the three faiths: Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, U.S. episcopal moderator of Catholic-Jewish relations; Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J., and former chairman of interreligious affairs of the Synagogue Council of America; and Imam Abdulmalik Mohammed, leader of the Muslim American Society in Baltimore.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Guatemala Protests

Guatemalan clergy march Aug. 26 in Guatemala City to protest the lack of progress in the investigation of the April 26 murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera. Guatemalan bishops have called for an immediate exhumation of his body to move the case along.

Healing spirit of sainthood candidate Mother Cope lives on

HONOLULU (CNS) — There is reason to believe the remarkable 19th-century healing ministry of Franciscan Mother Marianne Cope continues today. According to Sister Mary Laurence Hanley, director of Mother Cope's sainthood cause for the Sisters of the Third Franciscan Order in Syracuse, N.Y., her intercession is why a 14-year-old East Coast girl who should have died five years ago now leads a normal life. "The doctors had given her up," Sister Hanley said of the girl, who experienced multiple organ failure. Certainty of death was "100 percent." But after prayers seeking Mother Cope's intercession, the girl's major organs came back to life.

Italian surgeon, credited with saving pope's life, dies of cancer

ROME (CNS) — The Italian surgeon credited with saving the life of Pope John Paul II after a 1981 assassination attempt, Dr. Francesco Crucitti, died in Rome of cancer at age 67. The pope, who had often expressed his esteem for the surgeon, paid a brief call at the Crucitti residence after his death Aug. 26. The pope met with the doctor's wife and two children. The pope told the family he wanted to pay his respects to "a man who saved my life," a Vatican spokesman said.

Military archbishop has been on the road, meeting chaplains

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, said his first year on the job has been "a hayride, really." In six months on the road, he has accomplished his main objective by meeting almost half of the 550 active-duty and Veterans Affairs chaplains in the archdiocese. "We have serious discussions, we have prayer, we have a great social life together," he said. "A lot of them are deployed in very distant places, and they make great sacrifices to get together with other priests."

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

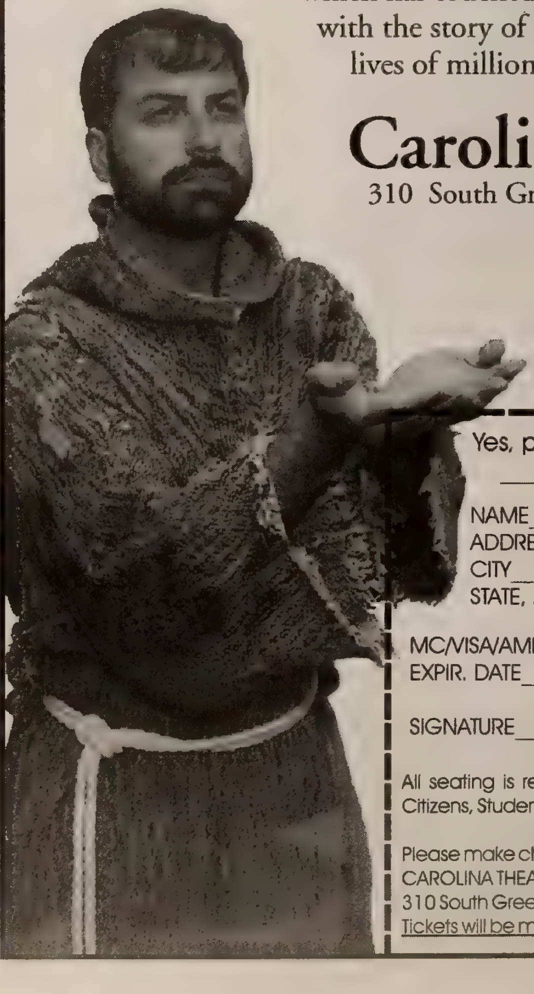
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh



FRANCIS—The Saint from Assisi

A Musical Drama...

Retelling in joyous story, song and dance the life of the revolutionary "little poor man of Assisi." This performance - for all ages and all beliefs - celebrates the life of the man who has captivated the world by his inspiring message of joy, peace and simplicity. Experience this delightful musical which has touched the hearts of thousands with the story of the saint who changed the lives of millions.

Carolina Theatre
310 South Greene St., Greensboro, NC

Performances
Sept. 25, 8pm
Sept. 26, 8pm
Sept. 27, 2pm

Yes, please send me ____tickets for:
___Sept. 25 ___Sept. 26 ___Sept. 27

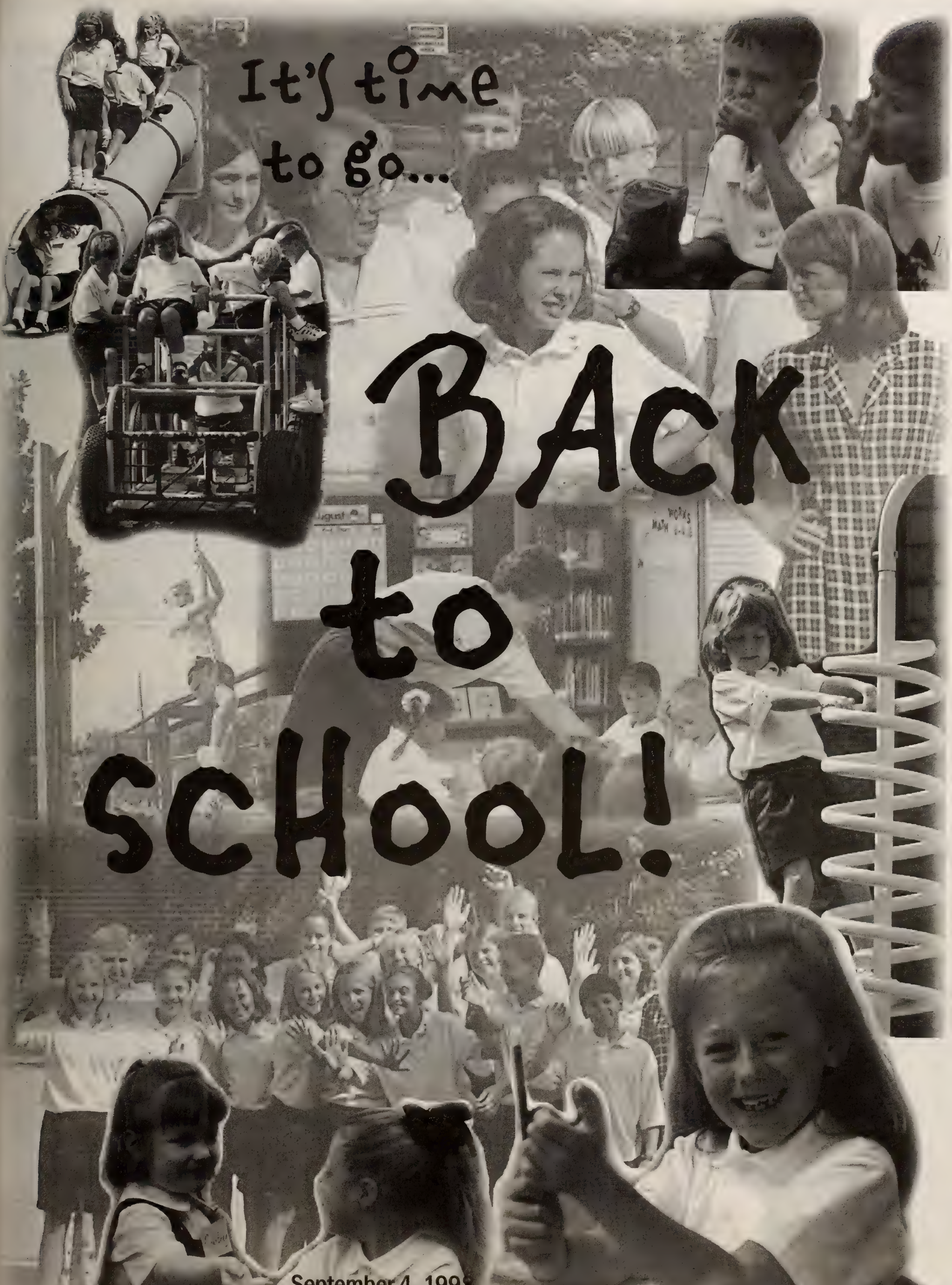
NAME________________________
ADDRESS________________________
CITY________________________
STATE, ZIP________________________

MC/VISA/AMEX #________________________
EXPIR. DATE________________________

SIGNATURE________________________

All seating is reserved. Tickets are $10; $8 for Senior Citizens, Students and groups of 10 or more.

Please make check payable to:
CAROLINA THEATRE & send to: CAROLINA THEATRE,
310 South Greene St., Greensboro, NC 27401.
Tickets will be mailed to you. For info, call 336-333-2605



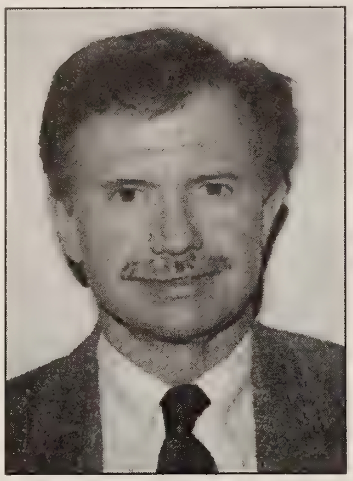
It's time to go... BACK to SCHOOL!

September 4, 1998
A special supplement to The Catholic News & Herald

We are partners in learning

By Dr. MICHAEL SKUBE
Superintendent of Schools

Catholics schools are an investment in time, talent and effort by hundreds of teachers and staff with the support of pastors, parents and parishioners.



Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools

First and foremost, our schools are unique — they're Catholic. They're not private, nor are they public. Like those educational institutions, our schools are called to prepare students for the future. But, unlike those institutions, our schools are committed to shaping the future by helping students understand fully, accept freely and live faithfully the Gospel message found in the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Catholic schools are based on a framework of values brought forth in the concept of message. Overall, that message is that students, parents and teachers form a partnership with the church and become "Partners in Learning."

Parents are the primary educators of their children. They can find assistance in fulfilling that responsibility in their partnership with the Catholic school. As educators of their children, parents have a right and should be involved in preparing and assisting in the implementation of school directions and activities.

The primary basis of Catholic schools is the religious formation of students. The role of the school is not only the moral education and formation of values of its students, but an obligation to further the development of the whole child. The role of the church and school is to offer norms and guidelines to assist the student's moral decision-making and behavior. Students must see school as an academic center of learning based on common values such as: self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work ethic, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, determination, generosity and stewardship.

The moral atmosphere of the classroom is composed of everything that happens within its walls. Teachers and staff establish a classroom community characterized by trust, care and openness. The classroom community supports growth and the development of moral interaction as it is called into use when students work, play and worship together. Students are to be helped to develop a sense of dignity, freedom and hopefulness. Teachers expect students to learn and to succeed.

Our principals, teachers and support staff look upon their work with students as ministry. They continually strive to better serve the students of today and tomorrow. Through the students, they touch the future — and eternity.

Photo by Joann Keane

Blessing the classrooms

Following the dedication ceremony of Holy Trinity Middle School's new education facility, Bishop William Curlin blessed many of the classrooms. Pictured with the bishop are, from left to right, are Andrew Tolbert, Thomas Tolbert, Chris Barnobi, Valerie Meiss, Warren Immell, and Catherine Mobley. In its fourth year of existence, Holy Trinity has grown to have a student body of 910 students this year. Holy Trinity is the only Catholic middle school in North Carolina.

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are scenes from the first week of school at Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point.

Photos by Patrick Henry

Faith for a Brighter Future
Catholic Schools
© NCEA/USCC 1998

Simpson's Floor Fashions, Inc.

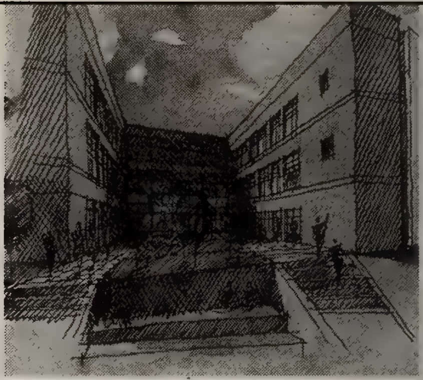
1101 South Blvd.
Charlotte, NC
28231
(704) 376-7270

SPECIALTY FLOOR COVERING CONTRACTORS

Congratulations to Holy Trinity on their great new addition!

Discover Catholic Schools

Flynn & O'Hara
School Uniforms
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Holy Trinity Middle School
Scheduled Opening - Fall 1998

Designing facilities that support the educational principles of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system.

Little&Associates
Architects

Gary L. Hubler, AIA, President
THE SCHOOL DIVISION
5815 Westpark Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217
Telephone: 704.525.6350 • Fax: 704.561.8700
Visit our web site at www.littlearch.com.

Asheville, High Point schools welcome new

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
AND JIMMY ROSTAR

Two Catholic school communities in the Diocese of Charlotte have begun their year with new principals. Dr. Veronica Berreen is principal at Asheville Catholic School, and Margene Wilkins is principal at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

Veronica Berreen

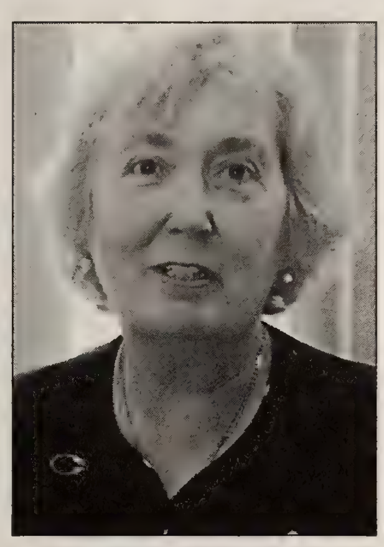
"It's a wonderful school," Dr. Veronica Berreen said of Asheville Catholic School, the institution she now serves as principal. "Everyone is very supportive. There's a great sense of cooperation. The children are absolutely lovely, very polite and hard-working. It's good to be back home in a Catholic school."

Asheville Catholic has 256 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade classes.

In 30 years of education, Berreen has taught pre-kindergarten through 10th grade at schools in Vermont and New York, including Holy Name of Jesus School in Valhalla, N.Y. She also started a teacher-for-the-handicapped program at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt.

Faith, she believes, is an important part of the learning process.

"The spiritual life of a child is the essence of learning," she said. "In Catholic education, you can tap into that. Watching that blossom is the greatest satisfaction a teacher can have. I believe parents are the primary teachers, so I include them in that."



Veronica Berreen

Berreen earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education at Hunter College in New York City. She met her husband, John, while completing her last doctoral class at Fordham University.

"It was a philosophy course," she said. "He was in his first class for his master's. Best course I ever took. I got an 'A' and a husband."

They have one son, John Jr.

Berreen earned her doctorate in 1976.

She was principal of Dorset School in Dorset, Vt., when budget cuts forced her to cut her teaching staff. She decided to leave as well.

With her husband retired and their son now an ophthalmologist, the Berreens decided to move to the Southeast; other family members live in the area. She was offered several positions and accepted the one at Asheville Catholic.

Margene Wilkins

"I didn't come here to change anything," Berreen said. "I would like to grow with Asheville Catholic. I want to provide a climate of love and nurturing and joy, and then the children will learn."

Margene Wilkins

Margene Wilkins has more than 25 years of teaching and administrative experience in Catholic schools. What she appreciates the most about Catholic education, she said, is its far-reaching scope while sticking to the basics.

"The primary benefit is that we can teach the whole child," she said. "We can appeal to all the various levels of their ... beings, from faith and morals to challenging them to move forward into the technological society they're going to have to live in.

"We can do that with a lot of love, discipline and caring."

A native of Covington, Ky., Wilkins earned a bachelor's degree at Thomas More University in Fort Mitchell, Ky., and a master's at Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

She taught a fourth-grade class before expanding into elementary, middle- and high-school education. She spent 10 years at a Catholic high school in Hollywood, Fla., and for eight of those years served in several administrative roles, including assistant principal.

An employment opportunity for Wilkins' husband, Edward, brought the family to North Carolina in 1991. Wilkins taught middle-school students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro for four years.

The Wilkinses are residents of Greensboro, where they are parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church. They have a son, Budd, who recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Wilkins said all the members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School community have gone out of their way to make her feel welcome in her new environs. "What excites me most about the school is the children," she added. "They kind of took me under their wing, and made me feel at home."

The new principal said that as she learns more about the school she now serves, her primary focus is on the 250 students. "My biggest hope for them," she said, "is to have a good learning experience, to be happy in this environment, ... and to become the best Christian persons they can be."

Good luck to all the staff and students of Holy Trinity!

We're happy to have been a part of building the new addition.

"Quality Starts at The Beginning."

TRADESMEN CONSTRUCTION, INC
6630-K East W.T. Harris Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 536-8110
(704) 536-9012 Fax

Best of luck in your new addition!

SIMPLY DOORS, INC.
Hollow Metal Door & Frame Repair
Installation of Doors • Bath Partitions & Accesories

502 Ferrell Ave., Belmont, NC 28012
(704) 825-9703, fax (704) 825-9728

MODULARCORP

Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

"Reflecting The Son Light" is theme for St. Leo School

By SUSAN DeGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Full-length mirrors adorn each classroom at St. Leo School this year.

The mirrors are part of "Reflecting the Son Light," the school's theme for the 1998-99 academic year.

The theme was chosen to tie in with national Catholic schools' motto for the year, "Faith for a Brighter Future."

"It (the theme) will help the children become more aware of how Christ lives within them," explained Georgette Schraeder, St. Leo principal.

St. Leo faculty members have incorporated several ideas into their classroom and curriculum to reflect the theme. The mirror in Sister of St. Joseph Sister Emma Yondura's first-grade classroom hangs in the children's prayer corner with a poster nearby that reads, "Wherever I am...God is." Fourth-grade teacher Patti Eiffe plans to use their mirror during her religion lessons, reminding students often "that they reflect the goodness of the Lord."

In addition to the reflection theme, teachers will also focus on the theme of light. Middle-School science teacher Marion Adams has displayed the universe on her ceiling with a string of lights. Music teachers will incorporate hymns that refer to light at weekly school Masses. For the Masses, students and teachers have also been given buttons which read, "Let the Son Shine In You."

In addition, Schraeder will allow students a "son light night" once a month, which translates to an evening without homework. "We hope families can spend this time doing something together," Schraeder said, referencing a Scripture passage from the book of Matthew: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

The new academic year at St. Leo's also marks the kickoff of the school's "A Million for the Millennium" penny campaign.

Photo by Susan DeGuzman

Sister of St. Joseph Sister Emma Yondura, a first-grade teacher at St. Leo School, and principal Georgette Schraeder pose with the penny box that is collecting "A Million for the Millennium." Students will use funds raised to cover yearbook costs.

The Home School Association came up with the idea in an effort to cover the increasing costs of student yearbooks. The goal is to collect 1 million pennies ($10,000) by the year 2000. The amount would cover two years' worth of yearbook costs and leave extra money to be applied to future school projects.

A penny box, which is approximately 3' x 3', sits in a central location and has a window on its front side so students can monitor their progress.

"This is a meaningful project that allows students to save for the future in order to preserve a part of their past," Schraeder said.

PECI
PREFERRED
Electric Co. Inc.

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

OFFICE & RETAIL UPFITS

UPS & GENERATOR INSTALLATION

COMPUTER ROOMS

Pole and Site
Lighting Repair

24-HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE
Nights, Weekends & Holidays

NC, SC State Licensed • Radio Dispatched

704-347-0446
311 W. Worthington Ave.

Enjoy
Your new "quiet lockers" installed by
php
LOCKER COMPANY 1-888-LOCKER9

Creative
NatureScapes,
Inc.

Billy Hawkins
President

Block & Timber Walls
Tree & Shrub Installation
Water Ponds
Irrigation Systems
Seeding & Mulching
Low Voltage Lighting

Business (704) 545-1508
Digital Pager (704) 581-1334

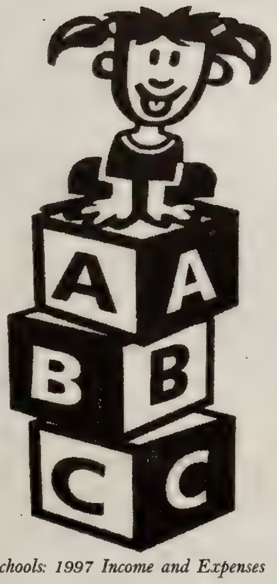
Teachers rate jobs

Over 94% of Catholic school teachers expressed a great deal of satisfaction with their jobs.

Source: 1998 NCEA *The Balance Sheet for Catholic Elementary Schools: 1997 Income and Expenses*

Prekindergarten Programs

Since the 1982-83 school year, when NCEA first started tracking enrollment in prekindergarten programs, the number of students attending Catholic school prekindergarten programs has grown by more than 470%.



Source: 1998 NCEA *The Balance Sheet for Catholic Elementary Schools: 1997 Income and Expenses*

PROUD TO BE A PART OF
HOLY TRINITY'S
NEW ADDITION

PIEDMONT
Tile & Marble, Inc.
6650-A East W.T. Harris Blvd. ◆ Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 535-1053 ◆ fax (704) 535-1429

Good luck in the 1998-99 School Year!

J&L SERVICES
655 Pressley Road, Suite L
Charlotte, NC 28210
(704) 523-9032

COFFEE • VENDING • SUPPLIES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

MICHAEL ARNOLD
663-105 Post Oak Circle
Altamonte Springs, FL
32701

(407) 521-6935

SADLIER
SADLIER-OXFORD
9 Pine Street
New York, NY
10005
(800) 221-6175

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

We are thankful and proud
to be a part of the new school addition
at Holy Trinity.

WHELCHEL
WHELCHEL & ASSOCIATES, INC.
General Contractors
(704) 377-1334

Congratulations!
Holy Trinity Middle School

Commercial and Industrial Design
Installation and Service for HVAC
Plumbing and Energy Systems
Process Piping

McKenney's Inc
Mechanical Contractors
and Engineers

24-HOUR SERVICE (704) 357-1616
1-800-McK-HVAC

Expectations high as Milwaukee choice students head to school

By EUGENE HORN
Catholic News Service

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Parents transferring their children to Catholic schools this fall as a result of Milwaukee's expanded school choice program said they are seeking a religious environment, better educational opportunities, discipline and safety.

Sharon Caruso told the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview that she transferred her 6-year-old twin daughters, Melissa and Miranda, from the public Fairview Elementary School to first grade at south side Blessed Sacrament Elementary because she wanted them to have the same Catholic education that she experienced while growing up.

Noting there was "nothing wrong" with Fairview, Caruso said she believes Blessed Sacrament, in addition to its religious atmosphere, can offer more individual attention.

Caruso's children are two of a maximum 6,500 elementary and secondary school students expected to enroll in religious and private schools under the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program this fall.

Some 1,800 of these choice students are expected to transfer from Milwaukee public schools or enter school for the first time this year. This 1998-99 school year is the first chance for many Milwaukee children to attend Catholic schools.

In a 4-2 ruling in June, Wisconsin's highest court not only confirmed the constitutionality of Milwaukee's existing school choice program, but it also permitted the program's expansion to provide vouchers for up to 15,000 low-income children.

A total of 35 Milwaukee Catholic elementary and middle schools and five Catholic high schools are eligible to participate in choice, but at least two schools have declined to do so this school year.

One reason cited for not participating is a choice provision that allows students to "opt out" of religious activities at participating schools. "We're not going to start apologizing for who we are," commented one principal.

But such reluctance pales next to parents' and students' enthusiasm for choice. Margaret Karpen cited a safety factor in transferring daughters Erika, 10, a fifth-grader, and Lynette, 9, a fourth-grader, from Jeremiah Curtin Elementary School to Blessed Sacrament.

"Eventually, they will be going into the upper grades and ... public schools are too rough," she said. Karpen believes Blessed Sacrament's curriculum has "much more to offer," especially the religious environment and instruction.

Some 1,800 of these choice students are expected to transfer from Milwaukee public schools or enter school for the first time this year. This 1998-99 school year is the first chance for many Milwaukee children to attend Catholic schools.

Fifteen-year-old Esperanza Camarillo, who attended south side Sholes Middle School last year, enrolled as a freshman at east side St. Joan Antida High School this fall "to get a good education." She said she chose St. Joan because her cousin had received a college scholarship through the school and she hopes to do the same.

Camarillo said she hopes attending St. Joan will help her get "to where I want to be. ... I want to be a lawyer ... because I like helping people."

Sixteen-year-old Mitsuyo Ikeno, who lives on Milwaukee's east side and attended Menomonee Falls High School under the Milwaukee Public Schools Chapter 220 exchange program last year, has enrolled at St. Joan Antida for her junior year.

Her older sister, Hanako, who assisted with the transfer, said Mitsuyo chose St. Joan, known for its multicultural student body, "to cultivate her Japanese heritage."

She said Mitsuyo, who felt she was "kind of slipping" academically, believes St. Joan will provide the educational environment she's looking for. She expects the all-girl school to help her sister academically and develop a closer relationship with teachers.

Interviewed at a "Family Night" orientation for parents of new and returning pupils, parents making a switch from public schools expressed faith in St. Leo Catholic Urban Academy. Debra and Nigel Noel believe St. Leo will provide a safer environment and better education for their 12-year-old son, Adonis, a seventh-grader who attended Grand Avenue School last year.

"We felt he wasn't learning enough. ... He was having too many problems with other kids. We believe St. Leo will challenge him academically," Nigel said. Rather than worrying about her son possibly getting into trouble and being disciplined, Debra said, "Here, in a smaller setting, he can concentrate on his studies."

"One more thing is that kids aren't coming here for a fashion show," said Nigel, referring to St. Leo's demands that all pupils wear uniforms, conservative hair styles, and no flashy jewelry. The school's "image standards" state that students' haircuts, jewelry, style and behavior "should always reflect the quality of excellence that St. Leo has historically stood for."

Lisa Mitchell said she transferred her daughter, Porcha, 9, to St. Leo because as a straight-A student at Cass Street School the last three years, she wanted to "try something different and see if she can adapt" to her new school's high standards. Mitchell chose St. Leo because of the improvement her niece, Yien Mitchell, an 11-year-old fifth-grader, has shown since transferring from public school a year ago.

"She wasn't all that great in public school and now she's doing really good," Mitchell said of her niece.

Betty Brown said she made the decision to transfer her 7-year-old son, Brandon, to St. Leo from Thirty-eighth Street School before choice funds became available. She was dissatisfied with "overcrowded" classes at the public school, and expects her son to improve in reading, a primary focus of St. Leo's curriculum.

Contributing to this story was Bill Kurtz.

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Best Wishes For The 1998-99 School Year
ACT
OFFICE CITY
9801 W. Kincey Ave. #125
Huntersville Business Park
Huntersville, NC 28078
(704) 875-0432 (800) 345-6392
FAX (704) 875-8128
America's Office Supplier • Serving the Charlotte area since 1970

©1998 Wachovia Corporation

Where are you?

Does the future sometimes feel out of reach? Could you use a little help? Are you overwhelmed with all the choices now available? We are here. To offer clear thinking about money and the future. To provide answers based on the questions created by your needs. To support you with a tradition of sound financial thinking. To help your money earn more. Even if it means we might make less. We were all born trusting other people. We just want you to feel that way again.

We are here.

WACHOVIA
1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM
Let's get started.℠

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

The Crime of Stupidity

Congratulations.

It's the end of the first week of school, and you've gracefully grabbed the honor of being involved in the first major disciplinary event of the new school year.

Proud? Let's see what happened.

You don't smoke, but you have a friend who does. It's lunch time, and that very same friend suggests a little stroll around the campus.

After a few seconds you notice that you're heading into forbidden territory — the rear of the gym, off-limits to students during lunch. But you don't say anything because you're with your friend, and it wouldn't be particularly cool to suggest adherence to, of all things, school rules at that moment.

Once at your destination, the purpose of the trip becomes clear as your friend whips out a cigarette and a lighter from his backpack and lights up.

The crimes are multiplying right before your eyes. You're in a place you're not supposed to be, and you're with someone who's breaking another school rule — and a pretty serious one at that.

Do you say anything? No, because in your mind, friends don't do that. They don't correct each other. They support. Affirm. Hang with.

Suddenly, your friend's eyes grow wide and he drops the cigarette. You know what you're going to see when you turn around, and your heart jumps right up into your mouth when you do.

It's the dean. You've been busted, and for the most humiliating crime of all: stupidity.

There are, to be sure, teens who put the brakes on when they sense they're about to be led in a direction they really shouldn't be going.

There are teens who will try to be the voice of conscience and, if not that, at least common sense when they're with their friends.

But not nearly enough of them, I think.

If you're riding in the car with a friend who's racing down the highway at a dangerous speed, do you speak up and tell him to slow down?

If you witness a friend being incredibly disrespectful toward her mother and saying things you know are wrong, do you ever tell her later that maybe she was out of line, and she might consider the possibility that if she's nicer to her mom, her mom might be nicer to her?

It takes a lot of courage for teens to speak up in this way, even to their friends. The need to be accepted by peers seems to have such power that it almost overwhelms every other consideration.

As usual, the best way to grapple with this is to reverse roles: What if you were on the other end? What would you want your friends to do?

THE PHONICS FREIGHT

PHOTO BY PATRICK HENRY

Getting started

Terri Carr, a second-grade teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, instruct students during a reading comprehension exercise. Cheers and moans were commonplace as students checked their answers. The school, which opened it doors Aug. 26, held half-days of classes during the first week. Besides the early classwork, children also took advantage of the excellent weather to enjoy recess on the school's playground. Two hundred fifty students in kingdergarten through eighth grade compose the student body at Immaculate Heart of Mary School this year. Principal Margene Wilkins said the students were on their best behavior thus far.

Otis
A United Technologies Company

Otis Elevator Company
9801-F Southern Pine Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28273 (704) 519-0100

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Good luck to all the students & staff at Holy Trinity
KEY-CON BUILDERS, INC. Timothy J. Dixon, President
1300 Old Farm Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226 (704) 374-9337, fax (704) 374-9338

We are happy to have contributed to the vision of our youth.
Quality Window Coverings
Mini . Micro . Verticals
Wood Blinds . Shutters
Commercial . Residential
8037 Fairview Rd., Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28227
The Blind Man, Inc. (704) 545-3641

Survey: Churchgoing teens less likely to use drugs, alcohol

By **PATRICIA ZAPOR**
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Teens who are regularly involved in religious services are less likely to smoke, drink alcohol or use marijuana than those who do not attend services, according to a new national study on teen substance abuse.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that 8 percent of teens who attend religious services at least four times a month smoked cigarettes. That compared to the 22 percent of teens who smoke among those who participate in religious activities less than once a month.

The study also found that 13 percent of teens who go to a church or synagogue once a week or more have smoked marijuana, compared to 39 percent of those who are less involved in religious activities. The results were released in Washington Sept. 1 by the center's president, Joseph A. Califano Jr., former secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Use of alcohol also was less common among religiously involved teens, with 19 percent of those who regularly attend religious services saying they had had an alcoholic drink in the last 30 days, compared to 32 percent of those who participate in church activities less than once a month.

"Religion is a most significant factor in 12- to 17-year-olds staying off drugs, cigarettes and alcohol," Califano said. Teens who are active in religious groups also were less likely to have friends who drink or use illegal drugs, according to the study.

Other factors that seem to have a positive effect in teens avoiding smoking, drinking and using drugs include active parental involvement and school use of locker searches, drug testing and zero tolerance policies, the study found.

"Parents have enormous influence over their children," Califano said the survey showed. "Teens who do not smoke pot credit their parents for this decision. Parental involvement is a critical protective factor.

"The more often teens eat dinner with their parents, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use marijuana," he continued. "Parents who insist on knowing where their teens are after school, who eat dinner with them frequently, who are home after school and who talk to their kids, are likeliest to be parents of teens who don't smoke, use marijuana or drink."

Among the survey's other findings:

— Seventy-eight percent of the teens surveyed said religion is important in their lives, while 22 percent described it as not important.

— Forty-nine percent said they attend church activities or religious services at least four times a month.

— Teens who get drunk or smoke pot regularly are two times likelier to say religion is unimportant in their lives than those who do not.

— Seventy-eight percent of teens said drugs are used, sold and kept at their schools.

— Teens were more likely than teachers and principals to consider drugs the most significant problem they face.

Twenty-nine percent of 12- to 14-year-olds and 28 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds said drugs were the most important problem, compared to 18 percent of teachers and principals. The teachers and principals said family problems and social pressures were more significant problems for teens than drugs.

— Fifty percent of 13-year-olds say if they wanted to they could buy marijuana. Eighty percent of 17-year-olds said they could.

Califano noted that for three years the survey has shown that religion is "a key factor in giving our children the moral values, skill and will to say 'no' to illegal drugs, alcohol and cigarettes."

He said that by taking children to religious services beginning at an early age, parents can affect whether or not they are able to resist those substances.

"Above all, it is parents and churches, synagogues and mosques that must give these children the moral compass to negotiate the high seas of marijuana, acid, cocaine and heroin," Califano said.

The survey was conducted by the Luntz Research Companies during May, June and July. It questioned 1,000 teen-agers aged 12 to 17, 824 teachers and 822 principals. The data has a statistical margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent to 3.5 percent. The project was funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

NCEA provides religious education assessment survey

WASHINGTON — The National Catholic Educational Association's (NCEA) Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) helps Catholic educators assess religious knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, perceptions and practices of the Catholic faith for students.

ACRE is used in 142 United States dioceses, including the Diocese of Charlotte, to provide information on the effectiveness of religious education programs in Catholic schools and parishes. Teachers and catechists, principals and directors of religious education, together with diocesan-level staff person use the information drawn from ACRE to determine how well local, stated goals and objectives for religious education are being achieved. ACRE is administered to students in church-operated schools and parish religious education programs. ACRE Level 1 serves students in grade 5; ACRE Level 2 is for grades 8-9; and ACRE Level 3 surveys students in gracdes 11-12.

For more information on the ACRE survey, please contact the Office of Religious Education Surveys, NCEA, 1077 30th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20007, (202) 337-6232, or e-mail: nceaacre@ncea.org.

SteelFab is proud to be a part of
the new school addition at
Holy Trinity

Congratulations

STEELFAB
Steel Construction

Charlotte, NC
Raleigh, NC • Emporium, VA
Atlanta, GA • Roanoke, AL
Florence, SC • Charleston, SC

L.T. MECHANICAL,
INC.

Commercial Plumbing,
Heating, and Air
Conditioning Contractors

(704) 599-4445

*We are happy to have
worked with the building team on
the beautiful Holy Trinity addition!*

Summer vacation: As things slow down, pope gears up

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During the second half of this summer, Pope John Paul II met with dozens of church officials and groups, put the finishing touches on an encyclical, held weekly general audiences and Sunday blessings, celebrated public Mass on feast days and other occasions, followed world events and spoke out against violence in various parts of the globe, and hosted an international conference on "Time and Modernity."

This was a vacation?

In theory, papal summers are slowdown periods in which popes disappear to their walled villa in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome, taking a much-needed respite from the pressures and pace of life inside the Vatican.

But in the summer of '98, as things slowed down, Pope John Paul seemed to gear up.

It wasn't all work, of course. In between his managerial and pastoral appointments, he also found time to attend a concert (in his honor) of the Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra, sit for a private theater performance on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux and confab with a group of old high-school classmates on the 60th anniversary of their graduation. He was serenaded by a youthful chorus from his native Poland and patiently posed for photos with 300 Polish pilgrims.

The papal palace at Castel Gandolfo, a small hill town, has grown used to such gatherings. In its bucolic setting, where papal cows are still milked daily, the 17th-century villa has periodically resembled a Renaissance court, an intellectual think-tank and an executive office.

CNS photo by Arturo Mari

Pope John Paul II greets well-wishers in the Italian town of Borno July 19. Although on summer vacation, much of his time in the mountains of northern Italy was spent greeting pilgrims, participating in a conference of intellectuals and keeping watch over world events.

The pope's level of involvement and his evident good humor during the summer weeks buoyed his aides, who have watched papal stamina and health decline over the last few years. Visitors who attend his general audiences, held each Wednesday morning at the Vatican, are still sometimes shocked at the pontiff's slumped figure, his shaking arm and his quavering voice, presumably the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

But those close to the 78-year-old pope say his determination and mental acuity are still as strong as ever. This summer, they witnessed welcome signs that he was enjoying himself, too.

What is grist for the pope's mill is not always so appealing to others, however. Take the two-day conference of 25 philosophers, political scientists and other academics, who convened in a room at the papal villa to give nonstop — and long — speeches on such topics as "The rationalization of time in daily life."

Said one Vatican official, "These are extremely intricate topics. They're not vacation themes. Some would consider it an incredible bore to sit through two days of this, morning to night, but the pope was in his element: listening, hunched over, taking notes."

If the pope was in an intellectual mood, part of the reason may have been his upcoming encyclical, expected to be issued in September. The papal treatise on "faith and reason," a Vatican source said, will attempt to reach a wider audience of intellectuals like those who attended his summer conference.

Meanwhile, the pope's summer brought some painful interruptions from the "real world," as he was handed near-daily bulletins from various fronts: Church workers slain in Yemen, a priest killed in Haiti, Catholics massacred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Asian flooding, Northern Ireland bombings, African terrorism and Kosovo chaos.

Pope John Paul also used his vacation to look ahead to a busy year. He met with Cardinal Roger Etchegaray to discuss the possibility of a trip to Romania, which would represent a breakthrough of sorts in relations with Orthodox churches of Eastern Europe. Cardinal Etchegaray was traveling to Romania for talks later in August.

The pope reviewed plans for the year 2000 and more than once mentioned his hope of making a pilgrimage not only to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, but to the ancient biblical lands in what now forms parts of Iraq, Syria and Egypt.

Not surprisingly, there are gaps in what the world knows about the pope's activities and interests over the summer. He has a big swimming pool at Castel Gandolfo, and we don't know if he used it. His video image — live and recorded — made its debut on the Internet, and we don't know if he saw it. He asked visiting Americans about the U.S. political scene, but he didn't say what he thought about President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.

And why should he? He's on vacation.

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Have you seen the Center lately?

We're spruching up with...

- Spacious Meeting Rooms
  Flexible arrangements
- Delicious Meals
  Private party arrangements
- Comfortable Lodging
  Private Baths and Housekeeping
- Beautifully Landscaped Grounds
  Breathtaking mountain views with hiking trails, horseback rides, group Hay rides and a ropes course, too!

The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory NC
Phone: **(704) 327-7441** or Toll-Free: **(888) 536-7441** or E-mail: **ccc@twave.net**
Visit our website! **catholicconferencecenter.org**

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Book Review

"Signadou — History of the Kentucky Dominican Sisters"

REVIEWED BY **NANCY HARTNAGEL**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The story of the first U.S. foundation of Dominican sisters is told enthusiastically, if somewhat disjointedly, in the book, "Signadou — History of the Kentucky Dominican Sisters."

"Signadou" means "sign from God." The author, Dominican Sister Paschala Noonan — a teacher, nurse and hospital administrator as well — uses the word to connect St. Dominic's first monastery of women in the 1200s with her own Congregation of St. Catharine of Siena, founded six centuries later in Kentucky.

The congregation's 176-year history is compelling.

In 1822, the co-founder of the first province of U.S. Dominican priests invited local pioneer women to join in their fledgling mission and teach settlers' children. Among the Catholic families transplanted from Maryland, nine women responded.

To their first community home, a crude log cabin, each brought "no other provisions but what they could obtain of the liberality of their own families," according to an early profession book in the sisters' archives. Together, they also brought enough farming and frontier savvy to enable them to survive the hardships of the first years.

These women opened the first Dominican sisters' school in the United States, St. Magdalen Academy, in a former still house. In less than 30 years, they paid off significant debts and spun off daughter foundations in Ohio and Tennessee. They also sent three sisters to help the Sinsinawa, Wis., foundation get started in 1847.

Though their primary work was teaching, the sisters nursed wounded Civil War soldiers and those needing care in cholera and yellow fever epidemics. They opened schools in Illinois, and, following 1884 legislation requiring parish elementary schools, were invited even farther afield, to Massachusetts. Down to the 1940s and '50s, they were opening new institutions in Nebraska, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, New Jersey and Indiana.

Sister Noonan also touches on 20th-century changes brought by two world wars and the Second Vatican Council, as well as difficulties with church hierarchy over the order's constitutions.

A historical chronology is there, but readers will have to work at fitting it together, especially in the absence of any index. The early chapters, in particular, are confusing in their back-and-forth approach to time. And thumbnail sketches of leaders and superiors — no doubt unique women — began to sound the same.

Also, numerous repetitions show the book needed a more rigorous edit than it received. For example, the community realized by 1848 that its plan of operating like a European cloister was incompatible with active religious life on the American frontier and petitioned the pope to be released from enclosure and recitation of the Divine Office. This is explained in both chapters 6 and 7.

Despite the book's flaws, readers who persevere will find the Kentucky Dominicans women of sacrifice, strength and courage. The book ends with two impressive lists: 37 pages of members professed between 1822 and 1996, and eight pages of community-owned institutions and missions throughout the country.

Reading the names of all 1,385 sisters was like praying a litany of the saints.

Hartnagel is a reporter on the national staff of Catholic News Service.

"Signadou — History of the Kentucky Dominican Sisters," by Sister Paschala Noonan, O.P. Brookville Books (Manhasset, N.Y., 1997). 392 pp., hardcover $29.95, paperback $22.95.

At your bookstore or order prepaid from Brookville Books, 2 Park Avenue, Manhasset, NY 11030. Add $2 for shipping and handling.

Word to Life

Sept. 6. Twenty-third
Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-17
2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17
3) Luke 14:25-33

BY **JEFF HENSLEY**

Today's Scriptures point us in one direction, though at first that direction may not be too apparent. The Wisdom Scripture dwells on our mortality and the limits of our vision compared with the wisdom of God. The Psalm is similar in that it is an expression of our dependence on God — and who can argue with a Scripture that ends, "And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us!"?

Philemon takes a different tack. In accord with the limited powers of a small Christian community set in an imperial Roman (i.e. dictatorial) world, the question of social change, of overthrowing slavery, was beyond their reach. Paul's admonition to Philemon to receive his runaway slave, now a new Christian, as a brother, is as revolutionary as any social change ever implemented. Brother was not a term to be used lightly.

The Philemon Scripture parallels the others in that it points to our position before God: mortal, vulnerable, needy of the wisdom of God and his very breath for our sustenance.

Finally Jesus makes direct demands of those seeking to become his disciples. His words are unmistakable. "Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Like the term brother, cross had a very specific but also a horrific meaning. This was a call for absolute obedience to both the word and the spirit of Jesus.

Today, too often, I'm sure, we would link these with a Romans 8 gloss that would point to the benefits, all things working together for the good of those who love the Lord, and all that.

But it is true. For those who have followed the Lord, attempting to do so with their whole hearts, will have experienced his love enriching them, guiding them, correcting them, putting things and experiences that are indeed quite good in their paths. And I guess we should throw in here a piece from another Scripture which points to blessings and benefits for those who follow God and ends with "and persecution besides."

I have yet to find that any small gift of self, of time, of money, is not returned in some way beyond measure by the ultimate giver of good gifts, God. The blessings are often not material, but they are always what is truly needed. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 6 — Sept. 12, 1998

Sunday, Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday**, Micah 5:1-4, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; **Wednesday**, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday**, 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday**, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday**, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Luke 6:43-49

the ancient order of hibernians in america

If you feel good about being an Irish Catholic, if being Irish means more than wearing green on St. Patrick's Day, then the Ancient Order of Hibernians is for you.

The Mecklenburg County AOH has helped establish Charlotte's St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration, the annual Emerald Ball for charity and Project St. Patrick in support of the Church's seminarians.

For more information contact:
Rich Barrett (704) 864-5166 or Mike Callinan (704) 541-1885

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES **567-4021** **HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL**

To All Churches:

Good day to you from MUSIC & ELECTRONICS, INC. here in Mooresville. We are really excited about our TOTAL SYSTEM SURVEY SERVICE that we are now offering area churches. There is no charge for this in-depth analysis of your instruments, sound system, chimes and other needs...and there is no obligation.

Having had over 30 years experience serving the musical needs of the church community, we know this service will benefit every church. Simply call our toll-free number below.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis, President

Music & Electronics, Inc.
1-800-331-0768

‘Trinity’ writers delving into the Catholic experience

By **MARK PATTISON**
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — The writing crew on the new NBC drama “Trinity” is working to make its Irish-Catholic characters both accurate and compelling.

Before production began in New York in August, the writers had an evening session with priests in Los Angeles to learn better what priestly life and ministry is about. One of the main characters in “Trinity” is a priest.

“My concern is over why someone would become a priest. What I’m most interested in why Kevin became a priest. And that’s one of the things I hope to get out of this evening with priests,” said Ed Bernero, a Catholic on the writing staff.

Bernero, who left after 10 years as a Chicago policeman to lead a writer’s life, said he could never be a priest. “I could never be able to be that chaste or pure and I’m really interested in why someone would. What the call is, what their individual call was.”

Bernero said he has no qualms about writing for the Father Kevin character, played by Tate Donovan — “although we definitely do not want to do ‘Nothing Sacred,’” he said.

“That dealt with much larger issues than we want to deal with our priest character. More of our things are going to be with the day-to-day of being a priest, not how he feels about abortion or how he feels about capital punishment.

“We’re not looking to use Tate’s character as a sounding board. He’s not going to have a lot of crises of faith, so much as crises of self,” Bernero said.

“Trinity” executive producer John Wells, whose father is an Episcopal priest, “has been very helpful,” Bernero added. “He’s been able to give us a lot of insight that we might not have had.”

Matthew McNair Carnahan, who created the series, is both very helpful and “very Catholic,” according to Bernero.

CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

Actor Tate Donovan as Father Kevin counsels his drug-abusing sister, played by Bonnie Root, in the pilot episode of the NBC dramatic series “Trinity.”

Terri Kopp, another Catholic on the writing staff, also has a criminal justice background; she was a public defender in Manhattan. “Trinity” is her first writing job for television.

Being Catholic, Kopp said she has a more personal experience in fleshing out the drama’s characters.

“In the end you’re writing about people. It’s really no different than writing about other groups or groups of people that you’re not a part of,” Kopp said.

“So you do your research, you talk to people. You try to identify with people who are not like you. But in the end you’re a writer and you write about people.”

Lisa Melamed has a different perspective; she’s Jewish.

“I’d like to believe that spiritual is spiritual across the religions and that we’re writing people first,” she said.

“I feel it’s my job to be very respectful to a religion that I’m not a part of. I want to make sure that I’m representing it fairly. I will have lots of people read my scripts and give me feedback before I send something out into the world.

“But I think that, just as somebody who writes about humanity and people being decent to one another the bottom line of the show is that when all else fails you turn back to your family and they are the people who love and take care of you,” Melamed said.

“I think it’s great that the show is making a point that these people are Catholic,” she added.

“I think whatever religion anybody practices in a show, it’s better to be specific. It ... makes it richer rather than having to skirt around it or once in a while mention church or once in a while mention God,” she said.

“Trinity” airs 9-10 p.m. Fridays starting Oct. 16.

New at the box office

“A Merry War”

Whimsical British satire adapted from George Orwell’s 1936 novel, “Keep the Aspidistra Flying,” in which a bright young man (Richard E. Grant) quits his job in a London ad agency to earn his living as a poet, then becomes a pauper until he has to sort out his priorities when his sweetheart (Helena Bonham Carter) becomes pregnant. Directed by Robert Bierman, the story is premised on the young man’s obstinate idealism which makes him increasingly unlikable as a character, though the whimsical situations this creates are quite amusing and lead to an ironical but heartwarming ending. Sexual situations including an unwed pregnancy, a comic scene of inebriation and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

“Why Do Fools Fall in Love”

Musical melodrama misfires in the story of a rock ‘n’ roll singer (Larenz Tate) who dies of a drug overdose in 1985, leaving three wives (Vivica A. Fox, Halle Berry and Lela Rochon) to fight over an estate consisting of a fortune in unpaid royalties. Directed by Gregory Nava, the result succeeds better in its re-creation of the beginnings of the rock ‘n’ roll era in the mid-1950s than in the personal flashbacks portraying the bickering widows’ very different recollections of the same man who never becomes more than a cipher for viewers. Intense physical and psychological violence, explicit sexual situations, recurring rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE
1-800 311-4CCC
REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC
COMMUNICATION
CAMPAIGN

Catholic
Heritage
Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Summer Reading

The Source—A Videotape Program on Lourdes
The story, sites and sounds of Lourdes, where Mary appeared to Bernadette in 1858. This inspiring video provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about the contemporary mission of this most visited site. Includes a guide. [$22.95]

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers
Over 130,000 copies sold! The basic prayerbook for daily life and special times. Great for personal use or as a gift. [444 pages; $16.95]

Order from:
ABBA-CH, Box 95,
Weymouth, MA 02191

Volunteer Group of the Year

The senior youth group from Our Lady of the Assumption Church (OLA) was recently named the "Volunteer Group of the Year" by the Charlotte Uptown Shelter. Shown are Martha Roman, director of faith formation at OLA; Frank Mansfield, executive director of the shelter; and Jennifer Mayfield, OLA teen council president. In presenting the award, Mansfield commended the teen-agers for their dedication to helping the less fortunate during the holiday season. The youth group has provided gifts to the shelter since 1990.

Mass to honor Mother Teresa, Sept. 7

CHARLOTTE — A memorial Mass commemorating the one-year anniversary of Mother Teresa's death will be held Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral.

Bishop William G. Curlin will serve as celebrant and homilist. The bishop, a personal friend of Mother Teresa for more than 25 years, worked with her and her sisters in establishing shelters for the homeless and dying.

The public is invited to attend.

Helping the homeless, from page 1

dences. Funding for the facilities comes via grants and donations.

Hospitality House is presently home to 15 men and women. The men's sleeping area is one long room that also contains the kitchen and dining areas. Each man has individual space. Furniture is positioned to create cubicles, but no walls divide one bed from another.

The women's dorm is in a separate room. Two of the residents serve as managers and have their own rooms. Showers, washers and dryers, and a tiny television lounge are adjacent to the sleeping areas.

Rules give structure to life at the shelter. For example, residents who will not be home by 6:30 p.m. must phone to say they will be late. Drugs and alcohol are forbidden on the premesis.

Residents work, often at low-paying jobs such as dishwashing. They are encouraged to save their money so they can get their own places or move to one of the transitional facilities. There, rent is 30 percent of their net income, or $200 a month maximum.

"The emphasis is on treatment and developing a healthy community and social network, rather than on money," said Martha Are, Hospitality House's executive director.

Gensch said he believed Hospitality House would be a "tough, eye-opening experience" for his students, but it worked that way for him, too, when he and his wife, Joan, first visited.

"I was in shock a little," he said. "It was humbling to look and see that these people were on the street, to see what they had that was important to them. One guy had his Navy picture. I was in the Navy and I don't have my picture, but he kept that. He kept that."

The students began their project by raising money to pay for the food.

"For Mother's Day, we used to give out roses," Gensch said. "This year, I asked Father (Carl Del Guidice, pastor) if we could sell carnations."

They sold 300 at $1 each; 65 cents of each dollar went toward purchasing food for the shelter. The rest paid for the carnations.

Their first meal at Hospitality House featured sausage and peppers; the second was an outdoor barbecue. Half the student volunteers participated in each meal.

Kathleen Logsdon drove some of the students to Asheville. She and her daughter, MaryBeth, had worked at a similar facility in Peoria, Ill.

"I was all for this," Logsdon said. "I went in and started shaking hands, and they (the students) did the same."

"It was a lot of fun,' added daughter MaryBeth, a seventh-grader at Brevard Middle School. "It was really a good experience, just having conversations with people."

Supervisory personnel were on hand during the evening, which lasted from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"It was a very neat experience," added Russ Faison, 12, "because it showed that you could help people and make a difference."

A Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows

At times, it seems that life is threatened on all sides.

This month, as Congress once again considers important legislation impacting the lives of unborn children, join with others across the nation in prayer.

For the nine days between September 7 (the vigil of the feast of the Birth of Mary) and September 15 (the feast of Our Lady of Sorrow), we pray for the intercession of Mary, the Mother of our Life, our Faith and our Hope.

9 Days for Life

Day 1 — Monday, Sept. 7, *Labor Day* — Pray for the Suffering Women of the World

Labor Day usually brings to mind images of factory workers, farmers or heavy equipment operators. Yet we also use labor to describe the first work which brought each one of us to birth: those first hours of maternal sacrifice which brought us into the world. It's too easy to forget that and all the other sacrifices which the vocation of motherhood entails. Pray for the mothers "in labor" today. Those who give birth. Those who work two jobs to support a child. Those who "go without" so their child's needs are met. Those whose patient endurance is a sign of God's love upon the cross.

Day 2 — Tuesday, Sept. 8, *The Birth of the Virgin Mary* — Pray for Mothers who will Give Birth Today

"At first I was scared," Sarah told me. "I was scared, excited and filled with the most incredible expectation. It was like those words we hear at Mass: *we wait in joyful hope.* I thought of all those women who feel the first kick, the stirrings of life deep within them. I prayed for them, that they would love their child, cherish their little baby and know that in being a mother they are involved in something so much bigger than themselves. They have been chosen by God to be custodians of the mystery of life. At first I was scared, and then I just cried... with joy."

Day 3 — Wednesday, Sept. 9 — Pray for Fathers at the Birth of their Children

"At first I was petrified," Jon told me. "Petrified that I would faint or get in the way or not know what to do to help Sarah. But then I prayed to Mary. I know, praying to Mary is something you'd think a mother would be doing. But somehow, I think Mary understood Saint Joseph more than anyone else. She probably saw the fear in his eyes and sensed the restlessness of his heart. She probably spent a lot of time praying for him as well. And when I prayed to Mary for my child about to be born, I knew she understood and heard me and prayed for me to her son. At first I was petrified, and then I put everything into God's hands."

Day 4 — Thursday, Sept. 10 — Pray for All Children

The eyes of a child are an infinite well of life, hope and goodness. If you doubt the value of life, look into the eyes of a child. If you are worn by life's worries, look into the eyes of a child. If you want to see tomorrow, look into the eyes of a child. And what you will see is the divine spark which brought beauty out of chaos, the infinite beauty, which is the presence of the Creator in his creation.

Day 5 — Friday, Sept. 11 — Pray for Families

I know of a family who prays each night. Since the kids were little they are gathered from their games and their grumbling to the couch in the living room. There they pray for those whom they love and those they have a hard time loving. They pray for the unborn and for little babies. They pray for the sick and the dying. They pray for the Church and for their priest. Many a night it was the knowledge of those prayers that gave me hope and peace and good night's sleep.

Day 6 — Saturday, Sept. 12 — Prayer for Life Begins in the Home

I know of another family who used to pray for unborn children every Friday night. They chose Friday because that's when Christ, innocent and without sin, was sent to the cross. There's no prayer more powerful than that said over little folded hands asking God to "take care of all the babies who you've made."

Day 7 — Sunday, Sept. 13 — *24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sunday is a time to take stock. We look all around us at Church and see them; all the people whose kids never seem to scream and who look like they haven't a problem in the world! But what if we really knew them? We would see the "secret sufferings" that mirror our own. That's the meaning of Sunday, after all. It is the gathering of those who have looked at the their own brokenness through the lens of the cross, and live! Sunday is the perfect day to pray for all God's broken children and especially those who are tempted to break the lives of others.

Day 8 — Monday, Sept. 14 — *The Holy Cross*

Each time I pray, I am called to join my prayer with Christ's perfect prayer upon the cross. It is easy from the vantage of the cross to see the world clearly. To see how easy it is to join the suffering of the innocent to the suffering of him who is without sin. We should work for an end to all the forms of violence which threaten life. That is a wonderful good. But it is even more important to stand with the Virgin Mother and to beg her Son to come to our aid.

Day 9 — Tuesday, Sept. 15 — *Our Lady of Sorrows*

We end as we began nine days ago: with Mary, weeping silently beside the cross. Weeping for the innocent child so violently taken. Weeping for the nation which has let him die. Weeping for her child and for ours, we place them both in her arms.

9 Days — Prayers and Scripture Readings

+ God, Come to my assistance
■ Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
■ As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading From the Bible

1. Luke 7:11-15
2. Matthew 1:18-23
3. John 19, 25-27
4. Luke 2:33-35
5. Hebrews 5:7-9
6. Colossians 3:12-17
7. Psalm 31:2-3, 3-4, 5-6
8. Philippians 2:6-11
9. Psalm 31:15-16, 20

Holy Mother of God
Hear the prayers of the Church
For all mothers,
Especially those wearied by life
And overcome by the suffering
They bear for their children.

Hail Mary

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Intercede for them
From you place in heaven,
That the mercy of your diving Son
Might lighten their burden
And give them strength.

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father...

Creighton model cited as highly effective for avoiding

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The Creighton model of natural family planning is highly effective as a means of avoiding pregnancy in both its method and use effectiveness, according to a recent journal article.

The results of a 14-year, multicenter study of the method, developed at Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., were published in the June issue of The Journal of Reproductive Medicine by Drs. Thomas W. Hilgers and Joseph B. Stanford.

The article in the St. Louis-based journal is titled, "Creighton Model NaProEducation Technology to Avoid Pregnancy: Use Effectiveness."

Hilgers is founder and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction in Omaha. Stanford is assistant professor of family and preventive medicine at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

The Creighton model is one of three methods taught in the Natural Family Planning Program in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Creighton model uses natural procreative education as a way to avoid pregnancy. It was evaluated in five use-effectiveness studies, including a prospective life-table analysis and calculation of discontinuation rates. The studies were conducted at Creighton Model Fertility Care Centers in Omaha, St. Louis, Wichita, Kan., Houston and Milwaukee.

A total of 1,876 couples participated, with a total of 17,130 couple-months of use.

The method and use-effectiveness rates for avoiding pregnancy were 99.5 percent and 96.8 percent at the 12th ordinal, or consecutive, month and 99.5 percent and 96.4 percent at the 18th ordinal month, respectively.

The discontinuation rate was 11.3 percent at the 12th ordinal month and 12.1 percent at the 18th ordinal month.

The authors concluded that method effectiveness remained stable over the years of the studies, while use effectiveness for avoiding pregnancy appeared to improve over the same period.

In a statement released by the Pope Paul VI Institute, Hilgers said this method of natural family planning cooperates with normal fertility processes. "This system is safe, easy to use and ethically acceptable to all people," he said.

Program directors appointed

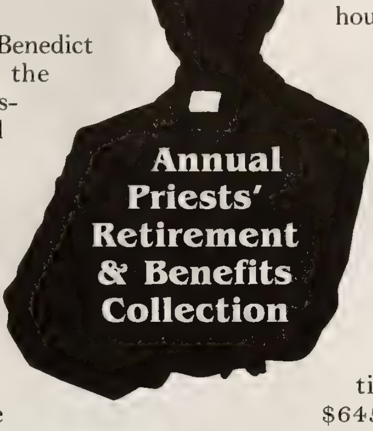
CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Special Ministries has announced the appointment of Cathy Tepper and Mary Lynn Lawler as director and assistant director of the Natural Family Planning Program.

The diocesan program sponsors classes offered locally throughout the diocese. Three methods are taught by 10 instructors.

Introductory classes are scheduled at various sites through the remainder of the year. Classes are taught in Asheville, Charlotte, Grover, Mooresville, Salisbury, Statesville and Winston-Salem. A minimal fee applies for certain classes.

For program information, class locations and times, fees and other details, call either director at (704) 370-3230.

Special collection Sept. 12-13 to benefit priests serving diocese



GREENSBORO — At 71, Monsignor Joseph Showfety knows retirement will be a necessity someday.

"I evaluate it year-by-year," he says of his continuing ministry to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The pastor of St. Benedict Church has served the diocese since it was established in 1972 and knows plenty about the 46-county area. He also knows a lot about the priests' retirement plan which was established by Bishop Vincent Waters in the late 1960s when only one diocese (Raleigh) encompassed the entire state. That retirement plan carried over to the Diocese of Charlotte when it was created.

"The bishop thought the (retirement) plan was necessary so priests could live a decent life once they retired," said Msgr. Showfety, who served the Raleigh Diocese before becoming the Charlotte Diocese's first chancellor.

More than a quarter of a century later, the priests retirement fund continues to be an important component to benefit the men who serve the diocese in priestly ministry.

During the weekend of Sept. 12-13, parishes throughout the diocese will ask parishioners to be generous and support the Annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection.

Proceeds will perpetuate the diocese's clergy retirement plan, enhanced last year in consideration of increasing health care, housing and other costs of living. Retired diocesan priests receive monthly benefits, and a percentage of the collection goes to retirement funds of religious orders whose priests serve in the diocese as well.

This year's collection target is $645,879. Each parish and mission has been assigned 3 percent of its annual offertory as its goal; what funds are not collected next month will be assessed from parish income later. The plan includes provisions that will increase benefits annually for clergy in the diocese.

Although the retirement plan's structure has changed over the years, Msgr. Showfety feels the collection is just as important as ever for the well-being of priests when they cease active ministry.

"Many priests are on their own and must care for themselves," he said.

"The more this is made known, the more generous people will be," Msgr. Showfety added.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

French/American Student Organization seeks a local coordinator for individual summer exchanges. Some French required. Students 13-17. Call Michael at (404) 982-9831. Junior Diplomat International Homestays.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Maid In Heaven: Do you keep your home clean? Would you like to make $12 per hour? Set your own schedule? Work about 12 hours a week? Help needed days, Mon.-Fri. Servicing the Charlotte area. Call (704) 643-5545.

Organist/Pianist: St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard. Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com

RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Director of Faith Formation: Holy Family Church is seeking a team-oriented Catholic visionary to plan and implement a catechetical program for pre-school through fifth grade for a student population of 500 and administer adult education programs in the 1,200+ growing parish in Clemmons, west of Winston-Salem, NC. MA in religious education and/or theology preferred, experience in parish administration beneficial. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to: DFF Search Committee, Holy Family Catholic Church, P.O. Box 130, Clemmons, NC 27012-0130.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-family parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Director for Total Youth Ministry: Saint Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director for Faith Formation. Bachelors degree or equivalent required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Excellent benefits, moving allowance and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committee, Saint Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.

Bilingual (Vietnamese-English) Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating refugee services; transporting clients. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English; also prefer Rhade and/or Koho. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Donation Coordinator Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include scheduling donations, agency vehicle and inventory maintenance. Some heavy lifting required. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license, good driving record and ability to drive standard 5-speed vehicle required. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you to St. Jude for prayers answered. JMKV

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. LAM

Thank you to St. Jude for prayers answered. JW

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. SC

Priest uses magic tricks in his Christian ministry

By MARIANNA McLOUGHLIN
Catholic News Service

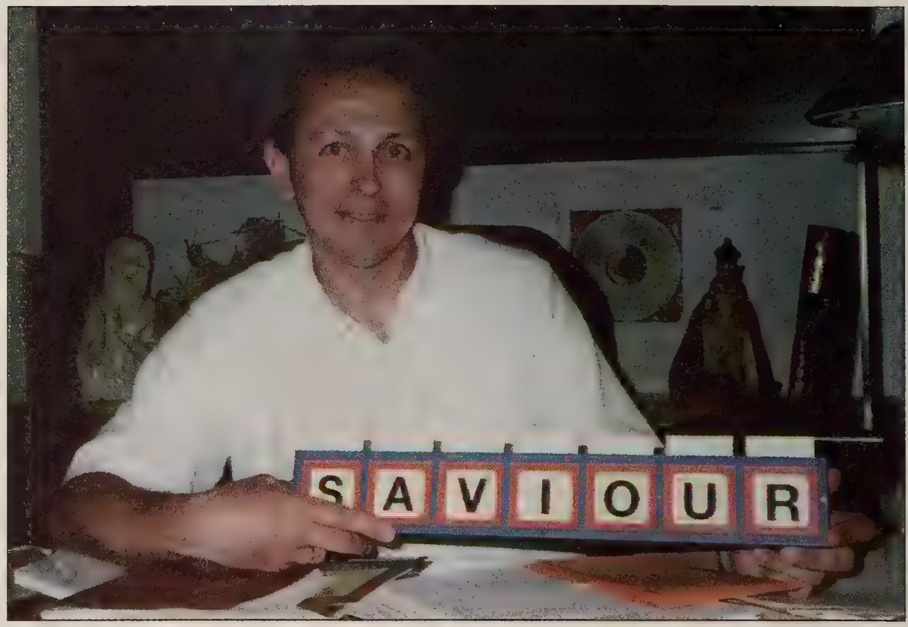
LEESBURG, Fla. (CNS) — Nothing unusual about snow falling on a nativity scene or a gaily decorated Christmas tree. Right?

Well, you may be half right. What would you say if you saw snow falling from nowhere on a manger scene in church or an ordinary pine tree suddenly appear beautifully decorated right before your eyes.

Can't be done, you say?

Don't tell that to Father Nicholas O'Brien, parochial vicar at the Catholic Community of St. Paul in Leesburg. He has some 100 such illusions in his bag of tricks, which he uses to spread the Christian message.

"I'd always had an interest in magic," Father O'Brien said, "but I never thought I could use it in ministry."



CNS photo by Marianna McLoughlin

Father Nicholas O'Brien of St. Paul Parish in Leesburg, Fla., displays the finale of a card trick. No matter which way the letters are inserted, they always end up spelling "saviour," he said.

That notion changed, however, after watching a magician on a cruise he took a few years ago. After returning from the cruise, Father O'Brien visited a magic shop and bought some tricks to see how he could use them.

Since props for tricks can be expensive, Father O'Brien set up a carpentry shop to make his own items. He also raises doves and rabbits to use in his illusions.

The doves have been used for Pentecost — popping out of a balloon after blowing "the breath of the Holy Spirit into it" — to illustrate that "many times we find it difficult to see the Spirit that is around us," Father O'Brien said.

He said his favorite illusion was making a 17-foot cross appear during the celebration of Pentecost at Blessed Trinity Church in Ocala, Fla.

His belief in whether the ministry was worthwhile came when an elderly man approached him after Mass with tears in his eyes and said, "Father, I've been going to church for 80 years, and I've never understood Pentecost until today."

Once during the homily of a Mass in Ocala, he had clowns distribute hearts to the congregation. Suddenly, hearts also began falling from the ceiling.

A young boy whose father had just died was at the Mass, and he later asked the priest to have hearts fall during his father's funeral.

However, Father O'Brien thought it would be more appropriate for rose petals to fall on the casket during the singing of the "Ave Maria."

He said such tricks are not just gimmicks for attention, but rather "to bring the liturgy to life and to reach the young."

"If I can't bring the message of Christ to what I'm doing, then there's no sense in doing it," he said.

"I want young people to see that when becoming a priest, a person doesn't have to give up hobbies," Father O'Brien said.

"When I was growing up, I always wanted to be a bus driver, a police officer and a carpenter. In my ministry as a priest, I've done all those things."

He said that while studying at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago a few years ago, he learned clown ministry from a religious education teacher in the parish he was living.

"When I came to Florida in 1990, I began a clown ministry at Blessed Trinity Parish in Ocala," he said, noting that the original number of six clowns has more than doubled.

One of the parishioners who became excited about Christian clowning was Sue Murphy. During a parish picnic she asked Father O'Brien if she could start a clown group.

"Within 15 minutes I had a list of 12 people who were interested," Murphy said. "Father O'Brien was amazed and said he had never before started a ministry this fast."

It took a year for Murphy's group, the St. Paul Clowns, to learn enough about clowning to share their ministry in nursing homes, feast day celebrations, parish picnics and for children recovering from serious illnesses.

"Although we are Christian clowns," said Murphy, "we are sensitive to others' faith. We don't preach. We just want others to see the love of God through our actions."

Father O'Brien said Christian clowns are different from circus clowns who ask someone to blow on a flower and it wilts.

"The concept in clown ministry is having a wilted flower come to life, bringing life into the world and never degrading anyone," he said.

If you know someone in your parish who truly "lives their faith," please send your story idea to The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Friday Special Event
Holy Trinity Middle School Dance
Saturday Special Events
Antique Auto Show - All Day
Charlotte Team Mascots - Lunchtime

A Carnival is Coming to Charlotte
... At St. Ann's

September 18th and 19th
5-10 pm Friday evening
11 am - 10 pm Saturday

Giant Slide . Pony Rides . Clowns
Huge Ferris Wheel . Obstacle Course
Snowcones . BBQ . Hot Dogs . Bingo

St. Ann's Parish Carnival
Sept. 18 &19

St. Ann's Catholic Church is located at the corner of Park Road and Hillside Ave.
(Just 2 blocks north of Park Road Shopping Center.)

Share your day and lunch with friends
Surrounded by God's beauty at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
Directed by Fr. Anthony Marcaccio
Closing Mass with Fr. Mo West
Wednesday, October 14, 10:30-3:30
(Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m.)

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $10 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ________ Phone ________
Address ________
City ________ Parish ________

$10 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: October 5
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

42,083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB
CHAPEL HILL NC 27

Sep

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Inside

The world remembers Mother Teresa ...PAGE 7

Living the Faith
Part 1 of 4: Poverty in South America ...PAGE 16

Campaign to outlaw partial-birth abortion ...PAGE 13

Local News

Franciscan Sisters leave Cherokee ...PAGE 15

New center at Belmont Abbey College ...PAGE 14

Charitable giving seminars ...PAGE 14

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY
SEPT. 20

Catechists recognized ...PAGE 14

Catechists in the millennium ...PAGE 5

Do small things with great love

A Life To Remember

By JOANN KEANE and MIKE KROKOS

CHARLOTTE — It may seem a small sacrifice for a family of five to make the trek to St. Patrick Cathedral to pay respects on the one-year anniversary of Mother Teresa's death, until you realize their night of devotion consisted of 250 miles round-trip.

The family was amidst the 150 who came in homage to the tiny woman whose life focused on the poorest of the poor.

"She may have died a year ago, but Mother Teresa's legacy continues to challenge Christians throughout the world to see Jesus Christ in the least of their brothers and sisters," said Bishop William G. Curlin during a memorial Mass Sept. 7.

During his homily, the bishop recalled his friendship with the saintly woman from Calcutta, a bond that exceeded a quarter-century. "I was pastor of an inner-city parish, and received a call from the cardinal to introduce me to a sister from India. It was Mother, and her promise to write me upon her return to Calcutta that led to a special friendship."

"She had a deep love for Christ ... but she had the human quality to say, 'I didn't come to help people who say I am worthy of heaven.' Instead, she came to help those nobody wanted, the poor, the untouchables," the bishop added. "For Mother Teresa, there was no child, woman or man on earth who was unlovable."

St. Patrick parishioners Maria and Michael Lane and their children attended the memorial service to honor the memory of Mother Teresa. Michael Lane said the nun's life of virtue deepened his faith. "As I heard her talk, I could feel Jesus radiate through her." Maria Lane added, "I know Mother is in heaven. If anyone in this century is in heaven, it has to be her."

The Lanes added they are impressed with the austere yet dedicated lifestyle of the Missionaries of Charities, the order of nuns Mother Teresa helped found in 1950. "They basically have nothing. They give up material things. In this day and age, that is unheard of," Maria Lane said.

For Bishop Curlin, Mother Teresa's legacy is inscribed on her tombstone: *Love one another as I have loved you.* "She taught us to reach out with the heart of Christ, reach out with a deep faith in Jesus and try to embrace and extend compassion to everyone you meet in this world," the bishop said. "That is her legacy."

While many considered the tiny nun from Calcutta a living saint, Mother Teresa will have to wait for the title of sainthood. The earliest church officials can begin looking at her cause is Sept. 5, 2002 — exactly five years from the date of her death.

"I pray the church will raise her to the office of sanctity," said Bishop Curlin. "Although, in my mind, she is already a saint." ▼

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Missionaries of Charity Sister Gioan Marie prays during the memorial service held Sept. 7. Celebrant Bishop William G. Curlin said, "We need heroes like Mother Teresa; men and women who will go out into this world and proclaim their faith in Jesus by words and deeds. We honor her tonight for all the things she did. We thank her for blessing this diocese with her sisters in service here, for they are living reminders of Mother's presence in our midst."

Archbishop says Kosovo crimes repeat ethnic cleansing of Bosnia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Crimes against humanity now being committed in Kosovo are "chillingly similar" to the ethnic cleansing of Bosnia, said the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy. In a statement released Sept. 1 in Washington, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., said terrible patterns from the past are being repeated in the war-torn Yugoslav province, where an estimated 320,000 civilians have been displaced by ongoing violence. After returning Aug. 21 from a weeklong trip to the Balkans, the archbishop described scenes of "indiscriminate shelling of villages; deliberate destruction of homes, farms and villages; reckless — or indeed — planned and premeditated killing of combatants and noncombatants alike; tens of thousands of refugees forced to seek shelter in intolerable conditions."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Candles for crash victims

Candles for each of the 229 victims of the Sept. 2 Swissair crash off the coast of Nova Scotia are lit during an ecumenical service in Geneva's Saint-Pierre Cathedral Sept. 5. A priest, an imam, a rabbi and Buddhist monks participated in the observance.

North American College welcomes largest student body in decades

ROME (CNS) — North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, is welcoming the largest student body in 28 years this fall, including an incoming class of 56 new seminarians. Msgr. Timothy M. Dolan, rector at the college, said that in addition to the 56 "new men," the incoming class had five students who were returning after having left the seminary for a period of time. He said he and other school officials were encouraged by the high enrollment figure of 170 seminarians for 1998-99.

Haitian groups seek justice four years after priest's murder

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Less than a month after the slaying of a priest in Port-au-Prince, human rights organizations renewed calls for an investigation into the murder of another priest, Montfort Father Jean-Marie Vincent, killed four years ago. The Aug. 28 anniversary was remembered in Haiti with a conference on the environment organized by the Jean-Marie Vincent Foundation and calls for the government to find and punish Father Vincent's killers. The Haitian Human Rights Platform criticized what it called the "inaction" of the Ministry of Justice and the "inertia" of the police in the case. The Justice and Peace Commission of the northwestern Diocese of Port-de-Paix urged the government to conduct a proper investigation.

Policy expects engaged couples to practice faith, not cohabit

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (CNS) — New guidelines for engaged couples in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend say couples desiring a Catholic marriage should be practicing their faith but should not be having sex or cohabiting before the wedding. "We expect couples to be attending Mass regularly (if Catholic), to be living apart and reserving sexual relations until after the wedding, and to be modeling the virtues of charity and justice in their lives," the guidelines state. Where a pastor believes "a couple is unable or unwilling to accept or work toward these expectations," the guidelines continue, "he may delay marriage in the church while continuing to minister to the couple ... or he may ask that the wedding ceremony be small — for example, the couple, two witnesses and the immediate families." The policy took effect Sept. 8.

Approval of 'morning-after kit' ripped by pro-life official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Helen Alvare, pro-life spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops, sharply criticized the approval of a morning-after birth control kit described by its supporters as an "emergency contraceptive." "According to the experts we've consulted, it acts commonly as an abortifacient — an abortion-causing drug," said Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in Washington. The Food and Drug Administration Sept. 2 approved Preven, a prescription kit consisting of four birth control pills, a pregnancy test and an information booklet for use after sex to prevent pregnancy.

Anglican-Catholic Commission approves statement on authority

ROME (CNS) — A Catholic-Anglican dialogue commission approved a statement on how authority — including that of the pope — should be used in the church. Titled "The Gift of Authority," the paper was worked out at an Aug. 25-Sept. 3 meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission outside of Rome. It was expected to be published in the first half of next year. Catholic participants called the document an important step forward on one of the most difficult issues in Catholic-Anglican dialogue. "The paper will examine the primacy of Peter in relationship with collegiality and the whole people of God, and as such we think we've made some significant progress on this issue," Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, co-chairman of ARCIC, told Catholic News Service Sept. 3.

Havoc of flood unites Del Rio community with other Texans

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — A convoy of 27 trucks — organized by the Archdiocese of San Antonio — carried canned foods, bottled water, clothing and household items from San Antonio to the flood-ravaged city of Del Rio, Texas, Sept. 2. The relief caravan included an 18-wheeler from a local supermarket chain and a number of rental vans and private trucks. They were loaded with goods donated by parishioners at Masses throughout the archdiocese the weekend of Aug. 29-30. After a long drought, more than 20 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Charley fell in the Del Rio area Aug. 23-24. The rains caused the Rio Grande and local creeks to flood the city of 35,000, which is about 140 miles west of San Antonio.

No need to comment on Clinton 'scandals,' cardinal says

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York said in his column Sept. 3 that "my silence will continue" regarding the "presidential scandals." In his column in Catholic New York, weekly publication of the Archdiocese of New York, the cardinal noted that critics had often accused him of "meddling in politics" during his years as archbishop of New York. "This is the first time I can recall being faulted for silence in an affair with so many political implications over and above the moral issues involved," he said.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

September 11, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 2
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 12
Mass with Charlotte Rosary Guild
Charlotte

September 13 —11 a.m.
Mass with Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

September 16
Meeting with John Harrison, state deputy of the Knights of Columbus
Charlotte

September 19 — 10 a.m.
Knights of Malta Investiture
St. Matthew Cathedral
Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

September

13 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated in St. Patrick Cathedral at 4 p.m. Prayer teams meet at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass.

17 CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., with a free introductory session at 7:15 p.m. For more information or to register, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

GREENSBORO — The Men's 50th Annual Cursillo Weekend is at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., today through Sept. 20. The team is seeking support and active involvement from volunteers. If you are a Cursillista and are interested in supporting through prayer and other means, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377.

18 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home-school support group, meets today from 7-10 p.m. in the Laurentine Hall of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., for an adults-only couples dinner. For more information and to R.S.V.P., call Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

CHARLOTTE — The annual St. Ann Parish carnival is today from 5-10 p.m. and Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on church grounds, 3635 Park Rd. Highlights include raffles, rides, bingo, clowns, food and music. A teen dance will take place Sept. 18. Antique and classic automobiles will be at the carnival all day Sept. 19, and Charlotte team mascots will be on hand at lunch time. Raffle prizes include vacations, airline tickets and golf lessons.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience designed for married couples to strengthen their marriages and deepen their relationships by concentrating on open

Guatemalan judge orders exhumation of bishop's body

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A Guatemalan judge has granted church authorities' request for the exhumation of the body of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City, who was murdered in April by an unknown assailant.

Judge Isaias Figueroa of the first penal court in Guatemala City announced his decision Sept. 7 following a series of meetings with church lawyers and representatives of the attorney general's office.

"The exact date (of the exhumation) will depend on how quickly those involved in the case complete the necessary formalities, but this should normally be done as quickly as possible," Figueroa told reporters.

A spokesman at the archdiocesan legal office told Catholic News Service Sept. 8 that "the exhumation has been tentatively set for Sept. 21."

Having heard the arguments from those involved in the case, Figueroa decided that the exhumation should go ahead, despite the original opposition of the attorney general's office, said the spokesman.

Prosecutor Otto Ardon had said Sept. 2 that the exhumation would be "improper and inopportune." Without offering further explanation, he said, "It is not the right time to carry (it) out."

Before a date can be set, however, the church lawyers and the attorney general's office will need to present the court with details of how the exhumation and autopsy will be carried out, and by whom.

The archdiocese wants the involvement of international forensic experts. But it will be up to the judge to decide who can be permitted to intervene in the proceedings.

In late August, Figueroa asked Ardon to reply to a petition presented by church authorities to have the bishop's body re-examined for possible dog-bite marks. The church wanted the unusual step taken to establish the innocence of Father Mario Orantes, the archdiocesan priest currently held for the murder. The prosecution claims that the alleged bite marks were made by Father Orantes' pet German shepherd.

Father Orantes, who lived with Bishop Gerardi and was the first to find the body, was arrested in July.

Neri Rodenas, head of the archdiocesan legal team, said the church wants two internationally known U.S. forensic experts, among them Dr. Robert Kirschner, director of the Chicago-based International Forensic Program, to carry out their own autopsy on the dead bishop on behalf of the archdiocese.

In a telephone interview Sept 8 Rodenas told CNS: "We want to test the hypothesis of the attorney general's office that there are dog bites on the body," and if there are, to see whether they belong to Father Orantes' pet dog.

The results of the autopsy will be presented to the presiding judge, who must then decide what action to take, and in particular, whether to release Father Orantes, Rodenas explained.

The church lawyer said that following the judge's decision to grant the exhumation, as the archdiocese had requested, "we are a little more optimistic" about the murder investigations.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Guatemala City Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera is shown April 24 during presentation of a human rights report on Guatemala's civil war. The bishop was brutally murdered April 26 in Guatemala City.

But he added that the authorities' reluctance to follow other leads in the inquiry "makes us still skeptical."

Meanwhile, the archdiocesan human rights office coordinator, Auxiliary Bishop Mario Rios Mont, formally requested the removal of Ardon from the case, alleging his partiality and inefficiency.

In a document presented to the attorney general's office, Bishop Rios Mont said Ardon and his team "have not fully investigated the possible links with the crime of people who could have, or do belong to the state security forces, which means the principle of objectivity required by law has been put at stake." ▼

Correction

A proofing error resulted in two incomplete headlines in the Sept. 4 issue of The Catholic News & Herald. A headline on page 11 for a natural family planning story should have read "Creighton model cited as highly effective for avoiding pregnancy." A headline for a story on page 3 of the Back to School supplement on two new school administrators should have read "Asheville, High Point schools welcome new principals."

---

and intimate communications between husband and wife in an atmosphere of trust and confidence. The next weekends are at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 18-20 and Nov. 6-8. For more information, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

19 SANDY SPRINGS, Ga. — Parishioners and clergy of the Charlotte Diocese involved in planning and carrying out liturgies in Spanish are invited to a workshop and day of prayer today at St. Jude the Apostle Church, Sandy Springs, Ga., near Atlanta, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Registration is encouraged but not required. A donation of $10 per person is asked for. For registration, directions and other information, call (770) 477-2075.

20 ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Drive, hosts its fifth annual "Blast" today. The event will include food, fun, games for all ages, and a raffle for a four-day cruise to the Bahamas. For more information, call (828) 684-6098.

24 MAGGIE VALLEY — "Heaven and Earth are Filled" is a Sept. 24-30 nature retreat focusing on God's glory, love and creative Spirit against the backdrop of the autumn mountain setting. Cost is $260. To register, get more information or receive a retreat schedule, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (828) 926-3833, or send a fax to (828) 926-1997.

25 GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is among 17 area congregations sponsoring a healing retreat at First Lutheran Church, 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Sept. 25-26. Dr. S. Dianne Ricks, a counseling psychologist, is the featured guest. For more information, call Bob or Jackie Phillips at (336) 282-8185.

26 CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 11102 sponsors a spaghetti dinner today after the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Drive. Cost is $5.50 per adult and $2.75 per child.

28 HIGH POINT — Dr. Loretta Silivia, professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, will discuss women's health issues at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., today from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (336) 884-0244.

HOT SPRINGS — "God's Spirit in Nature" is a Sept. 28-Oct. 4 retreat at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Included will be daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities. To register or receive more information for this and other retreats, call (828) 622-7366.

30 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women's annual fall luncheon is today at noon at the Greensboro Country Club, 410 Sunset Dr. The guest speaker is local news anchor Frank Fraboni. Cost is $15; send checks to Rosemary Marsicano, 1805 Biscayne Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410 by Sept. 24. Dues of $5 may be included at this time. For more information on the council or luncheon, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

October

16 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today. For further information, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says Holy Spirit is source of true freedom

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged Christians to understand that the Holy Spirit is the true source of human freedom, as it inspires people to imitate Christ.

Addressing several thousand people at his general audience Sept. 2, the pope continued a series of talks on the Holy Spirit in preparation for the year 2000.

He said real freedom was deeply tied to accepting the voice of one's conscience and its call to self-sacrifice.

"We become truly free when, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we follow the law which God reveals in the inner sanctuary of our conscience," the pope said.

"More profoundly, freedom comes about when we unite ourselves to the person of Christ, sharing in his life and destiny. The full meaning of freedom as the gift of oneself is revealed in the cross when Christ gives himself to the Father to redeem the world from the slavery of sin," he said.

He said that through the action of the Holy Spirit, Christ's death on the cross becomes the model of every authentic relationship between man and God and between human beings. The ability to love one's neighbor depends on listening to the Holy Spirit and following its inspiration, he said.

The pope said living one's faith and its concept of freedom was not simply blind obedience, but a process of accepting Christ's life and sufferings as one's own.

Pope offers prayers after Swissair jet crash off Nova Scotia

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered prayers and condolences after a Swissair passenger jet crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia Sept. 2, leaving 229 people dead.

The plane, which carried 137 Americans, had departed from New York and was on its way to Geneva when it reported smoke in the cockpit and requested an emergency landing. Soon after, it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, and no survivors were found.

A telegram sent in the pope's name to the apostolic nuncio in Switzerland said the pontiff was saddened by the news of the tragedy.

It said the pope wanted to assure "those close to people involved in the accident that he shares whole-heartedly the pain of the families."

"He commends to the Almighty the victims, as well as the people affected by this catastrophe. The pope asks the Lord to console and assist those who have lost a loved one," it said.

Search-and-rescue teams headed out to the choppy waters after the crash, looking for survivors but finding only debris and bodies. Authorities said there were no signs of sabotage or terrorism.

Those killed included several officials of the United Nations, which maintains offices in Geneva and New York. In addition to the Americans, the passenger list included citizens of France, Switzerland, Britain and 10 other countries.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

A mission statement for marriage

What makes a marriage successful? What makes any organization successful? It begins with a good sense of mission. What are we about? Our purpose? Is it clear to us? We have a mission statement that keeps us on track and reminds us of what our marriage is about.

This mission statement was written 5½ years after our wedding. We had gone through some turbulence in our relationship and found God central to our marriage. Over the years we have leaned on our mission to help us traverse from one phase of our family life cycle to the next, through crises, and from distraction to renewed focus.

What makes it a good mission statement is that it is general and doesn't tie us to specific roles. There is openness to change and redirection. It is vacant of strategies and goals that supplant our love of each other for the love of things, careers, and roles. It identifies our relationship with each other, with God as the center, as the object of our endeavors.

Our mission statement transcends our stage in life. It worked for a young couple without children, a couple with young children, and now a couple with adolescent children. It will continue to work through future life stages.

Our mission statement is in fact our vows at our marriage renewal ceremony. It was a ceremony very different from our wedding. We were very focused on the marriage not the event. Those witnessing were people who were invested in our lives. Our priest was Andrew's uncle Jim, mentor, confessor, friend and family to us.

We commit ourselves, body and spirit, to God and to each other.

We promise to always try to make our relationship grow through open communication, through trust in each other's willingness to work toward our mutual good, and through faith in our love for God, His love for us, and our love for each other, even when that love seems hidden for the moment.

We promise each other the freedom and encouragement to grow and develop our individual talents and capabilities. We promise to rejoice in that growth and work through any problems that it may entail.

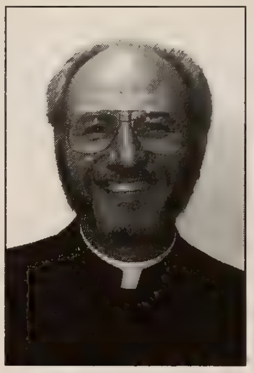
We promise to be a prayerful couple who recognizes God as an active member of our family, the center and the source of our love.

We ask our family and friends to witness our commitment and take a stake in our marriage. We ask for your support to help us live our commitment to God and to each other. We, in return, will strive to be a beacon of light for all to see the glory of God through our marriage.

We ask Almighty God to bless us during our times of romance, guide us through our periods of disillusionment, and dance with us in our moments of joy.

We have a good marriage because we start with a good mission. And all strategies and goals are tested by this mission.

The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

New vision of 'economic citizenship' started with story telling

When 18 unemployed sewing workers in Dungannon, Va., decided to start their own business, they began with storytelling. They shared experiences from other shops where the stress of production made some workers break into hives, where bathrooms went unclean for weeks, where management refused a worker leave to tend to a hurt child. From the stories came a determination to do business differently. They incorporated as a cooperative to insure a dignified workplace with worker ownership and control.

When the co-op opened, curtains hung on the windows, landscapes adorned the walls, and freshly laid tile covered the concrete floor. Monthly the workers voted on major policies, while their daily work rules balanced production with family needs. The co-op combined earning a living with social vision.

Msgr. George Higgins, noted social commentator, writes, "American workers need a raise, but they need more than a raise. They need a vision — a vision of economic citizenship." In the past two decades, structural shifts in the economy supported by a pro-business political ideology have put the interests of corporations far above those of the worker and the community. Workers run faster on the treadmill, but the pace set by corporations allows them few gains in their quality of life. Some examples:

Productivity. For 15 consecutive years until 1997, employee productivity has risen faster than real compensation. Workers have borne a disproportionate share of the restructuring and cost-cutting to make business more competitive. The winners: stockholders and CEOs.

Part-time and temporary work. Both part-time and temporary work inject flexibility into the workplace. Part-time workers, on average, earn half as much per hour as workers employed full-time and seldom receive employer provided health benefits. While many workers prefer part-time employment, approximately 4 million workers find themselves trapped with part-time hours not by their choosing. Temp work has expanded twenty-fold in the past 35 years, but 73 percent of temp workers in a recent study said they would prefer permanent employment. Flexibility in the workplace appears to fit the corporation's needs more than the worker's.

Overtime. While some workers suffer underemployment, others endure overemployment. Because of the high costs associated with medical coverage, recruiting and training of higher skilled workers, employers favor overtime to hiring an extra person. Estimates range from eight to 17 percent of the work force work longer hours than desired. Additionally, Marjorie Kelly, in a recent article about unpaid overtime in Business Ethics, writes, "Refusal to pay overtime is becoming standard, if quiet, policy at many corporations." She cites the Employment Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, that estimates employees lost $19 billion in 1995 from unpaid overtime.

The vision of economic citizenship proposed by Msgr. Higgins begs a measure of economic democracy for the economy. Worker-owned business, unions, and new arrangements between management and labor all promise a more just society, provided these structures involve the workers in decision-making.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics.

Light One Candle

FATHER JOHN McSWEENEY
CNS COLUMNIST

None more Christlike than these

Having lived in Washington, D.C. off and on for 10 years, I have become the official tour guide whenever friends and I happen to find each other there for business or vacation. But my reputation as an "authority" was diminished last month when a colleague asked me the whereabouts of the Memorial to Nuns of the Battlefields.

And if it hadn't been for the intervention of my friend, Sister Judy Morris, of the Dominicans of St. Catherine, Ky., I'd still be clueless. Judy has been keeping me abreast of activities commemorating the 175th anniversary year of the Dominican Sisters' presence in Kentucky. She had recently sent me a copy of Sister Paschala Noonan's history of the Sisters, entitled "Signadou," which means, "sign from God."

And there it was on page 90: "It took many years before the services of the Sisters during the Civil War came to national attention. A monument was erected to their memory in Washington, DC in 1918."

It stands across the street from St. Matthew's Cathedral, a nine-foot gray marble monument dedicated to all the nuns who served as nurses during the Civil War. A bronze relief sculpture depicts 12 nuns in full figures, dressed in the habits of the various orders, posed in positions describing works of mercy.

During the Civil War, although casualties were high, more troops succumbed to measles, typhoid, malaria, infection dysentery, camp fever and small pox than to shrapnel. There was a tremendous shortage of personnel to offer medical assistance. Most of those who did volunteer had no formal training.

Religious communities responded, sending hundreds of religious sisters to nurse the sick and wounded. Regardless of where their sympathies lay, the sisters nursed both the Blue and the Gray, Protestant or Catholic, without discrimination. This unbiased and efficient service won for them the respect of the troops as well as that of the commanding officers, government officials, and the president himself.

Abraham Lincoln wrote: "Of all the forms of charity and benevolence seen in the crowded wards of the hospitals, those of some Catholic Sisters were among the most efficient. Gentle and womanly, yet with the courage of soldiers, they went from cot to cot as veritable angels of mercy. How many times have I seen them exorcise pain by their presence or their words! How often has the hot forehead of the soldier grown cool as one of these Sisters bathed it! How often has he been refreshed and assisted along the road to convalescence . . . by the home memories with which these unpaid nurses filled his heart!"

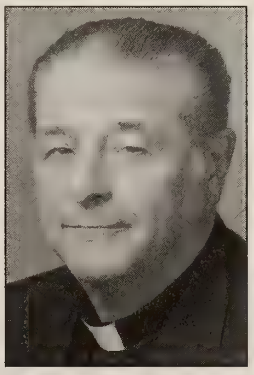
Dan Paulos' stunningly evocative photo essay, "Behold the Women," observes: "When the War ended and the Sisters of all congregations returned to their former duties, they did so with no fanfare. No trumpet calls. They did not do a lot of talking about their war experiences. They truly felt that they had done their small part, their duty, and sadly, they did very little recording of their part in fashioning history."

And this was and continues to be the story of nuns today — signs of God's presence enacted through lives of quiet devotion and cheerful support. Their courage, spirit and compassion have been reminders throughout the history of Christianity that we are all called to be "Christ-bearers."

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



World's largest Catholic church

Q. *Would you settle an argument for us? What is the largest Catholic church in the world?*

I say it is St. Peter's in Rome. Others in our group, however, believe some churches in the United States are larger.

Who is right?

A. Until about five years ago, you would have been correct. In 1993, however, that distinction passed from St. Peter's to the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, West Africa.

The controversial edifice, in a small village of that impoverished nation of perhaps 1.5 million Catholics, was completed with his own money and on his own land, according to then President Houphouet-Boigny.

Pope John Paul II declined the president's invitation to officiate at the cathedral's consecration.

The structure must be an awesome sight. It is higher and longer than St. Peter's, and boasts a plaza of seven acres surrounded by 272 columns and floored with Italian marble tile.

Four thousand different tints of French stained glass cover an area four times larger than the windows of Chartres Cathedral in France.

It is the largest Christian church in the world.

The forgiveness of God

Q. *I have had a longtime confusion about the forgiveness of God.*

In "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," the Holy Father says that God will judge us on our actions, words and thoughts, "even the most secret."

Compare this to what we believe about forgiveness when our sins are confessed and absolved. Hebrews 10:17 says, "Their sins and evildoing I will remember no more."

Does that apply only to the Jews, and not to us who come after?

A. Isn't it interesting and puzzling how we tend to feel that, in our relation to God, the only thoughts, words and actions that really count, the ones on which we will be mainly judged, are the bad ones?

Every Our Father and Hail Mary we say, every Mass in which we participate and Communion we receive, every good act we perform out of love for God involve expressions that also are secrets of the heart, expressions of sorrow, hope, love, generosity, and desire for forgiveness and healing.

Many times we ourselves are unaware of these movements of the soul, and often we surely don't know how to put them into words of prayer.

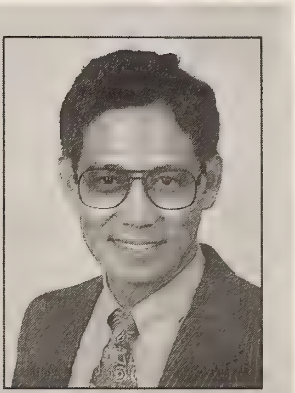
It is in those times, St. Paul affirms, that the Holy Spirit intercedes within us with inexpressible groanings, and "the one who searches hearts" knows and understands what the Spirit is praying (Romans 8:26-27).

In the book to which you refer, Pope John Paul II speaks often, of course, of the moral demands placed upon us to respond in love to the outpouring of God's gifts.

The predominant theme, however, to which he returns in a major way at the end is, "Don't be afraid," the exhortation, he says, which Christ has given so often through the lips of his mother.

There is mystery, but no contradiction, between the fidelity God asks of us and the faithful compassion he asks of himself.

Faith Formation



DR. CRIS V. VILLAPANDO
GUEST COLUMNIST

The catechist's call to the new millennium

The catechist's call to the new millennium may be viewed as the Spirit's call to explore new models. Today I touch a few of the key elements.

The first shift is from *Teaching for Information* to *Teaching for Cause.* The task of catechists is not just to teach information about the faith, the body of truths necessary for an accurate and full understanding of Roman Catholicism, but to teach for *cause.* By this, I see sharing vital insights and convictions about Jesus Christ and the Kingdom in such a way that those who receive the Word embrace Christianity as a *personal cause.* When adopting a cause, you embrace the movement in a way that is passionately absorbing. This contrasts with teaching for information, which may or may not engage the total person and be totally devoid of self-investment.

Another shift is from *Teaching for Personal Responsibility* to *Teaching for Human Solidarity.* There is nothing wrong with teaching for personal responsibility. In fact, every civilization needs the virtue of discipline, the maturity to perform one's duties. However, the Christian calling goes beyond that and clamors for human solidarity. Caring for others is the very essence of the Gospel.

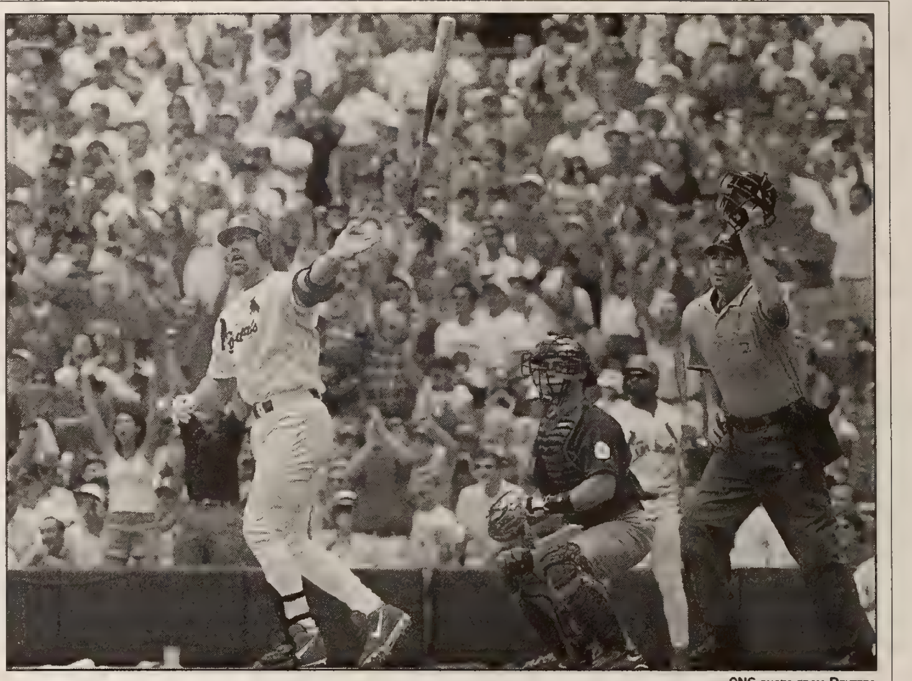
A third shift is from *Teaching for Commitment* to *Teaching for Discipleship.* What is prevalent in society today is commitment arising from legal or contractual obligations. The U.S. and nearly every other country are nations of laws, and people understand commitment essentially in the context of laws. While commitment made on the basis of law is laudable and worthy of following, commitment arising from discipleship is unconditional. Discipleship pledges one's life as collateral in taking risks for the Gospel.

Finally, we see a shift from *Teaching for Competency* to *Teaching for Spirituality.* Teaching for competency, a trend during the last two decades, will continue to stay as one of the most effective instruments for screening. By its very definition, teaching in this manner is a twin concept of educational leadership, and every catechist delights in forming learners who are competent and articulate in the faith.

It is the catechist's task to reveal the *magnalia dei* of the spiritual universe because God's call transcends "success" itself. It is the permanent call for the spiritual encounter. Thank you, parish catechetical leaders and the more than 3,300 catechists who serve the diocese. Thank you for your gift, and especially for your gift of faith.

Dr. Cris V. Villapando is director of programs for the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated Sept. 20.

For a related story, see page 14.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

McGwire Watches 61st

St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire lets go of his bat as he, umpire Gary Darling, Chicago Cubs catcher Scott Servais and a stadium full of fans watch the ball sail over the left field fence as he hit his 61st homer of the season Sept. 7. McGwire hit a record-breaking 62nd home run the next evening.

Deportation case over 23-year-old misdemeanor dropped

NEW YORK (CNS) — Sixteen months after Jesus Collado was arrested and threatened with deportation because of a 23-year-old misdemeanor conviction, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has dismissed his case. Collado's case attracted national attention last fall when immigrant advocacy groups included his story in a documentary about the effects of the 1996 immigration law. On Aug. 25, 16 months after beginning deportation proceedings, the INS said it could not prove the case against Collado and immigration Judge Douglas Schoppert dismissed the charges.

Lay missionaries plan return to Tanzania despite bombing

RENSSELAER, Ind. (CNS) — They've all been inside the U.S. Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam that was bombed Aug. 7, but three Catholic lay missionaries from Indiana are undeterred in their plans to return to Tanzania by year's end. Eric Boos, a professor of philosophy, left Aug. 24. Don and Mary Ellen Kreilkamp will go in December. All three are affiliated with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Acknowledging a nervous stomach, Boos said the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania only firmed his resolve to return to the Salvatorian seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania, to teach this semester.

Minnesota bishop issues social justice call

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — In his first pastoral letter as bishop of St. Cloud, Bishop John F. Kinney urged Catholics to get involved in social justice ministry. He also announced the formation of a new diocesan Social Concerns Office to help parishes develop or strengthen their social ministry outreach. While much of his letter addressed issues of economic or physical needs, he also bluntly denounced "a not-too-subtle racism" directed at Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians and African-Americans in the St. Cloud area.

At 105, Michigan man shares secrets to a long life

DETROIT (CNS) — Talking to Pasquale "Pat" Pacitti, there is a feeling of conversing with a man in his 70s. But no, this man with a wonderful sense of humor is a remarkable 105 years old. At his 105th birthday party in suburban Farmington Hills Aug. 21, his 71-year-old daughter Flora Jacoby was in tears as her father sang "O Sole Mio" for the crowd of seniors. "It's uncanny that he has lived so long with all his capabilities," she said. "He is articulate and so active." Pacitti prays the rosary in the morning and again at night. "The main thing is to believe in God and do what God wants," Pacitti said.

Educators must evangelize too, Cardinal George says

DULUTH, Minn. (CNS) — As the third millennium approaches, Catholic educators are challenged to take up their role in the church's new evangelization, said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago. Cardinal George also told catechists and teachers attending the Minnesota Catholic Education Association convention Aug. 28 that the complexities involved in today's evangelization require a strong faith rooted in Christ's teachings and a return to doctrinally sound catechetical materials. Cardinal George delivered the closing address at the Minnesota educators' convention.

Pope tells American Jewish leaders interfaith efforts needed

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, meeting with North American Jewish leaders, said joint efforts to build a more just world would strengthen relations between their faiths. "For the good of the human family, it is crucial at this time that all believers work together to build structures of genuine peace. This is not just because of some political necessity which will pass, but because of God's command, which endures forever," the pope said.

Mother Teresa's Congressional Medal given to her nuns

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nearly one year after Mother Teresa's death, members of her religious order were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal their foundress was honored with, but didn't actually receive, in June 1997. The Sept. 2 ceremony was at the Gift of Peace House, a home for AIDS patients run by the Missionaries of Charity in Washington. The Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Sister Priscilla, secretary general of the Missionaries of Charity, by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., one of the primary sponsors of the legislation to honor Mother Teresa with the highest award Congress can give an individual.

U.S. priest says women are N. Ireland's best chance for peace

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The greatest chance for peace in Northern Ireland is to work through women, said a U.S. priest who traveled to Belfast. Msgr. William Linder, president of the Newark, N.J.-based urban community development project New Community, spoke to Catholic News Service and was among speakers at an international forum for women in Belfast. "Northern Ireland women are an inspiration," Msgr. Linder told Catholic News Service. "Their attitude is strong because they say, 'We have lost enough of our families, and this has got to stop.'"

During Clinton visit, Irish bishop criticizes U.S. bombings

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — During U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Dublin, an Irish bishop criticized U.S. bomb attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan saying they would increase support for Muslim terrorists. Bishop John Kirby of Clonfert, chairman of the Irish bishops' aid agency Trocaire, also said in a statement issued Sept. 4 that there is a growing risk that the end of the Cold War will be followed by "the great conflict between the West and Islam." If that happens, Bishop Kirby said, it would also be a conflict between the world's wealthiest peoples and some of its poorest.

Nun's quest for information on kidnapping gets Senate airing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Dianna Ortiz's efforts to uncover U.S. government information about her 1989 abduction, torture and rape in Guatemala were stymied Sept. 2 as the Senate rejected an amendment aimed at releasing the information she seeks. Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., introduced an amendment that would have established a procedure for releasing information about cases such as the Ursuline nun's ordeal at the hands of unidentified men. The amendment was rejected in a 50-43 vote.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Mother Teresa's life remembered at first anniversary of her death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the first anniversary of her death, Mother Teresa was remembered in word and art, in eucharistic and gold medal celebrations, and in the hearts of countless people touched by her life of charity.

The nun, who founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, in 1950, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Well before she died last Sept. 5 at age 87, she was considered by many a living saint for her Christlike care of the poor.

On the anniversary of her death, Pope John Paul II told thousands of Catholic lay leaders gathered in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican that her life should inspire others.

"Let us have the courage always to put people and their fundamental rights first," the pope said.

In Mother Teresa's name, he called on the leaders of all nations to speed disarmament programs and dedicate resources to aiding the hungry and sick.

At an anniversary Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Cardinal John J. O'Connor remembered the diminutive nun as a woman who commanded help from top church and government officials in her efforts to serve people in need.

One Christmas Eve, the cardinal said, Mother Teresa interrupted his preparations for midnight Mass with plans to open a house for men with AIDS. She wanted him to provide a house immediately.

The cardinal found a recently vacated convent in Greenwich Village. "We were there with Mayor (Ed) Koch at 7 p.m.," he recalled.

Current New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani also paid tribute at the Mass. He said both times he met with Mother Teresa he did everything she asked. She was "impossible to say no to," he observed, because it was evident the things she asked for needed to be done.

In Washington, Cardinal James A. Hickey remembered "the saint of the gutters" in his homily at an anniversary Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"She saw all the 20th century had to offer, but never became its captive," he told thousands who packed the shrine.

"On the contrary, she captivated an era — an era that often fancies itself as being too sophisticated for God or the things of God."

Memorial Masses also were celebrated Sept. 5 by Cardinal Pio Laghi, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, and by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart there.

At a Sept. 2 ceremony at the order's Gift of Peace AIDS hospice in Washington, members of Mother Teresa's religious community received the Congressional Gold Medal she was awarded but did not actually get at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in June 1997.

The medal, not ready last year, was presented to Sister Priscilla, secretary general of the order, by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., a co-sponsor of the legislation honoring Mother Teresa.

Sister Priscilla, who resides in Calcutta, said at the ceremony that busloads of people from all over the world visit Mother Teresa's grave and often volunteer to work with the sisters for a day.

She said applications to the order increased after Mother Teresa's death, and this year alone the sisters plan to open 17 new houses worldwide.

As the first anniversary of Mother Teresa's death approached, tributes came in many forms.

Cardinal Laghi told Catholic News Service that Vatican officials are overseeing completion of a hospital in Albania begun by Mother Teresa with aid from U.S. donors, including the Knights of Columbus.

Mother Teresa, born in what is now the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, was ethnically Albanian.

The Vatican also was to broadcast a television tribute Sept. 8. The program, taped earlier, included clips of Mother Teresa at work and at prayer, as well as testimonies from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

In an interview with Vatican Radio, U.N. diplomat Staffan de Mistura recalled how Mother Teresa assisted him 12 years ago with an airlift of food and medical supplies for Sudanese civilians by calling President Reagan at the White House.

A stained-glass window honoring the memory of Mother Teresa recently was unveiled in the chapel of the Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center in Madison, Wis. She is pictured holding a banner that says, "Whatever you do to the least of my children that you do unto me."

Student artists at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, Md., also depicted the late nun in a school classroom wall mural.

In Calcutta, Sunita Kumar, a longtime lay associate of Mother Teresa's and spokeswoman for the order, published a pictorial biography titled "Mother Teresa of Calcutta." Kumar also exhibited 30 abstract paintings she did of her famous friend.

Though many assume Mother Teresa will be canonized, it may not happen as quickly as Calcutta Archbishop Henry d'Souza would like. The archbishop has let it be known he would like to see Mother Teresa beatified before 2000, and for that, there must be one authenticated miracle.

But the archbishop recently clarified a possible cure attributed to Mother Teresa's intercession. He said the cure of a French girl living in the United States might not have occurred fast enough to be considered a valid miracle in the Catholic canonization process.

And, according to Vatican rules for making saints, an official investigation may not begin until five years after a candidate's death. ▼

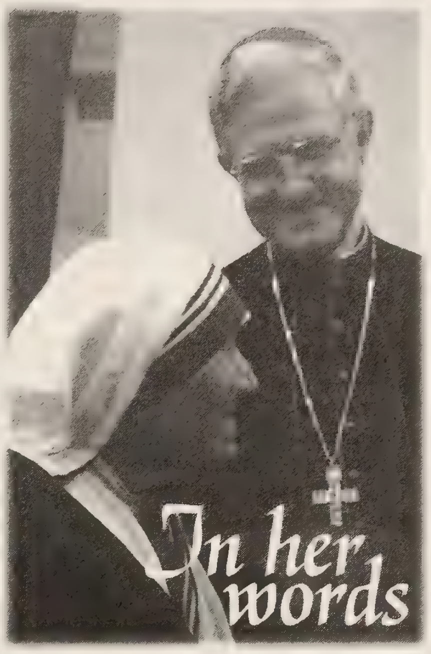


Photo by Joann Keane

On June 13, 1995, Mother Teresa visited Charlotte, and spoke during an ecumenical prayer service. Following are excerpts from her talk:

"Where does love begin? In our own family. How does it begin? By praying together. Families that pray together stay together; and if you stay together, you will love each other as God loves each of you."

"Our love for Jesus is revealed by working for the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor, for the unwanted, for the unloved, the sick, the dying, the crippled."

"It is not enough for us to say, 'I love God,' but I also have to love my neighbor. Saint John says that you are a liar if you say you love God and you don't love your neighbor. How can you love God whom you do not see, if you do not love your neighbor whom you do see, whom you touch and [with] whom you love?"

"I have no gold and silver to give you. What I have, I give with my whole heart. I give you my sisters."

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

[ModularCorp]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

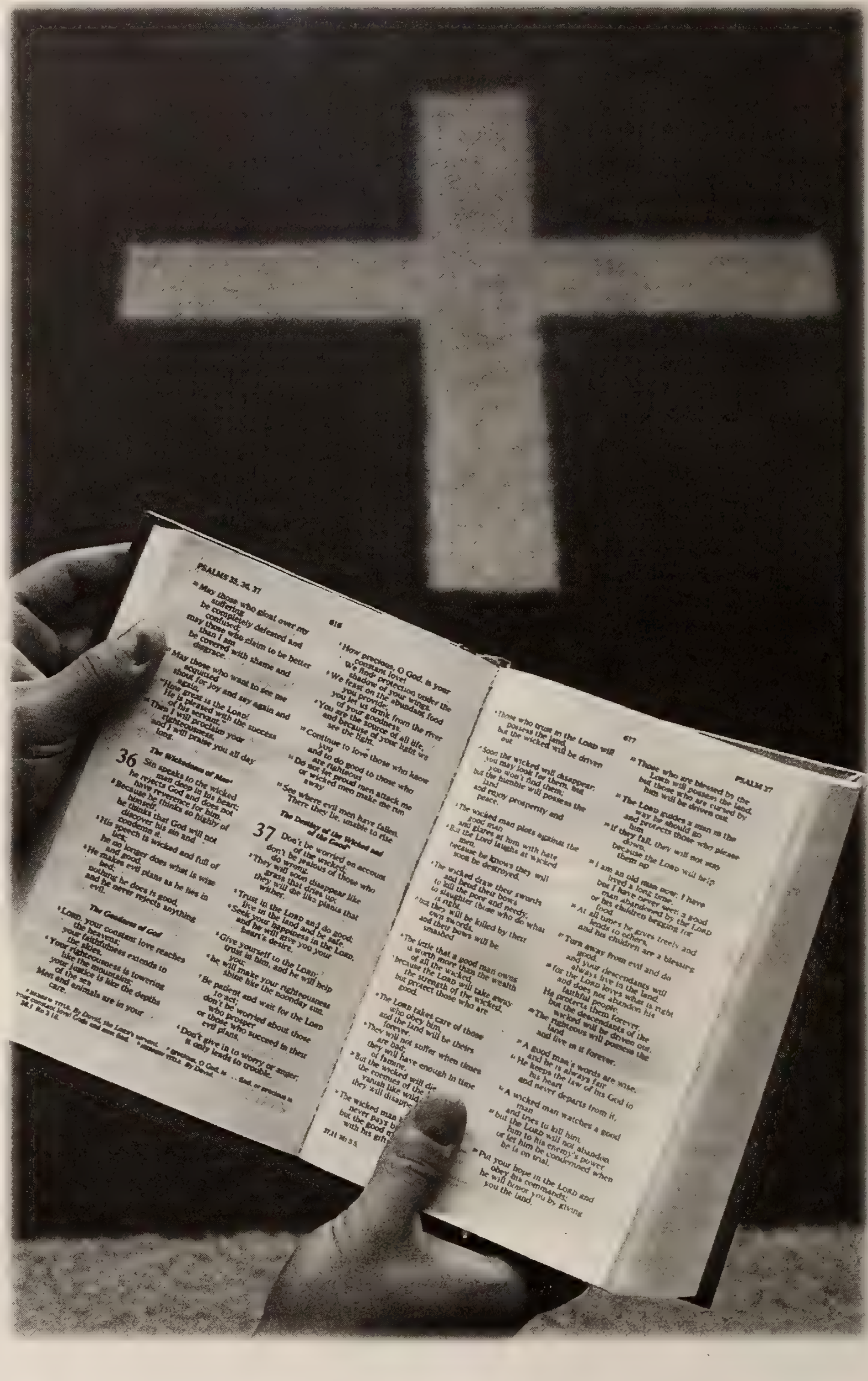
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

The Psalms: For monks only?

By Father J. P. Earls, OSB
Catholic News Service



Ask any group of men or women in monastic communities how they pray the psalms and you almost certainly will get a different answer from each individual.

From our first day in the monastery, we develop an ongoing relationship with the psalms. To them we bring our everyday life experiences. The psalms' meaning for each of us is as unique as our personal gifts and life stories.

I am surprised from time to time as I recite psalms with my community how a phrase or a passage revives experiences and feelings now far distant from me in time.

Occasionally as I recite Psalm 37/38 or 101/102, memories of the year I prayed them every night for Lent come back along with the quiet of the basement chapel and the "highs" and "lows" of my first years as a professed monk.

The clipped nasal sound of my novice master's voice returns to me with the psalm he always intoned at Friday vespers.

At times it is difficult for the Christian to believe that Jesus could pray these poems - these psalms - written in a culture so "primitive" and violent by our moral standards. As Christians we are supposed to pray to God for the good of our enemies, not ask him to exterminate them, as some psalms do.

But for the people of the psalms, if someone killed you, you were dead and he was alive. That's all there was to it. God's justice could not wait for an afterlife; it had to work itself out in earthly terms, as if to say:

"Kill my enemies now so I can continue to praise you. Otherwise I get cheated out of life, and you don't get my praise anymore."

Yet, from the hearts of God's people locked in this alien world of here-and-now retribution, one message comes through clearly: "We rely absolutely on the Lord. There is no place else to turn."

It is this total reliance on God in all the hardships and joys of life that forms the bedrock of the psalms. It is why we Christians, monastic or not, can learn from the psalms our need for God's saving help - as individuals, as the church, as the world.

To find the kind of personal meaning in the psalms that we in monastic communities do, one must grow up with them in a nurturing community of prayer. Yet there is a more public meaning of the psalms that we in monasteries absorb from constant exposure to the reading of sacred Scripture - and this is available to any Christian willing to spend time with the Bible.

Day after day, year after year, we monastics come to know the biblical story of Jesus and the history of his people, Israel. We hear the story of the beginnings of his church with its successes, failures and ongoing conflicts.

Because of familiarity with the Bible as the story of God's people, we can relate to the Psalms as corporate statements of faith in God's care for his people - past, present and to come - rather than the prayers of individual believers.

It may be easier for Christians in a monastic community to see themselves as members of a corporate union cared for by God than it is for nonmonastic Christians. We are conscious of having received a call to belong to our community.

We follow a shared schedule of meals, work and public prayer. Frequently our recreation involves recounting stories of remembered people and incidents in our history. Sometimes we behave like a tribe, meeting together with our chief, the abbot, to decide important questions.

Yet the monastic community is only a miniature of the church. When Christians, monastic or not, join in public prayer, we are giving our minds and voices over to the Holy Spirit to speak to the Father in the name of Jesus. That is one reason why our prayer in community is unlike most prayer you may be familiar with.

It is not you as Phil, Alice or Brother Jonas talking to God about your particular predicament. You are the church on this day, in this place, speaking through Christ, our head, to the Father.

This is not play-acting - pretending. It is "faith-acting."

In other words, you may not see the possibility of God's salvation here and now, and you certainly don't feel like Jesus or the Hebrew nation asking for that salvation. But you take a stance, in faith that just as God fulfilled the divine promises to save Israel's descendants, God is now completing that work by saving the rest of the world in Jesus, the new Israel.

We pray the psalms in a community as statements of faith that affirm God's continuing care for a people who share a common belief, a common history and a common destiny. ▾

Father Earls is a monk of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., and teaches English at St. John's University.

Food for Thought

"We need to assess how ... effectively the people of God have grown in knowledge and love of sacred Scripture," Pope John Paul II said in a 1998 letter to the church on the observance of Sunday.

He recalled that Vatican Council II "urged that 'the table of the word of God be more lavishly prepared for the faithful, opening ... more abundantly the treasures of the Bible."

The letter accented two ways the risen Lord is encountered during the Sunday eucharistic celebration: "at the twofold table of the word and of the bread of life."

A new sense of responsibility toward Scripture should be awakened by the fact that Vatican II "made it possible to proclaim the word of God in" the community's own language, the pope said.

He urged that people be well-prepared to hear God's word at Mass. In this, where possible, they can benefit from "initiatives designed to deepen understanding of the biblical readings," he said.

Preaching, the pope wrote, should apply God's word "to people's concerns and to their daily lives." He added: "In speaking his word, God awaits our response: a response which Christ has already made for us with his 'Amen.'"

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive! Upcoming Edition

An upcoming edition asks:

Why do we still need saints?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Setting a place at the table for the Psalms

By Dolores R. Leckey
Catholic News Service

Our family, like many, used the evening meal as the time for our communal prayer. When our children were school age, evening grace was a good time to surface what was happening in each other's lives.

The children were at ease with spontaneous prayer. So in addition to giving thanks for the chicken and mashed potatoes, we learned that a child's friend was worried because her grandmother was ill or we prayed for our son's challenging science project.

Everything from fears over piano recitals to a pet's erratic behavior was offered to God.

Then, suddenly the children were teen-agers, and spontaneous prayer was replaced by reticence. That's when we thought about introducing a psalm at evening grace time.

I had read an essay by psychoanalyst Eric Fromm, who pointed to Psalm 22 (the psalm Jesus prayed on the cross) as the quintessential description of what a person goes through in psychotherapy:

-First there is a denigration of self: "Here am I, now more worm than man."

-There is a remembrance of being in the womb, a hearkening back to one's mother.

-Then, at the point of desperation, the person comes back to life full of praise for God, who "has not despised or disdained the poor man ... but has answered him when he calls."

Fromm calls this note of hope the beginning of a resurrection.

That made an impression on me, and as I pondered the inner difficulties my four teen-agers were navigating, I thought the psalms might help.

At first my husband and I took turns reading a psalm. We noticed quickly how these prayer-songs caught our busy teens' attention. Before long everyone was taking a turn; the reader was free to choose the psalm.

The selection often revealed the joy, loneliness or sadness the reader was feeling. Ultimately the psalms were as revealing as spontaneous prayer had been.

Perhaps most important was the realization that the youths around our table found hope in their spiritual ancestors' cries. Our children were learning that while one's life may feel chaotic, with God's help we can survive, even thrive.

The psalms mirror situations of betrayal, loss of confidence, self-justification, near despair. They also uncover the peace we all long for.

Take Psalm 77. It speaks to the sleepless nights many live through at times:

"You withheld sleep from my eyes ...
"At night I mused within my heart;
"I pondered, and my spirit questioned."

An illness, a strained relationship, parental worry: All these may trouble our rest. But finally the psalmist concentrates not on his own misfortunes but on God. Then the tone changes. Isn't there a lesson here for our next bouts of insomnia?

Then there is the reality factor. The psalms expose us to the truth we often prefer to avoid:

"Common folks are only a breath
"great men an illusion.
"Placed in the scales, they rise;
"they weigh less than a breath.
"Do not set your heart on riches
"even when they increase" (Psalm 62).

When I'm on an acquisition streak, this psalm exposes my convoluted thinking. Psalms are salvific.

One striking aspect of the psalms is the speaker's intimate way of addressing God. Of singular importance, however, is the one theme that rises up everywhere: Trust, no matter what!

"You have burdened me with bitter troubles
"but you will give me back my life" (Psalm 71).

No wonder my teen-agers resonated with these ancient and wise prayers. ▼

Leckey is a senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University.

In a Nutshell

- The psalms mirror betrayal, lost confidence, self-justification, near despair. They also uncover the peace all people long for.
- Won't a psalm that expresses vengeance toward enemies remind us that forgiveness isn't always our first instinct?
- The psalm a family member selects to read during mealtime grace may reveal the joy, loneliness or sadness the reader is feeling.

How far have we traveled from Psalm 137?

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

I really like the Old Testament, most of all the Psalms.

But it was not always like that. As a young man, I found the Psalms boring. Even as an adult, I find a few psalms offensive.

For example, the end of Psalm 137:

"Remember, Lord, against Edom
"that day at Jerusalem.
"They said:
'Level it, level it
"'down to its foundations!'"

It seems hard to pray with this verse.

We are asking God to remember what the armies of Babylon said when they approached Jerusalem to destroy it: "Level it, level it!"

Here is a psalm that is part of our history. It's part of us.

The word of God is very historical.

Yet with this psalm, are we not just ruminating on past hurts? Sometimes it is better to forget. Otherwise how can we forgive?

If it is better not to dwell on past hurts, perhaps this psalm serves to remind us that we find it hard to forget.

The next verse of Psalm 137 seems vengeful:

"Fair Babylon, you destroyer,
"happy those who pay you back
"the evil you have done us!"

After that, how could we pray the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us"?

When I think of Jesus, I remember that he forgave even as he was dying.

But perhaps in this psalm we will see our own reflection and recall that to forgive is not always our first instinct.

I find Psalm 137's concluding verse the worst of all:

"Happy those who seize your children
"and smash them against a rock."

Even our liturgy avoids these vengeful words. When we use Psalm 137 in the liturgy, its conclusion is omitted.

How can Psalm 137 be God's word?

We have to realize that the word of God is not independent of the faith of the people. And if faith develops, so does divine revelation. Reading and praying Psalm 137, we can say, "Imagine, a long time ago we thought like that."

Life is a journey. Faith is a journey. How far we have traveled!

Nonetheless this psalm still can alert us to the spirit of vengeance so hard at work in our world. I think of Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Rwanda, Zaire.

In one sense we should thank God for Psalm 137. It helps us recognize and verbalize the violence deep within us. Unrecognized, violence would cause havoc within us and be expressed in unsuspected ways.

It is better to face our interior violence in prayer. The alternative is to leave it to our television screens. I think it is safer to leave it with God. ▼

Father LaVerdiere, a Blessed Sacrament priest, is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.

All contents copyright 1998, Catholic News service

FAITH alive!

Book Reviews

"Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints" and "Sister Wendy's Book of Saints"

Reviewed by ANNE LeVEQUE
Catholic News Service

Here in the CNS newsroom, saints are a staple item. If there isn't a canonization or beatification being covered, there's a saint's feast day for which a graphic is needed.

While our authoritative reference remains "Butler's Lives of the Saints," new hagiographies (saints' biographies) are always welcome. Because there are so many stories about the saints, ranging from the merely pious to the bizarre and outrageous, reliable sources of information are essential. Two such sources to have come across my desk recently are "Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints" and "Sister Wendy's Book of Saints."

Many readers will recognize Sister Wendy from her PBS shows as well as the many art books she has authored. While Sister Wendy's book lists just 35 saints, her approach is unique and her interpretive style is accessible to even the youngest readers. These are meditations on holiness as exemplified by particular saints and expressed through artwork. The artworks are taken from manuscript illuminations found in the Italian State Libraries and date back as far as the seventh century. "Sister Wendy's Book of Saints" is a charming addition to our collection of saints' books.

A more comprehensive treatment of saints' lives is found in "Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints." There are more than 10,000 entries in this major new work on saints. Given that this book is less than 800 pages, the entries are rather brief. Most entries are no longer than a few lines, although a few are as long as a page. All give a date (where known) and feast day at minimum. Most entries give us just a morsel of information about the saint. There are 12 appendices giving additional information such as church documents, iconography, Marian feasts, patron saints, and so forth. Additionally, there is a glossary and a calendar of feast days.

One drawback here — and this is a flaw in Sister Wendy's book also — is that there is no discussion of the commemoration of saints' days and the local option in some countries of commemorating saints not on the General Roman Calendar. As a result, we have two different calendars offered in these two books. While Sister Wendy's book is not being promoted as an authoritative reference, Our Sunday Visitor should certainly have some explanation, perhaps along the lines of the one they give in their excellent publication, Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Almanac.

Both of these worthy books are useful additions to any library. Readers will find them filled with anecdotes both amusing and inspiring. ▼

LeVeque is information services manager at Catholic News Service.

"Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Saints," by Matthew Bunson, Margaret Bunson, and Stephen Bunson. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division (Huntington, Ind., 1998). 798 pp., $49.95.

"Sister Wendy's Book of Saints," by Sister Wendy Beckett. DK Publishing (London, 1998). 96 pp., $19.95.

At your bookstore or order prepaid from Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750, or DK Publishing, London, England. Add $2 for postage and handling.

Word to Life

September 13. Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C. Readings:

1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17
3) Luke 15:1-32

By SHARON K. PERKINS

It had been one of those days that did not start well between us. On a morning when I thought I would get to catch up on some sleep, my 9-year-old son woke me at the crack of dawn simply because he wanted to watch a particular cartoon.

Things went downhill from there: He continually teased his younger sister, making her cry; when a potential buyer came to view our house, he shot foam arrows at me; and every time I asked him to help with a household chore, he resisted either through feigned ignorance or outright rebellion. Finally, I simply had enough.

The subsequent punishment and my sharp tongue brought my son to tears — an unusual reaction for him these days — and we went our separate ways to "cool off." The image of his distressed young face haunted me, however, and I found my anger dissipating. In its place came a flood of compassion and the realization that we were not adversaries, but mother and son, adult and child — and both of us were hurting. When he passed me in the kitchen a few minutes later, I gathered him up onto my lap at the kitchen table, hugged him, asked his forgiveness, and let him know I loved him and forgave him.

The story of Moses interceding for Israel, Paul's testimony to Timothy, and the three parables from the Gospel of Luke portray God from different perspectives, but the common theme of God's mercy unites them all.

Even more striking is that this mercy is not experienced as some distant, dispassionate, generalized aspect of God's character, but as a personal, specific and emotionally charged response to each person in trouble. Mercy is what "moves" God to seek out the lost, wait expectantly for the return of the sinner, and grant grace "in overflowing measure" to an "extreme case" like Paul.

Mercy is activated anew each and every time I fail and then repent — or even before I repent. God's "compassion" for us is greater than his anger and overflows to include both the repentant and self-righteous. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 13 — Sept. 19, 1998

Sunday, Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday,** Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 5:7-9, Luke 2:33-35; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday,** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 15:33-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer"
Members of St. Gabriel

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
A Community of Believers
While Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools emphasize traditional Christian values in a secure environment, today's programs and facilities are anything but old school. A state-of-the-art high school, before- and after-school care and a new transportation program make all Catholic schools in Charlotte more attractive than ever.

Open House
Sunday, October 25, 2-4pm
Tuesday, October 27, 9-11am
All Saints Catholic School
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
St. Ann Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
St. Patrick Catholic School
Sunday, November 8, 1-3pm
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
Sunday, November 8
program begins at 3:30pm
Charlotte Catholic High School

If you value these values, come to an Open House or call MACS Admissions Office at 704-370-3273.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

PBS documentary chronicles Second Vatican Council

On Jan. 25, 1959, Pope John XXIII summoned an ecumenical council to begin the work of spiritual renewal and to reunite all Christians "separated from Rome." The Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church began in October 1962. Sessions were convened each autumn until the work of the council was completed on Dec. 8, 1965.

Thirty-nine years after Pope John's call for a council, a documentary film, "Reflections on Vatican II," was created. The two-hour program is slated to air on the Public Broadcasting Service Sept. 18 and 19.

Programming information can be obtained in local listings or on the World Wide Web at http://www.rclweb.com.

The documentary chronicles the history and lasting effects of the Second Vatican Council on the Catholic Church and the world at large. More than 2,200 church dignitaries, together with religious leaders from all faiths, brought their thoughts and perspectives to the council.

The council enacted 16 documents: two dogmatic and two pastoral constitutions, nine decrees and three declarations. The effects of the documents were immediate, and by the early '70s nearly every area of church life resonated with change. Most visibly, the documents have brought change in the areas of liturgy, the church in the world, ecumenism, the renewal of religious life, the life and ministry of clergy, and the lay apostolate, among others.

"Reflections on Vatican II" puts viewers in the minds and spirit of the participants. Archival film is combined with original film, and views and behind-the-scenes accounts are gleaned from Catholic clergy, Protestant and Jewish theologians, lay observers and journalists.

Participants imbue their versions with subjective closeness that allows viewers to experience the passion that existed among the council's participants and followers.

The documentary is a Lyrick Studios production. ▼

CNS photo from Hollywood Pictures

"Firelight"

Dominique Belcourt and Sophie Marceau star in the period romance "Firelight." See capsule review below.

New at the Box Office

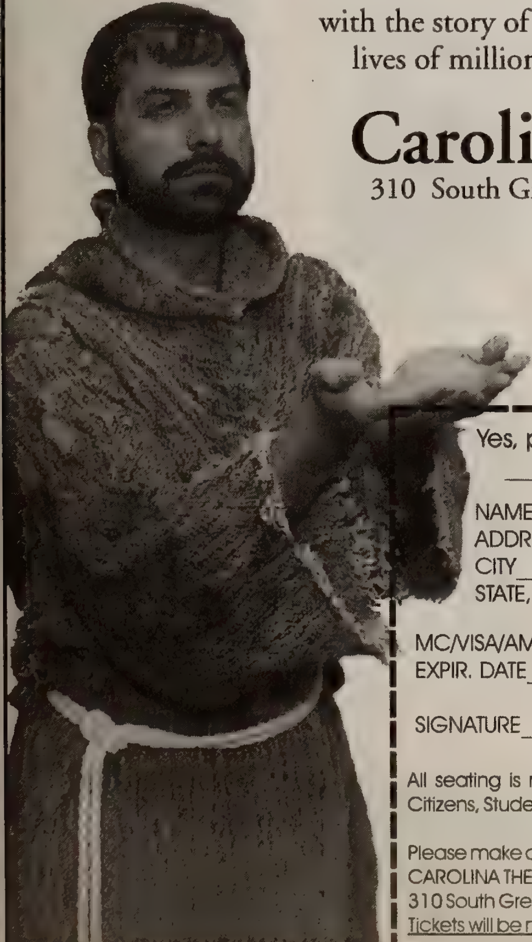
NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"54" (Miramax)

Empty retelling of the rise and demise of Studio 54, New York's wildest disco in the late 1970s, as seen through the eyes of a pleasure-seeking bartender (Ryan Phillippe). Written and directed by Mark Christopher, the movie proves a lifeless assemblage of decadent disco scenes in search of a story and the result offers no lessons to be learned. Uncritical portrayal of substance abuse, promiscuity and theft, as well as brief nudity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Firelight" (Hollywood)

Gauzy British period romance begins in 1838 when an impoverished Swiss governess (Sophie Marceau) is paid by an anonymous gentleman (Stephen Dillane) to bear his child, then give up the infant for him to raise, but seven years later she finds the two when hired as governess to the little girl. Writer-director William Nicholson fashions intriguing characters for the trio, but lets the narrative gradually descend into melodrama. Ambiguous treatment of euthanasia, discreet sexual encounters with nudity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



FRANCIS—The Saint from Assisi

A Musical Drama...

Retelling in joyous story, song and dance the life of the revolutionary "little poor man of Assisi." This performance - for all ages and all beliefs - celebrates the life of the man who has captivated the world by his inspiring message of joy, peace and simplicity. Experience this delightful musical which has touched the hearts of thousands with the story of the saint who changed the lives of millions.

Carolina Theatre
310 South Greene St., Greensboro, NC

Performances
Sept. 25, 8pm
Sept. 26, 8pm
Sept. 27, 2pm

Yes, please send me _____ tickets for:
___Sept. 25 ___Sept. 26 ___Sept. 27
NAME____________________
ADDRESS____________________
CITY____________________
STATE, ZIP____________________
MC/VISA/AMEX #____________________
EXPIR. DATE____________________
SIGNATURE____________________

All seating is reserved. Tickets are $10; $8 for Senior Citizens, Students and groups of 10 or more.

Please make check payable to:
CAROLINA THEATRE & send to: CAROLINA THEATRE,
310 South Greene St., Greensboro, NC 27401.
Tickets will be mailed to you. For info, call 336-333-2605

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Joseph P. O'Rourke
Certified Public Accountant
4921 Albemarle Road, Suite 116
Charlotte, NC 28205

Tax consultation, planning and preparation for individuals and small businesses. Accounting services available.

704-568-7886

To All Churches:

Good day to you from MUSIC & ELECTRONICS, INC. here in Mooresville. We are really excited about our TOTAL SYSTEM SURVEY SERVICE that we are now offering area churches. There is no charge for this in-depth analysis of your instruments, sound system, chimes and other needs...and there is no obligation.

Having had over 30 years experience serving the musical needs of the church community, we know this service will benefit every church. Simply call our toll-free number below.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis, President

Music & Electronics, Inc.
1-800-331-0768

David Brzoska
St. Vincent's Seminary

Matthew Buettner
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

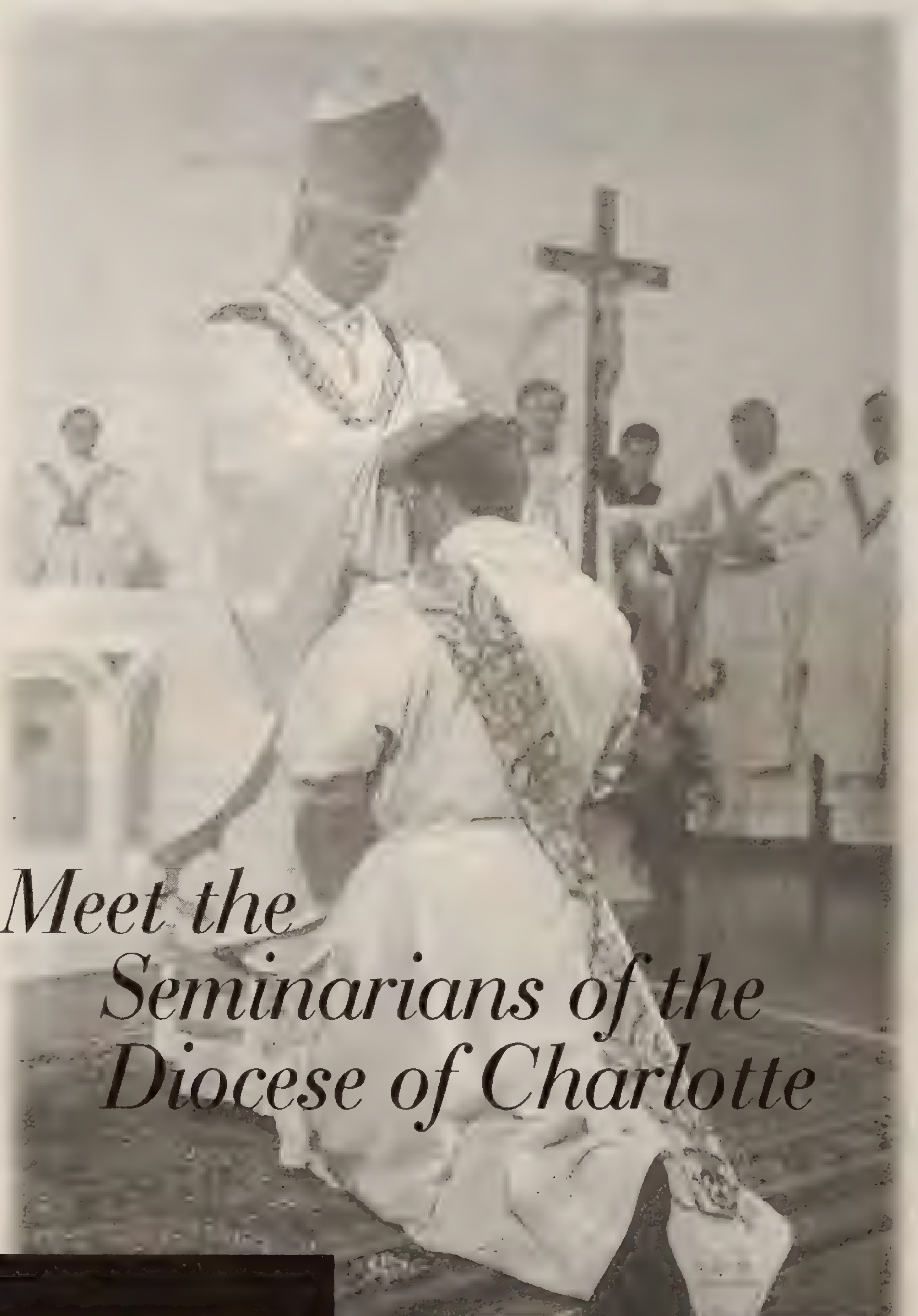
Michael Carney
St. Mary's Seminary

William Clark
St. Vincent's Seminary

Duc Duong
Theological College

Tien Duong
St. Vincent's Seminary

Ricardo De Silva
St. Vincent's Seminary



Meet the Seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte

Joseph Long Dinh
St. Mary's Seminary

J. Chapin Engler, Jr.
St. Vincent's Seminary

Robert Ferris
Pope John XXII National Seminary

Christopher Gober
Theological College

Johnathan Hanic
St. Mary's Seminary

Rev. Mr. Ricardo Sanchez
St. John the Baptist

Matthew Kauth
Theological College

Larry Lomonaco
St. Vincent's Seminary

Shawn O'Neal
Basilica of St. Lawrence, D.M.

Luis Osorio
St. Vincent's Seminary

Matthew Ritter
St. Vincent's Seminary

Christopher Roux
St. Vincent's Seminary

Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn
Pope John XXIII National Seminary

Frank Seabo
Theological College

Dennis Seavers
Theological College

Bart Tolleson
St. Vincent's Seminary

Joseph Tran
St. Vincent's Seminary

Fr. Eric Houseknecht *Director of Vocations* (704) 370-3353

Letters, prayers mark campaign to outlaw partial-birth abortion

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and other religious and pro-life leaders launched campaigns of prayers, letters and phone calls as the U.S. Senate prepared to vote on overriding President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston told the U.S. bishops in late August that their Committee for Pro-Life Activities, which he heads, plans a series of communications with all U.S, senators before the vote, which is expected in the third week of September.

Florida's nine Catholic bishops urged Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., one of the 36 senators who voted against the ban last year, to reverse his position and override the presidential veto.

"Your opposition to this ban is beyond our comprehension. ... Every medical claim made in support of this act tantamount to infanticide has been disproved or abandoned by members of the medical profession," the bishops said in an Aug. 18 letter to Graham.

Partial-birth abortion is a procedure in which the torso of the unborn child is delivered through the birth canal before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of its head. The child's brain is then removed by suction, collapsing the head for easier removal.

> **"Your opposition to this ban is beyond our comprehension. ... Every medical claim made in support of this act tantamount to infanticide has been disproved or abandoned by members of the medical profession,"**
>
> **— Florida bishops' letter to Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla.**

Congress first passed a federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 1995, but Clinton vetoed it and an attempt to override his veto in 1996 failed.

Congress passed new legislation last year, which Clinton vetoed last October.

The House overrode his veto July 23 by a 296-132 margin. In the Senate, the original vote passing the bill last year was 64-36, three short of the two-thirds needed for a veto override.

In Rhode Island, Lifenet, a pro-life phone tree, was activated to urge Sens. John H. Chafee and Jack Reed to support the ban. Chafee, a Republican, and Reed, a Democrat, both voted against it before.

Lee Grossi, respect life director of the Diocese of Providence, R.I., said the state's two senators could be important swing votes "to outlaw this most barbaric form of abortion."

When the Senate first acted on a federal law to ban partial-birth abortions in December 1995, it approved the measure by a 54-44 margin.

Clinton vetoed the bill. In September 1996 the Senate voted 57-41 to override the veto. When a new bill came to the floor last year, the 64-36 vote in the Senate substantially narrowed the margin needed to reach a veto override.

Cardinal Law's committee has called on Catholics nationwide to join in a prayer campaign. It has distributed prayer and daily theme suggestions for a special Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows, titled "9 Days for Life," for use in churches and homes across the country Sept. 7-15.

Five New Jersey dioceses announced simultaneous prayers services at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 to pray for state as well as federal legislation against partial-birth abortion. U.S. District Judge Anne E. Thompson of Trenton was to begin hearing arguments that day on the constitutionality of the New Jersey Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Cardinal Law said his committee was also sending a series of fact-cards to senators and to local media outlets in states of anti-ban senators, countering some of the claims about partial-birth abortions being made by opponents of the ban.

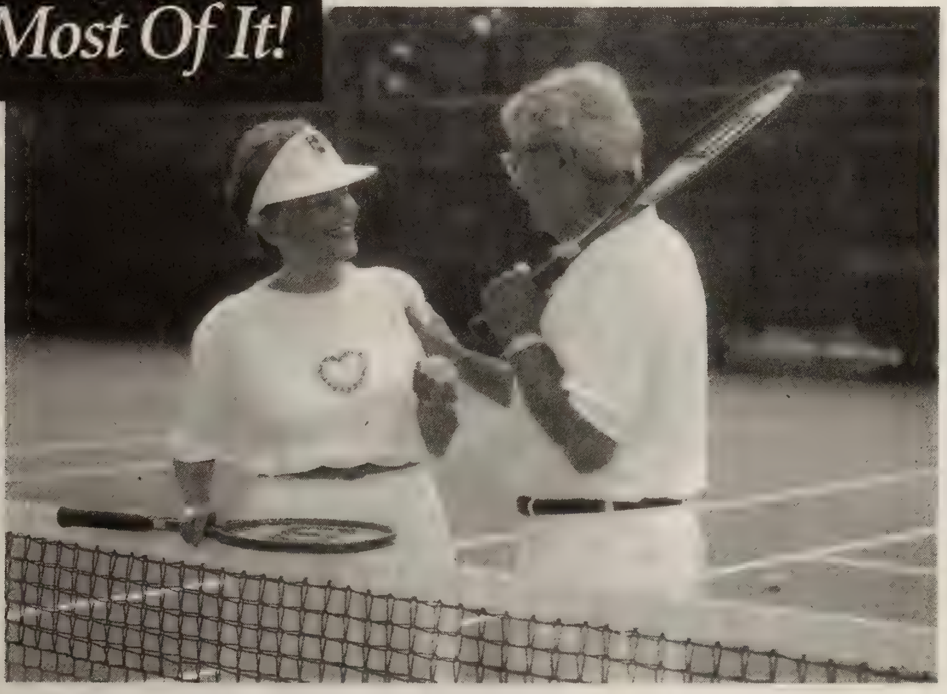
He said that shortly after Labor Day his committee would send each senator "a beautiful poster of an unborn child at 18 weeks' gestation with this message: 'Should anyone be able to kill her brutally by partial-birth abortion? The truth is in your heart. As religious leaders and as citizens of the United States, we urge you to help override President Clinton's veto.'"

Thomas E. Gilligan, president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, asked senators to override the president's veto "in the common name of humanity."

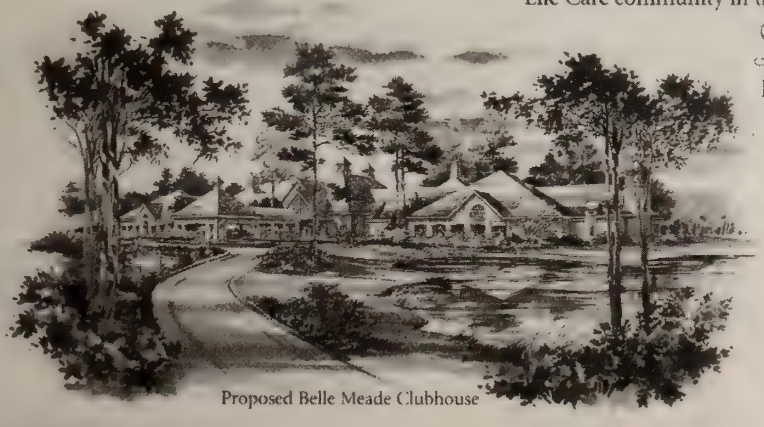
"It is no exaggeration to say that this vote is a defining moment for this nation," Gilligan said Sept. 2 in a letter to all senators. ▼

Contributing to this story were Carolyn Hughes in New Jersey and Michael Brown in Rhode Island.

It's Your Life.
Make The Most Of It!



Perhaps you've heard about Belle Meade Retirement Resort, currently under development near the beautiful villages of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. When completed in 1999, it will be the premier full-service Life Care community in the Southeast.



Proposed Belle Meade Clubhouse

Learn more about Belle Meade's casually elegant lifestyle, attractive amenities, secured environment and extensive health care services including the resort's unique Life Care Plan. Simply call 800-343-7463 and ask to speak with Marketing Counselors Beth Corning or Myra Couch. They'll give you all the details.

BELLE MEADE
Retirement Resort
Member: Catholic Health East

95 Aviemore Drive • Pinehurst, NC 28374
800-343-7463 • 910-215-4535

Sponsor: St. Joseph of the Pines, Inc. - Pinehurst • Architectural services: Thompson, Hancock, Witte & Associates, Inc. - Atlanta • Feasibility consultation: KPMG Peat Marwick - St. Petersburg • Construction consultation: The Holcomb Group - Roanoke • General contractor: Rodgers/Hardin - Charlotte/Atlanta • Financial services: First Savings Bank of Moore County - Southern Pines & Wachovia Bank, NA - Southern Pines • Marketing consultation: Premark, Inc. - High Point • Senior Managing Underwriter: Merrill Lynch & Co. - New York • Certified member: Association of Retirement Resorts™ International

CN&H-98

A Piece Of
Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

Carolina
Catholic
Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Catechists committed to passing on the faith

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

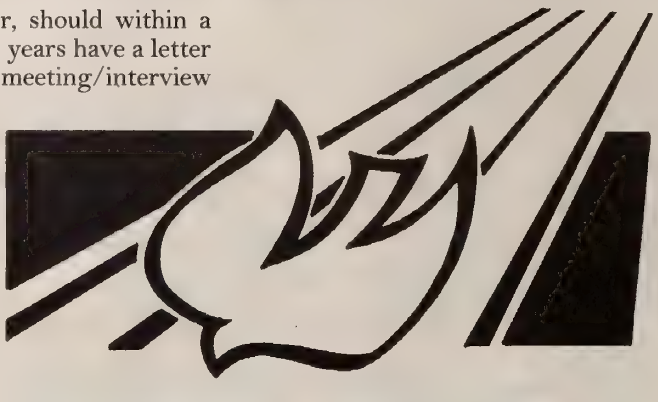
HICKORY — "Every catechist must constantly endeavor to transmit by his teaching and behavior the teaching and life of Jesus," said Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation "Catechesi Tradendae." In the document, the Holy Father not only describes the difficult task of the catechist, but how essential catechetical work is for the church.

On Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 20), parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte will not only applaud their catechetical leaders and catechists, but encourage a recommitment by those in the ministry to continue their efforts to pass on the faith.

Two years ago, the diocesan Office of Faith Formation adopted a new method of certifying catechists. Instead of basing the capability of a catechist on the number of hours trained, a competency-based training process was implemented. It is currently the only one of its kind in the country.

"The advantage of the program is that individuals who come into the ministry are recognized for what they already know," said Peg Ruble, central region faith formation coordinator.

Guidelines for the process prescribe that catechists, under the guidance of their leader, should within a target time of three years have a letter of endorsement, a meeting/interview with the pastor and catechetical leader, a formal presentation before the parish, and basic formation in the faith.


CATECHETICAL SUNDAY, SEPT. 20

In the process, a large portion of the responsibility for determining the suitability or readiness of a catechist rests upon the shoulders of the pastor and his appointed catechetical leader.

Catechetical leaders are also responsible for providing opportunities for catechists to explore basic competencies in Scripture, the sacraments, the Creed, morality and classroom skills. These competencies were developed from national standards in 1996 and are outlined in modules provided for each parish.

Although the competency-based process is only two years old, a number of parishes have already made strong efforts to implement it. Last year, St. Aloysius Church in Hickory reported that 100 percent of its 46 catechists received the training prescribed in the new recognition process. Other parishes who reported high compliance were St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine with 91 percent, St. Andrew Parish in Mars Hill with 85 percent, and St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis with 70 percent.

In trying to accomplish this goal, leaders in many parishes are using creative means to get the job done. Several parish catechetical leaders are accommodating the work and home schedules of catechists with supplemental training resources, for instance.

Multicultural parishes like St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton are meeting the challenges of language barriers by providing adult courses in both English and Spanish.

Sisters of St. Joseph Sister Joan Pearson said catechists at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem often get "on-the-job training," as they go to homes and apartment complexes to teach the faith.

Leaders hope that in the recognition process, the catechists, through study and prayer, can move closer to the challenge set before them by the Holy Father: "What a spirit of prayer, what detachment of self must a catechist have in order that he can say, 'My teaching is not mine but His who sent me.'" ▼

Charitable giving expert leads seminars

CHARLOTTE — Nationally known philanthropy and estate planning expert Conrad Teitell will present two charitable contribution seminars in Charlotte on Sept. 15 at the Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S. College St.

Teitell leads a charitable contribution tax strategies seminar for financial advisors and development professionals from 9-11 a.m. The latest income and capital gains tax rules for charitable remainder trusts, lead trusts and estate planning techniques will be discussed.

This seminar provides 1.5 hours of continuing education for Carolinas attorneys, and 2 hours for Carolinas life insurance professionals and certified financial planner licensees.

Teitell also presents an estate planning strategies seminar for the general public from 3-5 p.m. Complex legal issues will be translated, giving participants the basics for discussing options with their advisors.

For more information and to register, call Holly Welch at (704) 376-9541, or register via the Internet at www.fftc.org.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is among the entities in partnership with Foundation for the Carolinas, which is sponsoring the seminars. ▼

Grant establishes center at Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — The First Gaston Foundation of Gastonia has granted $315,000 to Belmont Abbey College to help establish the Center for Innovative Educational Services.

The center will promote collaborative relationships among Gaston County educational, social and philanthropic programs and agencies. It is intended to serve as a catalyst for enhancing the educational potential of all Gaston County citizens by promoting continuing teacher education and family and community literacy.

The First Gaston Foundation grant, combined with a previous grant by the First Union Foundation's Tech-Knowledgy Training Program, will augment state and county money and extend the Center for Innovative Educational Services' ability to train teachers as they prepare students for the coming mandatory computer competency exam. In the year 2000, high school students will be required to prove their computer literacy in order to graduate.

This program will allow teachers to prepare themselves and their students by using computers in their homes or schools connected to the center at Belmont Abbey College. The distance education model will be extended to area teachers in other fields and to area employees through the college.

Distance education through the use of computers can also be applied to the educational needs of senior citizens, nonprofit agencies and others.

The director of the Center for Innovative Educational Services is Dr. Sandra Loehr, chair of Belmont Abbey College's education department. First Gaston Foundation trustees advising the college on this project are Robert Caldwell and Mary Clement-Adams. ▼

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Franciscan Sisters bid goodbye to Cherokee parish

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Richard and Birdie Crowe stop in to greet Sister Virginia Gase (far right) and Sister Roberta McKinnon.

CHEROKEE — More than 40 combined years of Franciscan service to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and the Cherokee community have ended.

Sisters Roberta McKinnon, 77, and Virginia Gase, 67, returned to the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse in Tiffin, Ohio, on Sept. 1 for sabbaticals followed by new challenges.

"We have lots of gifts to share," Sister Roberta said. "I'm sure God will continue to use them."

Sister Roberta had been in Cherokee for 25 years, Sister Virginia for 17.

Glenmary Brother Michael Springer has taken over the sisters' duties, and is living in their former residence, a mobile home adjacent to the church.

The sisters' quarter-century of service to the area was recognized during a celebration Aug. 23. Friends and parishioners attended a prayer service in the church, then packed the parish hall for a reception.

"It's a charism of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, that wherever they go, they find people to love them," Bishop William G. Curlin said during the prayer service.

Richard and Birdie Crowe, in traditional Cherokee dress, took time out from attending the 75th anniversary of their own church — Cherokee Baptist — to wish their friends well. "They came to our community and helped us," Richard Crowe said. "I've always known Roberta and Virginia to be so gracious."

"Any time you asked them to help you, they were willing," Birdie Crowe added.

The journey revisited

Seated among the odds and ends of packing in their living room a few days later, Sister Roberta said what they will remember most is "the beauty, love, concern and generosity of the people."

"And the beauty of the mountains," Sister Virginia added. "The memory of this parish. These people are family. They care so much."

Sister Roberta and Sisters of St. Francis Sister Jane Schmenk came to Cherokee in 1972 to spend one summer. "Then they asked us to come back full time the following year," Sister Roberta said, "so we came back to stay in 1973."

Father Ron McLaughlin was pastor of churches in Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton and Cherokee at the time. He asked the sisters to provide a "Catholic presence" in Cherokee.

"Father Ron asked us to put on our habits and walk through the village, and do something so people would know we weren't tourists," Sister Roberta said.

After three years, it was decided Sister Roberta would stay in Cherokee, while Sister Jane was needed in Maggie Valley. Sister Jane continues to serve there as director of the Living Waters Reflection Center.

Sister Marcella Keefe worked with Sister Roberta for five years, then left to train for work as a hospital chaplain.

Sister Virginia arrived in Cherokee in 1981. "I had several offers but accepted this," she said. "I love the mountains, and I thought it would be exciting to live in a different culture."

The sisters' early home was an apartment that had been built onto the church as an overnight stopping place for priests, but was never used for that purpose. The living quarters doubled as a parish hall before Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, then actively serving as diocesan shepherd, arranged for more spacious accomModations. A single-wide mobile home was installed at the site.

That 'Catholic presence'

Over the years, the sisters have worked to provide that Catholic presence, foster an ecumenical spirit, and teach and help all who need them. "We wanted the churches to work together," Sister Roberta said. "For a long time we met with two Methodist ministers and a Lutheran minister to plan ecumenical services for Easter, Thanksgiving and the World Day of Prayer."

"And you know," Sister Virginia added, "not having a pastor in residence here, people would come to us to talk, or to pray, or for help."

"We were able to witness and reach out and be a part of these people's lives," Sister Roberta said. They came to realize that "we didn't minister to just Catholics. We were available to anyone."

The sisters helped establish an emergency assistance fund to help with such needs as rent. They taught music lessons to high school students, and began a program to assist adults get their high school diplomas. They counseled the chemically dependent. They taught religious education to the parish's children and adults, and conversed with people of various faith traditions on church matters. Their ministry to the area's Cherokee and Hispanic populations became far-reaching. They made many dear friends.

Sister Virginia said she has truly enjoyed "interacting in the lives of people — these beautiful people," while Sister Roberta called her time in western North Carolina "a rich, rich experience."

Now, the sisters return to their first community, in Tiffin. The memories of ministering in the diocese and the cherished friendships, Sister Roberta added, will last forever.

"I just feel that the Spirit has led us to things we never could have thought of," she said. ▼

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

French/American Student Organization seeks a local coordinator for individual summer exchanges. Some French required. Students 13-17. Call Michael at (404) 982-9831. Junior Diplomat International Homestays.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morgantown/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Organist/Pianist: St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard. Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com

RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Director for Total Youth Ministry: Saint Mark Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC, is seeking a full-time person for youth ministry. Primary responsibilities for grades 6-12 in the 2000-family parish: Religious education classes, retreats, service projects, social events, and recruiting, training and supporting volunteer teachers and leaders. Will work closely with Director for Faith Formation. Bachelors degree or equivalent required with religious education background and experience preferred. A practicing Catholic in good standing with great enthusiasm for working with youth required. Excellent benefits, moving allowance and salary commensurate with experience and education. Send letter of application with resume to TYM Search Committee, Saint Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.

Bilingual (Vietnamese-English) Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating refugee services; transporting clients. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English; also prefer Rhade and/or Koho. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Donation Coordinator Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include scheduling donations, agency vehicle and inventory maintenance. Some heavy lifting required. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license, good driving record and ability to drive standard 5-speed vehicle required. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Part-time Nanny: Three days a week. Must have own transportation. Call (704) 814-0377.

Part 1 of 4: Poverty in South America

Community banks: Poverty lending for micro-enterprise development

Editor's note: In June, Joanne Kennedy Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Charlotte, was one of four U.S. directors who accompanied two national Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff members to visit CRS sites in Ecuador and Peru.

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
JUSTICE AND PEACE

PHOTO BY JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

Paulina and her four children sell a variety of things from her kitchen table. The kitchen area occupies one-half of her home.

In Ecuador, more than 5,000 families participate in CRS-supported community banks, each of which have 25-45 members, usually women, who run the banks after they receive financial management training. Seed money for the banks comes from Operation Rice Bowl funds. CRS usually works through a local counterpart, such as a diocese or nonprofit agency whose goals fit with CRS' criteria of self-sufficiency. The default rate for these community banks is less than 2 percent.

At meetings of several rural and urban community banks, we heard members' accounts of long-term hardship now mixed with expressions of pride for newly realized resources and skills.

One such meeting was held at the mountain-side village of San Pedro's community center in Ecuador. After some harrowing very close-to-the-edge-of-the-mountain driving, while viewing some of God's most spectacular scenery, we reached the village and were greeted with broad welcoming smiles, mandatory kisses on the cheek and handshakes. It was ***cold***—in the low 40's and we were not dresssed nearly as warmly as our hosts, who wore several layers of sweaters, blankets or rugs, pants tucked in galoshes, and the signature rural-Ecuadorian fedora hats. Many carried babies wrapped across their back, with only their pudgy faces visible.

The meeting began after prayer and scripture in the even more frigid 30x40 foot concrete community center furnished with crude benches and pane-less windows. Rosa, a self-assured young woman, is the elected president of the 45-member community bank. "We are so poor," she tells us. "Some people think we don't have skills, but we *have* learned. We buy small animals. We try to save. Please teach us more. The church is the only place that will help us."

CRS lends to the poorest of the poor, who are usually women because they are disproportionately, abjectly poor. Another bank member, Martita, enthusiastically told us, "It is very beautiful to be organized with other women. With my loan, I grow rice; now I am able to bring money into my home." Many borrowers reported that their esteem had risen in the eyes of their husbands.

Starting with small loans, usually between $40 and $300, larger amounts can be borrowed as each loan is repaid. "With my first loan," Marta told us, "I bought material to make trousers which I sold at the market and with my second, I invested in a little piece of land." Bank member Lorena added, "I bought 100 pounds of garlic and planted it, harvested it, and sold it." "Then I bought a sheep with my second loan."

In place of traditional forms of collateral, the member community guarantees loan repayment. The community also provides a means of social support. In San Pedro, as at many other community banks, the convenings include programs on health care, nutrition, and child raising.

How have things changed with community banks? Rosita summed up what we heard in many meetings: "We are our own bosses now. I used to knit sweaters for a man who gave me yarn, then I had to accept his price for the sweaters. Now I can buy my own yarn and I can stay home to earn money and take care of the animals and my family. And if the price of sweaters goes down, sometimes I can wait until I can get a fair price."

To people in the U.S.: "Tell them, we are very grateful for the loans and for being able to make our own decisions." ▾

Friday Special Event
Holy Trinity Middle School Dance
Saturday Special Events
Antique Auto Show - All Day
Charlotte Team Mascots - Lunchtime

A Carnival is Coming to Charlotte
... At St. Ann's

September 18th and 19th
5-10 pm Friday evening
11 am - 10 pm Saturday

Giant Slide . Pony Rides . Clowns
Huge Ferris Wheel . Obstacle Course
Snowcones . BBQ . Hot Dogs . Bingo

St. Ann's Parish Carnival
Sept. 18 & 19

St. Ann's Catholic Church is located at the corner of Park Road and Hillside Ave. (Just 2 blocks north of Park Road Shopping Center.)

refugee, hispanic & immigration services · domestic & international adoption
counseling · material assistance · pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S300 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Inside

Southeastern Young Adult Conference
See full story
...PAGE 3

A mission for the poor
Singer-evangelist visits Charlotte
...PAGE 7

Living the Faith
Part 2 of 4: Poverty in South America
...PAGE 12

Local News

Parishioner working as missionary in Honduras
...PAGE 11

Diocesan Briefs
...PAGE 10

Every Week

The World in Brief
...PAGE 2
Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5
People in the News
...PAGE 6
Entertainment
...PAGES 8-9

Don't miss the new...
Suplemento de The Catholic News & Herald
Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO
See center section

We come together to pray

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

We turn to the Lord asking for his spirit to strengthen our faith and knowledge.

Bishop McGuinness High School students Dan Malechuk, Michael Mode and Alberto Batiz lead the procession into the school chapel for the first Mass of the school year. The Very Reverend Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, served as celebrant and homilist for the students of the Winston-Salem school. "As the school year begins, you will be reminded of all sorts of things that you must do to make this a good school year," he said. "We cannot be content to merely talk about our commitment to lofty ideals of Christian living; our faith in Jesus Christ must speak itself in action. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are by definition a people of faith in a selfless love that must pour itself out in service to all people that their lives may be truly blessed, that their lives may be enriched."

Vatican newspaper prints nothing on Starr report

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Internet and newspapers around the world have devoted huge amounts of space to Kenneth Starr's allegations against President Bill Clinton, the Vatican's newspaper has not published a word about the special investigator's report.

The newspaper has never published the words "Monica Lewinsky," let alone allegations about the president's relationship with the former White House intern.

"We haven't and we won't. L'Osservatore is a serious newspaper," said Franciscan Father Gino Concetti, a reporter and author of a column on moral issues.

"We are not trying to sell newspapers," he said Sept. 14, three days after the 445-page report was released and posted on the Internet.

"We give news which respects the dignity and rights of peoples and individuals and which promotes solidarity and civility," Father Concetti said.

Another staff member at L'Osservatore, who asked not to be identified, said that as of mid-September stories about the allegations and about the Starr report had amounted to "scandal-mongering," something the Vatican newspaper was not interested in promoting.

"When the discussion becomes more serious, then we'll write something," he said.

The newspaper's Sept. 12 edition, the first published after the Starr report was released, was eight pages long and included L'Osservatore's normal two pages of international news. The topics of international stories included: a speech given by the new Russian prime minister on solving the country's financial crisis; preparations for elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and rising interest rates in Brazil.

L'Osservatore does not release figures on its circulation; its readership is predominantly made up of members of the Italian clergy, Vatican officials and employees, and diplomats accredited to the Vatican. ▼

Mexican bishops criticize rescue of private banks

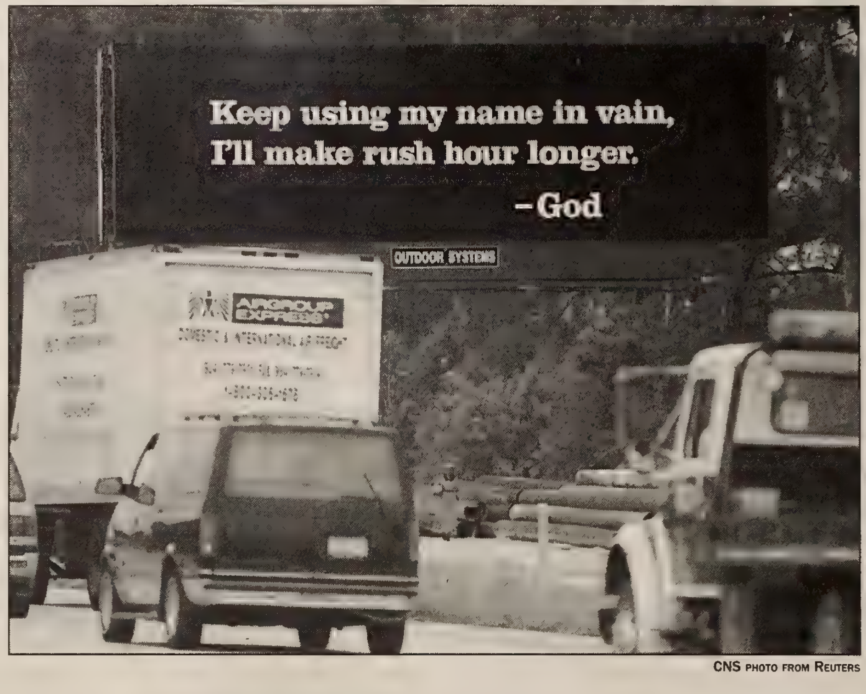
MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican bishops added their voices to a growing chorus of criticism of government efforts to use public funds to rescue privately owned banks. In a homily Sept. 5 in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bishop Onesimo Cepeda of Ecatepec called for punishment of those who have benefited illegally from a government fund to bail out banks. Bishop Cepeda is the spokesman for the Mexican bishops' conference. A week earlier, several bishops publicly supported a national referendum on the bank bailout fund. The opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution proposed the referendum.

Police investigating death of priest

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Police said Sept. 8 they were investigating whether Father Walter Benz, who recently confessed to embezzling, was murdered in his bed Sept. 4. Father Benz, 72, was a terminally ill priest in a coma. On July 30 he retired for health reasons, two days before church authorities informed the members of two Pittsburgh suburban parishes that he had apparently bilked them of an estimated $1.3 million over the past 25 years. At a news conference Sept. 8, Allegheny County Police Superintendent Thomas Sturgeon said police were doing a homicide investigation because an attendant responding to an alarm in the priest's room found him with his intravenous line and oxygen tube removed.

Nun urges her congregation to oppose death penalty

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — What began as one nun's interest in corresponding with inmates on death row has since turned into a ministry of educating others about the death penalty. A former educator and semi-retired member of the Adrian Dominican community, Sister Mary Russell is hoping to garner signatures to a petition opposing the death penalty from the more than 100 members of the Florida chapter of Adrian Dominican sisters at their annual conference in West Palm Beach Oct. 23-25. Though several religious communities around the country have taken the lead of the U.S. bishops and pronounced formal opposition to the death penalty, many congregations have been silent on the subject. Others have left it to their regional chapters to decide how to address what is largely a state-by-state issue. "I think we first need to educate people about the church teachings on the death penalty and why it is wrong," said Sister Russell, who lives in a retirement home in Riveria Beach.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Billboard Warning

Commuters in Pompano Beach, Fla., may have a valid reason for thinking gridlock has reached biblical proportions, if they believe a light-hearted billboard. Other area signs read "What part of 'Thou shalt not...' didn't you understand? — God" and "Think it's hot here? — God"

Religious leader calls U.S. anti-terrorism path dangerous

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — A national leader of Catholic men religious has warned President Clinton that his use of U.S. military strikes against terrorists abroad following the attacks on two U.S. embassies in Africa sets a dangerous path for the future.

In a letter to Clinton Sept. 8, Marist Brother John Klein, president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, said he was particularly concerned about the popularity of "cries for vengeance, retaliation," reflecting a U.S. mood of welcoming direct U.S. military actions against international terrorists in other countries even at the risk of death or injury to innocent civilians in those countries.

Zimbabwean bishops say WCC meeting is chance to promote unity

HARARE, Zimbabwe (CNS) — The World Council of Churches' eighth World Assembly, to be held in Harare in December, presents an opportunity to advance Christian unity, said Zimbabwe's Catholic bishops. "This year we are given a very special and rare opportunity to promote Christian unity, not just on a local, but on an international level," said an August pastoral letter from the bishops' conference, signed by the conference president, Bishop Alexio Muchabaiwa of Mutare. "Christian disunity is glaringly obvious in our country. Churches of different denominations, built alongside each other, demonstrate our loss of unity. Many Christians accept this situation as normal and take it for granted. But it is a scandal to the rest of the world," the bishops said.

Congress urged to regulate use of drugs in assisted suicides

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference has urged members of Congress to support a bill that would regulate the use of drugs in assisted suicides. In a letter sent Sept. 8 to each member of Congress, Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr said enactment of the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act — H.R. 4006 and S. 2151 — "is urgently needed if the federal government is not to be drawn into supporting the killing of vulnerable patients." Msgr. Schnurr said the legislation would "correct a June 5 ruling by Attorney General Janet Reno which effectively authorizes use of federally regulated drugs to assist patients' suicides in any circumstance allowed by state law."

Religious leaders say Clinton's breakfast remorse sincere

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two Catholic leaders at a White House breakfast for religious leaders said they were moved by President Clinton's expression of remorse for the scandal affecting his administration and that they believe the sorrow, contrition and desire for reconciliation he conveyed were sincere. "I have sinned," President Clinton acknowledged at the Sept. 11 breakfast and asked the forgiveness of his family, his staff, former intern Monica Lewinsky and the American people. Clinton asked the religious leaders for their help and prayers in moving the nation beyond the scandal that has taken over his life.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

September 18, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 3
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events.

September 19 — 10 a.m.
Knights of Malta Investiture
St. Matthew Cathedral
Washington, D.C.

September 24
Room at the Inn reception
Charlotte

September 26 — 2 p.m.
Profession of vows for Mercy Sister Lisa Atkins
Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse
Belmont

September 27
MACS Circle Celebration
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

September

20 CHARLOTTE — A parish mission focusing on God's quiet, intimate, healing and eucharistic presence is today through Sept. 23 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. Sessions begin at 7 p.m. each evening and include a prayer service, short presentation and time for socializing, discussion and refreshments. Father Frederick Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., facilitates.

21 CHARLOTTE — The first North Carolina ladies division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians meets today in the parish center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. New members are welcome, and must be practicing Catholics and Irish by birth, descent or adoption or the wife or mother of a Hibernian. To join and for more information, call Helen Gassen at (704) 542-9406.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women group at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., begins a 10-week course today from 7:30-9 p.m. on the Book of Psalms. Meetings are in Joseph's House on parish grounds, and are held each Monday.

23 WINSTON-SALEM — Week 2 of an 11-week series on apologetics — knowing and defending the faith — is today at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., from 7-8:30 p.m. in the activity center. An optional covered dish supper is at 6:15 p.m.; childcare is provided. Sessions are each Wednesday through Dec. 2 and are taught by Rev. Mr. Tom O'Connell, the parish's permanent deacon.

25 GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church is among 17 area congregations sponsoring a healing retreat at First Lutheran Church, 3600

“Sons and Daughters of Light”

Young adults integral part of today’s church

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

MARIETTA, Ga. — For 25-year-old Alicia Bondarella, spending a Saturday with other young adult Catholics from the Southeast seemed like a good way to jump-start her weekend.

“I’m here to get a sense of the other young adults in the church, people who are my age and share the same values and faith,” explained Bondarella, a 10th-grade religion teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School. “In this world, it can seem like you’re one against many.... I know that’s not necessarily true, but it seems that way at times.”

Bondarella was among a group from the Diocese of Charlotte who attended the Southeastern Young Adult Conference held Sept. 12 at Transfiguration Catholic Church in the Atlanta suburb of Marietta.

Sponsored by the Office of Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the conference’s theme was based on the National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Young Adults, “Sons and Daughters of Light.” A keynote address and a series of workshops focused on helping young adults connect and find their place in the Catholic Church. The approximately 200 people in attendance also included groups from the Dioceses of Raleigh, Savannah and Charleston.

Southeastern Young Adult Conference
Marietta, Ga.

Photos courtesy of Michael Alexander, The Georgia Bulletin

Keynote speaker Father John Cusick told the young adults in their 20s and 30s of their integral place in the Catholic Church.

“You are not the future of the church. You are the present church,” said the director of young adult ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago. “Don’t let anybody make you wait.”

Father Cusick was asked to begin a ministry program in Chicago in 1977, when young adults in their 20s and 30s were becoming the largest segment of the American population but the least active segment of the Catholic population.

“It is now 1998, and some things haven’t changed,” Father Cusick said, adding that young adults continue to be the largest but least active members of the Catholic population.

Although young adult Catholics display a spiritual hunger for the Gospel message, the reasons for their lack of church participation vary, the priest said. “The clear majority of people (in parishes) today *do not* fall into the categories of school-age families and senior citizens,” Father Cusick said, “but that is who parishes usually minister to.”

And many times when couples go to churches asking to get married, he added, the first questions they are asked are: “Are you registered? Do you go to church on Sunday? Do you contribute to the parish?”

“The first question should not be are you registered, but are you baptized?,” Father Cusick added.

The priest said young adult Catholics need to let the church know they have gifts to share. “Volunteer to speak the word of God from the sacred text; be a (Eucharistic) minister in your parish so you can give the body of Christ to those hungry for communion,” he said.

The conference opened with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Donoghue of Atlanta. In his homily, the archbishop said the Word of God tells us to spread the “light of the world” as disciples of Christ.

“The light comes to us from two sources: the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where we are fed on the body and blood of Christ; and the teachings of the church, where our minds are formed,” he said.

“(I pray) that we will all try to live in a deeper way, the sacramental life of the church,” the archbishop added.

For Kristen O’Brien, 27, a 6th grade teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte, the daylong gathering was a way to strengthen the bond between young adults and the church.

“There is a real need for young adult ministry because people in their 20s and 30s struggle with so many issues, whether they are single or newly married, and they need support,” she said. “We need to build community, and there is no better way to build community then through people who share the same faith.”

Colleen McDermott, director of young adult ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte, said the conference reiterated her belief that young adults are a blessing to the church. “We have a lot more (young-adult age) people who are gifted than we know about. We are just not asking them the right questions,” she said. “We should be saying, ‘What do you want (from the church)? What are your gifts? How can we serve you?” ▾

Pro-Life Corner

What was once seen as an act of desperation — the killing of one’s own child — is now fiercely defended as a good and promoted as right.

Light & Shadows, 1997

W. Friendly Ave., Sept. 25-26. Dr. S. Dianne Ricks, a counseling psychologist, is the featured guest. For more information, call Bob or Jackie Phillips at (336) 282-8185.

26 CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus Council 11102 sponsors a spaghetti dinner today after the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Drive. Cost is $5.50 per adult and $2.75 per child.

EDEN — St. Joseph of the Hills Church hosts its second annual captain’s choice golf tournament today at Lynrock Golf Club. Cost is $35 per player; there’s a $10 discount for club members. Tee times will be assigned. Prizes and hole sponsors are needed ($50 fee for sponsorship). Proceeds will improve handicapped parking at the church. Call Jack McCloskey, (336) 548-5138, to register.

27 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home-school support group, hosts a “moms’ evening” today at 7 p.m. For details, call Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pre-game food today prior to the Carolina Panthers football game. Sales begin at 10:30 a.m., and proceeds benefit local children’s charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the 103-year-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today and every fourth Thursday at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael’s Lane, by Father Peter E.Q. Pham, the parish’s parochial vicar. Call (704) 867-6212 for details.

28 CHARLOTTE — An Alzheimer’s disease support group meets today and each fourth Monday at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HIGH POINT — Dr. Loretta Silvia, professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, will discuss women’s health issues at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., today from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (336) 884-0244.

HOT SPRINGS — “God’s Spirit in Nature,” an outdoor spiritual retreat at the Jesuit House of Prayer, is today through Oct. 4. Included will be daily prayers and reflection that connect with a variety of recreational activities such as hiking and rafting. Cost is $650 per person ($750 if requiring transportation to the retreat house). To register or receive more information for this and other retreats, call (828) 622-7366.

30 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women’s annual fall luncheon is today at noon at the Greensboro Country Club, 410 Sunset Dr. The guest speaker is local news anchor Frank Fraboni. Cost is $15; send checks to Rosemary Marsicano, 1805 Biscayne Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410 by Sept. 24. Dues of $5 may be included at this time. For more information on the council or luncheon, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

October

9 CONCORD — A Mass for homeschoolers in the Concord area is at St. James Church, 251 Union St. N., today at 11 a.m. A potluck meal in the parish center follows. To R.S.V.P. and for directions and other information, call Geri Young at (704) 795-6077 or Bridget Young at (704) 788-9297.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says church acknowledges 'seeds of truth' in other religions

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church respects other religions for their "seeds of truth," even though they do not claim Jesus as humanity's savior, Pope John Paul II said.

At his Sept. 9 weekly general audience, the pope said "the world's great religious traditions" contain "seeds of truth" that "are a reflection of the unique Word of God."

Furthermore, he said, it is the Holy Spirit, working within every person who inspires prayer and the sincere "search for truth and goodness, and ultimately for God, even outside the visible confines of the Mystical Body."

"The church therefore has an attitude of sincere respect, profound sympathy and cordial collaboration toward other religions," Pope John Paul noted, adding that this collaboration takes place "when possible and opportune."

"At the same time," he said, "the church exists to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the unique Mediator and Savior of the human race. In obedience to his command, she must carry out her missionary task in every age and in every part of the world.

"The intimate adhesion to the truth, the generous gift of one's self to one's neighbor and the search for the Absolute dispose hearts in a mysterious way to welcoming the full revelation of God in Jesus Christ," the pope said.

"Let us ask of the Spirit the truth and love to guide us as we announce the Gospel to all the nations and to help us to make of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 the occasion of an intense interreligious dialogue, in peace and fraternity with the faithful of all the religions."

Pope John Paul also pointed to milestones in the Catholic Church's efforts toward interreligious understanding, starting with the declarations of the Second Vatican Council.

Pope encourages rediscovery of Holy Spirit as source of wisdom

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Modern people need prayer, not horoscopes, Pope John Paul II said. Speaking at a Sunday blessing Sept. 6 at the papal summer residence south of Rome, the pope encouraged Christians to rediscover the role of the Holy Spirit, which has been known through the centuries as a valid source of wisdom and advice. "Neither horoscopes nor magical predictions are useful to this end. What is useful is prayer, authentic prayer, which always accompanies a life attuned to divine law," he said.

Pope asks lay Catholics to work politically to protect life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged Catholic lay activists in Italy to work politically to protect human life from the continual threats of a "culture of death." The pope made the remarks Sept. 5 to some 20,000 members of Catholic Action who gathered in St. Peter's Square to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the organization's foundation. In attendance were leading Italian political authorities. The pope caused a brief political storm earlier in the year when he bluntly called for revision of Italy's abortion law.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Rediscovering a remarkable 17th-century nun

The legacy of a 17-century nun in Mexico named Sor (Sister) Juana de la Cruz is now being recognized, says Pamela Kirk, a theologian at St. John's University in New York.

A remarkable book by Sister de la Cruz reached my desk some 15 years ago titled "Woman of Genius: The Intellectual Autobiography of Sor Juana de la Cruz," translated by Margaret Sayers Peden.

This brilliant 17th-century nun in the Convent of St. Jerome in Mexico City was a scholar, researcher, writer of plays, religious treatises, poetry and prose. Her book was a response to a reprimand by a bishop who told her to engage in more "suitable pursuits than those of the mind."

What Sister de la Cruz said remains a monument to her learnedness and a classic defense of a woman's right to learn and speak out. She sweeps you into the very depths of her being so that you understand that for her learning was like air and food — essential to life.

Only now is she beginning to be recognized as a leading colonial literary figure of the Western Hemisphere. But thanks to a new book by Kirk, we now learn much more about this remarkable woman. Kirk's book, "Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz — Religion, Art and Feminism," portrays a witty and joyful intellectual whose works contributed to Latin American women's theology and spirituality.

When I saw that Kirk was to give a retreat in October on Sister de la Cruz at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Conn., I contacted the theologian.

She became interested in feminine theology while getting her doctorate in theology at the University of Munich, where her dissertation was on the revered Jesuit Father Karl Rahner. In Mexico City in 1989 she discovered Sister de la Cruz and began researching her story, becoming proficient in Spanish at the same time.

Kirk said she learned that this nun was "very much esteemed in her own period, well known and admired even by many in the church."

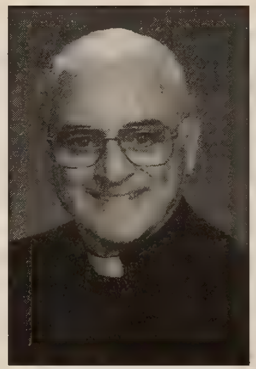
Yet, because the "institutional story" was fixated on men, Sister de la Cruz "became a footnote." Kirk, constantly "astounded" at what she keeps learning about the nun, especially her theological insights, believes "this woman deserves to be up there with Teresa of Avila."

Certainly her "intellectual autobiography" shows that she bucked the culture of the times, expressing anguish over the intellectual wasteland that was most young women's destiny. She had learned to read at age 3. Fortunately she had access to her grandfather's vast supply of books.

Once, she related, while studying Latin grammar, she punished herself, by cutting off her hair, for not learning fast or well. "There seemed to me no cause for a head to be adorned with hair and naked of learning," she wrote.

Kirk said: "To me she proves it's possible to be a faithful Catholic intellectual writer, to be joyous about it and at the same time, profound; to be critical of the institutional church, not blind to its flaws, but still remain a faithful, joyous believer. She also shows you can participate in the culture of the times and remain connected to a deep faith. Even today her religious writings can nourish faith."

As for her femininity, Kirk affirms, this nun "was able, with her very presence, to represent women's intellectual arena in the world of art and letters. She was quoted to say, 'Intellect knows no gender.'"



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

The exorcist

On June 15, 1998, an article appeared in the New York Times announcing that Father Claude Nicolas was appointed the official exorcist of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France. Father Claude, 64, was described as a quick-witted Friar Tuck type, a bit portly with a "merry laugh." This description does not conjure the image one might expect in an exorcist.

The article intrigued me because in the five years I served at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, I never heard of anyone being named official exorcist of the cathedral. There might have been one, but I doubt it.

The church believes in evil spirits, but many contemporary Christians do not. Considering the success of the TV show "Touched by an Angel," it is clear that millions of people believe in angels or wish they did, but rarely do they seem to believe in devils or any form of demonic presence.

The practice of exorcism is as old as Christianity itself. An exorcist is one empowered by the church to cast out evil spirits, a function reserved to specially delegated priests.

What are evil spirits?

Evil spirits are fallen angels. They are pure spirits bent on rebellion against God and his plan.

Jesus cast out devils and warned against them. St. Peter did the same. "Be on guard," he said, "for Satan prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." In fact, every pope since St. Peter has warned us about the evil designs of demonic spirits.

On a more contemporary note, psychiatrist Scott Peck, author of the best seller "The Road Less Traveled," wrote a less well-known book, "People of the Lie." It was the first time in my experience that a professional therapist acknowledged that there is a hidden world of demonic forces lurking behind dysfunctional human behavior.

He told of a case where a father gave his son a rifle for Christmas. Shockingly, it was the same kind that the boy's brother had used to kill himself.

When questioned about it, the father became highly defensive, presenting himself as a loving, caring parent. Beneath the surface however, in Peck's view, there was a colossal lie. Hatred was masquerading as love.

Father Nicolas, the exorcist at Notre Dame, also wrote a book which explores these hidden forces: "The Demon of Anguish." He rarely uses the term "demonic possession." Instead, he speaks of the confusion and suffering of people. The devil exists, he says, but not in the way people think.

"The evil spirit exists in people's hearts.... It destroys trust, causes despair, prevents people from loving and living a full life. It is not a matter of rolling on the ground and crying," writes Father Nicolas.

As one of 95 exorcists appointed by the hierarchy of the church of France, Father Nicolas has a job to perform that is real and much needed. Our world is raging with hatred, greed, violence and cruelty, whereas the fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, peace, generosity and joy.

Jesus said, "by their fruits you will know them." Beware!

Light One Candle

FATHER JOHN McSWEENEY
CNS COLUMNIST

If someone you love is on drugs

Cocaine. Through a series of coincidences, I learned more last month about the pervasive and seductive power of this addictive drug than I had in all my previous years. I had just finished interviewing actor Carroll O'Connor for the new television season of "Christopher Closeup." A segment of that show deals with his devastation after the death of his son through cocaine abuse.

Within a week, three of my friends from three areas of the country got in touch with me to ask for advice on how to deal with the discovery each had made: Each had a child or a friend who was either flirting with cocaine use or had become so chemically dependent that they had become thoroughly delusional. All of the users are in their 20s; one is a performer, another a military officer, and the last a hotel clerk.

O'Connor's words about his family's tragedy were still ringing in my years. "The truth about cocaine," he said, "is that only 12 percent of addicts have a chance of coming out of it. That is why there is no choice — it has to be stopped at the very beginning by parents and loved ones who are courageous enough to intervene. You have to get in between your kids and drugs. Spy on them, find out who they are hanging around with, let them know you are on to them when you discover anything even remotely suspicious."

Then from the deepest part of his being he groaned, "Every day I still have to cope with the guilt I feel that I didn't do something sooner — because it got to the point that there was nothing I could do."

I passed on his advice to my friends — intervene, do something now! Yes, they may turn on you, rail against your rules and your insistence on their being tested and treated. But take action!

What should you do if you are faced with the hard fact that someone you love is using drugs? Let me suggest three initial steps.

First, don't panic. Don't blame yourself. Guilt, shame and denial can paralyze you. More than ever, your child or friend needs to know you are going to stand by and love him or her, in spite of bad choices.

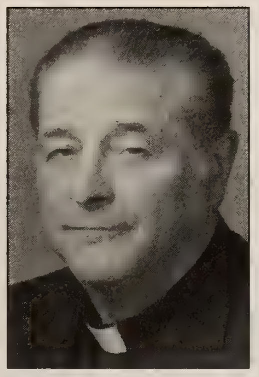
Second, confront the individual with the evidence. But wait until the "high" is over so that he or she will be able to hear and understand you.

Three, get professional help. This is vital. A qualified counselor or drug abuse treatment program can determine the extent of one's problem and help select the right treatment. Take action. Don't let excuses stop you. You, too, may need counseling to deal with your feelings and the effect on your family.

Yesterday I received a phone call from one of my friends who had contacted me earlier. She spoke through tears of joy and relief as she explained what her daughter had said to her one week after being more or less forced to enter a drug treatment facility. Her daughter disclosed that a friend of hers had just died from a drug overdose. "Mom, that could have been me. You saved me. And I know now how much you really love me."

Recent headlines offer the promise of new chemical treatments for the cocaine-addicted. But as good as that news is, there is still the need for each of us to be vigilant and ready to intervene long before addiction kicks in. To be courageous enough to say to the one we love, "I love you. I care about you. I don't want to see you destroy yourself."

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

A way to return to the Catholic faith

Q. Your column is usually very helpful, but I think you misled a young man recently in your answer about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and baptized Catholics. He had been baptized Catholic, but had no further upbringing in the faith, no Eucharist and no confirmation, and now wishes to come back to practicing the Catholic faith.

You said the RCIA is not for people already baptized Catholic, even though they often find it a wonderful way to come to a better awareness of their faith.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Part 2, Section 4, is offered by the church expressly for those who have been baptized Catholic but received no further instruction or exposure to living the Catholic faith.

From this it seems the church also desires the RCIA to help those who are baptized, but nonpracticing Catholics, become active members of the faith.

A. I am grateful to this parish RCIA director for writing. She is right.

The RCIA is designed not only for those not yet baptized, but also for those baptized as infants, either in the Catholic Church or in another Christian faith community, but who never received other sacraments. Most RCIA programs regularly include people baptized in other Christian denominations who now wish to become Catholic. My impression is, however, that relatively few baptized Catholics take this route of return.

As she indicates, that is unfortunate.

While the status of baptized persons differs from that of (unbaptized) catechumens, says the rite, "by baptism they have already become members of the church and children of God. Hence their conversion is based on the baptism they have already received, the effects of which they must develop" (RCIA No. 401).

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults recognizes that preparation for the sacraments of initiation should be just that, a rite, a ritual, not merely a set of instructions given by a priest or other minister. The process must involve establishing some sense of community with others on the same path and with the larger church community. It includes shared prayer and reflection on the Scriptures, and experiences of faith and sacrament at each step along the way.

In other words, the RCIA, as the church sees it, is an excellent way for people to become acquainted with the Catholic faith they have never really known. A section of the RCIA titled "Preparation of Uncatechized Adults for Confirmation and Eucharist" includes adaptations of the rite for such persons.

During the past several months, in response to this column, many dozens of baptized Catholics have written to me of their desire to return, or come for the first time, to active practice of their Catholic faith. I hope this reader's reminder will encourage people in this situation to inquire about the RCIA programs in their area.

It's a good time to do so. Most parishes begin RCIA sessions in early fall and conclude them during the next Easter season.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Pro wrestling: What's the appeal?

There are many mysteries on this planet, but one of the most profound and insoluble is this: Who in his or her right mind above the age of 10 could enjoy professional wrestling?

This might seem like an odd topic for a column in a Catholic newspaper, but as I see it, when we speak of life — even of the life of faith — we're talking about every minute of each day God has given us to live and how we use it.

Taking into account the incredible popularity of professional wrestling, particularly among teens and young adults, I think it's worth looking at.

Of course, pro wrestling has been around since television's advent. During the 1950s, wrestling was a mainstay of this new form of entertainment. But today wrestling has grown way beyond those early days both in technical sophistication and popularity. Wrestling shows regularly aired rule the ratings in cable and pay-per-view programming.

I'll admit that pro wrestling has been one of the major irritants of my life the past five years. My oldest got introduced to it by a friend when he was 11, and at the time I allowed a bit of it into the house because, I thought, "He'll outgrow it."

News flash: He hasn't, and neither have his friends, and neither have the older kids in his school. Last year, I was astonished when one of the wrestling organizations brought a show to town, to hear that a large group of seniors had attended. The next time we had an out-of-uniform day at school, sure enough, they all came sporting their Stone Cold Steve Austin T-shirts.

What is going on? It's not a sport. It's fake and choreographed. What's the appeal?

My son explained it to me: "It's like a movie that keeps going on and on. There's all these characters and these storylines and you just want to see what happens. Instead of going for the girl, like in a movie or a regular TV show, they're going for the belt."

OK. On that level I can accept it. It's sort of like a soap opera for adolescent males. And viewed on that level, as entertainment, it has its place, just like music, movies or anything else. The problem comes when it starts eating up too much time, emotional energy and brain space — when you start thinking that what you see up there on the screen is actually important.

Pro wrestling isn't the only culprit here. I've seen a lot of teens get way too caught up in soap operas, shows like 90210, or crazes like "Titanic." When that happens — when you're expending emotion on imaginary characters or distant, inaccessible figures, spending time watching mindless entertainment when you should be studying, spending money on junk that might better be directed toward saving for your future, then things are out of whack.

Entertainment has its function and place. But when we start thinking it's real life and worthy of the kind of attention we should be giving to real life concerns, we have a problem. After all, Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew: "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

What he means is that you show where your priorities are not by what you say, but by where you put your resources. Where's your treasure?

Bishop of Sosa's hometown diocese hails slugger's success

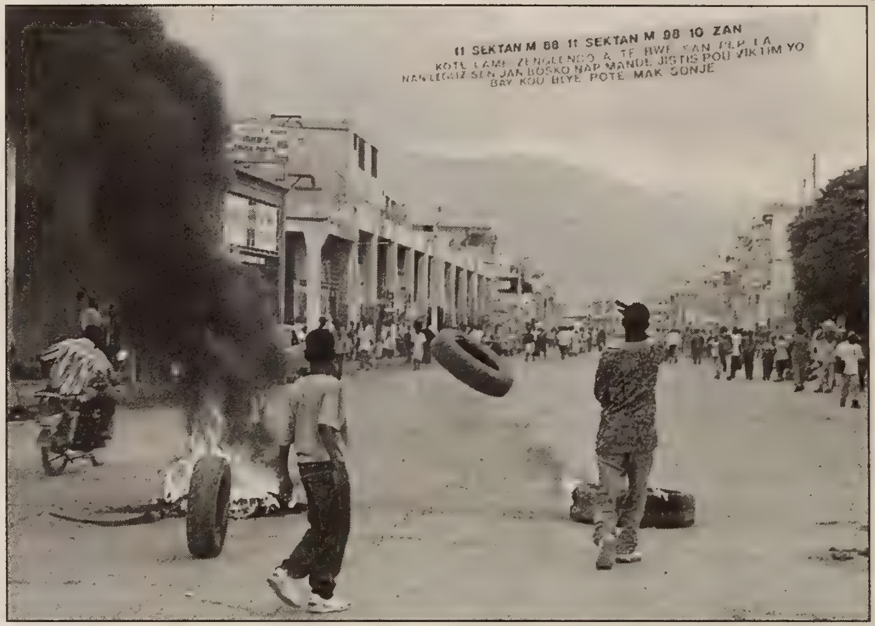
SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The success of Chicago Cubs' right fielder Sammy Sosa earned him the praise of his local bishop back home in the Dominican Republic. "This is excellent news. We are all delighted. This is great for all baseball lovers and for the church," said Bishop Francisco Ozoria Acosta of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, the hometown of Sosa. In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from his diocesan office Sept. 14, his voice revealing the pleasure felt by most Dominicans at developments on the playing field, Bishop Ozoria added: "We are all hoping that he keeps going." Sosa's two home runs against the Milwaukee Brewers Sept. 13 have given him 62 for the season and tying him with St. Louis Cardinals' first baseman Mark McGwire for the all-time single-season record.

Bishop Tod D. Brown installed in Orange Diocese

ORANGE, Calif. (CNS) — A festive atmosphere helped draw attention away from 100-degree-plus temperatures as more than 1,300 Orange Diocese Catholics welcomed their new bishop, Tod D. Brown, during installation ceremonies at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange Sept. 3. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles installed Bishop Brown as the third bishop of Orange in a two-hour ceremony attended by 38 bishops, including Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States.

Father Kammer among 50 most powerful people in nonprofits

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA, was included on a list of the 50 most powerful and influential people in the nonprofit world in the August 1998 issue of The Nonprofit Times. The New Jersey-based magazine described Father Kammer as "an attorney, author and activist" who has a "long history of work on behalf of low-income families and people in need."


11 SEKTAN M 88 11 SEKTAN M 98 10 ZAN
KOTE LAMI ZENGLENDO A TE BWE SAN PEP LA
NAN LEGLIZ SEN JAN BOSKO NAP MANDE JISTIS POU VIKTIM YO
BAY KOU BLYE POTE MAK SONJE

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Haiti Commemoration

Young people in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, set tires afire Sept. 11 in the street outside St. John Bosco Church. Ten years ago, the church was burned and 12 people killed in an attack aimed at breaking up plans for a democracy rally. At the time, its pastor was Salesian Father John-Bertrand Aristide, who went on to become Haiti's president and eventually left the priesthood. This year's protesters voiced anger at ongoing political problems.

Former CUA student makes homecoming as president

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Moving into a new residence and getting to know lots of names and faces often make the first few days of life on a college campus hectic ones. This fall was no exception for a new member of the Catholic University of America community — Vincentian Father David O'Connell, who began this semester as the school's 14th president in its 111-year history. Along with more than 600 incoming freshman, the 43-year-old priest and Catholic University alumnus is quickly becoming a familiar face around the campus. Not unlike a typical college student, he did something fun on the spur of the moment, too. He caught a movie at a nearby theater with a group of students.

Bishops back marriage amendment to Alaska constitution

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Alaska have urged their people to approve a state constitutional amendment declaring that a valid marriage "may exist only between one man and one woman." The amendment, on this November's ballot as Proposition 2, was prompted by an Alaskan judge's ruling last February that the state's law banning same-sex marriages violated fundamental human rights. In a joint pastoral letter mailed to every Catholic in the state, the bishops urged voters to turn out in force to reaffirm the traditional definition of marriage as the legally binding one in Alaska.

'Regular Joe' gives McGwire his historic home run ball

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — A "regular Joe" became an instant hero Sept. 8 when he handed what could have been a $1 million baseball back to the man who hit it — Mark McGwire. Tim Forneris, 22, of Collinsville is a St. Louis University graduate and part of the Cardinals' ground crew at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. For him, there was no question: "It's not mine to begin with," he said. "McGwire just lost it, and I brought it home. I'm just a regular Joe." Forneris, a 1994 graduate of Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, became instantly famous when he picked up McGwire's record-breaking 62nd home run baseball from behind the left-field fence.

Steve Hughes
HOUSE PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING
Houses • Driveways • Sidewalks • Window
Custom Painting Interior/Exterior
(704) 821-6542
References Provided • St. Gabriel Parishioner

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

Thomas Merton:
Remembrance and Retreat
7:30 pm Friday, Oct. 23 to
4 pm Sat., Oct. 24, 1998

Thomas Merton died thirty years ago and left a wide and deep spiritual legacy. This retreat looks at Merton's view of contemplation and leisure as ways to disclose our true identity.

Pre-register by October 9
Cost: $55 $30 commuters

Contemplative Prayer - A Gathering
9:30 am - 3:30 pm Sat., Oct. 31, 1998
Father David Valtierra, C.O.

All who are interested in contemplative prayer and the experience of Centering Prayer are invited to share prayer and silence, to identify groups already praying and working together and to share resources.

Pre-register by October 23
Cost: $30 (lunch included) $50 overnight

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.378%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958
We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

18 de septiembre de 1998

Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

1 de julio de 1998

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Me regocijo con ustedes por las muchas gracias que recibimos durante nuestra participación en la Asamblea Hispana que se celebró el 13 de junio en la Parroquia de la Sagrada Familia en Clemmons.

Fue una oportunidad de darle gracias a Dios por el progreso llevado a cabo y de pedirle que bendiga nuestro futuro crecimiento. Me siento muy honrado en darle mi apoyo a los compromisos que se hicieron durante esa asamblea.

La Diócesis de Charlotte está experimentando un crecimiento extraordinario. Vuestra presencia en la Diócesis ha enriquecido nuestra vida con vuestra fe. Los Estados Unidos es un mosaico compuesto de muchas naciones y culturas. Yo les pido de nuevo que continúen enseñándoles a vuestros hijos las bendiciones de su rica herencia. Yo pido especialmente por vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa en vuestras familias para que vuestros hijos e hijas sean futuros líderes en nuestra comunidad católica.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para expresar públicamente mi gratitud al Padre Finnerty y a mis hermanos sacerdotes y diáconos que se dan tan generosamente para servir vuestras necesidades y les ofrecen todo el apoyo posible. Yo les pido que con gusto reflexionen sobre los compromisos que se hicieron durante la asamblea y que les ofrezcan su mayor apoyo. Juntos, como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, somos el Cuerpo de Cristo. Que la Santísima Virgen interceda por nosotros ante su Divino Hijo para que nuestras vidas sean vivos testigos de nuestra fe en Jesucristo.

Fraternalmente en Cristo,

+ William G. Curlin

Muy Reverendo William G. Curlin
Obispo de Charlotte

FOTO COURTESÍA DE LA NOTÍCIA

Algunos de los grupos que participaron en la asamblea discuten los temas que se presentaron para su estudio.

En asamblea diocesana se anima a los hispanos a crecer en su fe

POR LUIS A. WOLF
EDITOR HISPANO

CLEMMONS – Lo mismo que otras culturas, los hispanos en Carolina del Norte están llamados a propagar el mensaje del Evangelio de Jesucristo en sus comunidades de fe.

"Debemos de tener la presencia de Jesús en nuestras vidas de manera que podamos compartirla con otros. Nuestras vidas deben de brillar con el amor de Cristo. Nos debemos de comprometer a vivir como hermanos y hermanas – viendo y sirviendo a Dios en los demás".

El Obispo William G. Curlin dirigió este mensaje a más de 250 personas que participaron en la Asamblea Hispana Diocesana que se llevó a cabo para revisar el Plan Pastoral Hispano de la Diócesis de Charlotte el 13 de junio en la iglesia de la Sagrada Familia, en Clemmons.. Veintiocho parroquias y misiones participaron en esta reunión.

El Plan Pastoral Hispano de la Diócesis fue el resultado de una serie de eventos que comenzaron con la publicación en 1983 de la Carta Pastoral de los Obispos Norteamericanos sobre el ministerio hispano —"The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment". Esta carta convocaba a un III Encuentro Nacional Hispano de Pastoral, el cual, después de un proceso de cuestionario, análisis y consulta a nivel local, diocesano y nacional, se llevó a cabo en Washignton, D.C., del 15 al 18 de agosto de 1985.

Con motivo de los resultados de este encuentro, el Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispana se aprobó y publicó en 1987 y de ahí surgió el Plan Pastoral Hispano de la Diócesis de Charlotte.

El Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., Director de la Pastoral Hispana de la Diócesis, Jesús Guadarrama, Director de la Pastoral Hispana del Vicariato de Greensboro y Enedino Aquino, miembro de la comunidad de San José, en Asheboro dirigieron y orientaron la asamblea. También participaron varios sacerdotes: el Padre Frank Cintula, párroco de las iglesias San Juan Bautista de La Salle en North Wilkesboro y San Esteban en Elkin; el Padre Tom Clements, párroco de la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón en Salisbury; el Padre Mark Lawlor, administrador de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Américas en Biscoe; el Padre Franciscano Joseph Madden, párroco de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia en Wiston-Salem; el Padre Fidel Melo, vicario parroquial de la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en Clemmons; el Padre José Waters, párroco de la Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad en Taylorsville y el Padre Ken Whittington, párroco de las Iglesias San Carlos Borromeo en Morganton y Nuestra Señora de los Angeles en Marion.

El Padre Finnerty dijo que la población hispana en Carolina del Norte cuenta con aproximadamente 300,000 personas. "Se espera que en 1999 la Diócesis de Charlotte tenga 100,000 nuevos hispanos inmigrantes", dijo él. La alta proporción de inmigración hace que Carolina del Norte tenga una de la más rápida y creciente población hispana en la nación.

Cuatro fueron los temas que se examinaron durante la asamblea: Pastoral de Conjunto (de fragmentación a coordinación), Evangelización (de un lugar a un hogar), Opción Misionera (de los asientos a los caminos) y Formación (de una buena intención a preparación) y de cada uno de estos temas se escogieron tres compromisos concretos. También hubo una revisión de la Declaración de Misión. Cada comunidad representada se comprometió a seguir la declaración de vivir como Cristo, promover su Reino de solidaridad para con los más necesitados y capacitarse para ser una comunidad misionera, evangelizadora y servidora.

El Obispo Curlin, en sus palabras iniciales, les dijo a los asistentes que no debían considerarse extranjeros porque la mayoría de los habitantes de este país son o descienden de extranjeros. También les pidió a los padres de familias que no dejaran de enseñarles español e inculcaran su cultura a sus hijos.

El obispo continuó diciendo que está tratando de traer sacerdotes de habla hispana a la diócesis. El añadió que es muy importante tener más seminaristas de habla hispana y pidió que se apoyara la vocación de los niños hispanos.

La asamblea concluyó con la Eucaristía, presidida por el Obispo Curlin y concelebrada por los padres Vicente Finnerty y Mark Lawlor, asistidos por Ricardo Sánchez, un seminarista de Costa Rica, recién ordenado diácono transitorio. ▼

Mensaje del Padre

REV. VINCENTE H. FINNERTY, C.M.

Queridos amigos y amigas en Cristo,

En este mes de septiembre, el día 27, celebramos una fiesta en la Iglesia que es muy querida por mí. Es la fiesta de San Vicente de Paul. Yo soy un padre vicentino porque pertenezco a la Congregación de la Misión fundada por San Vicente de Paul. Hoy quiero dirigir unas palabras sencillas a San Vicente.

Tú sabes, Vicente, que no me cuesta hablar contigo en cualquier momento. Pero tú comprendes, ¿no?; estos días son distintos, son especiales. En este mes de septiembre pienso más en ti; reflexiono y reviso mi vida, este mes tu fiesta hace nuestras conversaciones especiales. Yo se que tú lo ves también así.

Qué quieres decir hoy? ¡Ya me lo imaginaba!: la oración. Tus frases siguen siendo actuales: "Dadme un hombre de oración y será capaz de todo"; "Si se fracasa en la vida interior, se fracasa en todo". Fuiste hábil para resumir ideas importantes en frases tan breves. Lo malo es que yo, cuando las repito, lo hago más para presumir de fundador que como fruto de una experiencia personal.

A lo largo de mi vida en la Congregación de la Misión, siempre me han impresionado las personas que dicen: "Cuanto me toca sufrir en la comunidad cristiana". Al contrario, me gustaría que dijeran: "Cuanto me toca amar", aunque el amor presupone un esfuerzo doloroso de perdón y comprensión.

Los pobres están tan familiarizados con el dolor, que son maestros en el uso cristiano del mismo. Yo también he vivido un poco en este campo y he llegado a la conclusión de que no sólo debo cultivar y agradecer las cosas buenas que Dios me concede, sino también aceptar y valorar cualquier debilidad, limitación o dolor que el Señor, o los demás, pongan en mi vida.

Ya me están zumbando en los oídos algunas preguntas tuyas respecto a estos días de tu fiesta: ¿Mi conversión, ha sido significativa? ¿Qué actitudes he insistido en mejorar? ¿Lo han notado las personas con quienes convivo? Está difícil, Vicente. No sé que responder. Sabes que siempre tengo dudas para saber si hago las cosas que me van a mí o que le van a Dios, si sirvo como me gusta o como me necesitan, si mi actividad es fruto de una inclinación natural y de una preparación o de una toma de conciencia continua que Dios me envía.

Vicente, tú decías: "Haced las cosas de Dios y Dios hará las suyas". No me queda otra alternativa que intensificar mi oración para descubrir con seguridad cuáles son las cosas de Dios y así realizarlas.

Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, espero que San Vicente de Paul, patrón universal de la caridad, padre de los pobres, luz del clero sea siempre una inspiración para todo cristiano para que el Reino del Amor se haga realidad. ▼

Otro año más

POR LUIS A. WOLF
EDITOR HISPANO

Comienza un nuevo año para el "Comuniquémonos". Pasó el año, con sus altas y bajas, luchando para que esta publicación saliera mensualmente, con excepción de los meses de junio julio y agosto. Pasó el verano más caluroso que muchas personas recuerden, aunque yo creo que todos los veranos son calurosos. Pasaron las vacaciones y los colegios comenzaron de nuevo. Hubo sequías, fuegos, inundaciones y todo el mundo culpaba al *"Niño"*. Hubo cosas buenas y malas en todo el mundo. Hubo elecciones en varios países latinoamericanos. En enero el mundo puso sus ojos en Cuba con la Visita del Papa.

Han pasado muchas cosas que harían una lista interminable y algunas de las mismas ni vale la pena mencionarlas.

En nuestra diócesis también han pasado y siguen pasando cosas. La población hispana sigue aumentando a grandes pasos y el Padre Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M., Director de la Pastoral Hispana, trabaja incansablemente, con la ayuda de sacerdotes y laicos, para ofrecer la ayuda espiritual que este pueblo hispano necesita.

Los bautismos y matrimonios han aumentado grandemente. Se han realizado 10 retiros de evangelización para adultos, con una participación de unas 1,150 personas. Estos retiros, dados por equipos de laicos, están orientados a la conversión y al compromiso con la comunidad local. Se han realizado dos retiro de evangelización para jóvenes adultos con unos 180 participantes.

También se han llevado a cabo talleres de evangelización de dos días en 24 de las 33 comunidades parroquiales orientados a la visita de casas y formación de pequeñas comunidades y se han preparado cursos de formación laical. Se celebró en Clemmons la Asamblea Diocesana que se detalla en la primera página de este suplemento. El Padre Vicente trajo de México a la psicóloga Laila Mina, la cual dio varios talleres para matrimonios y otros sobre el liderazgo. Asimismo, el Padre tiene el programa de radio "Pueblo Hispano Despertad" los sábados a las 12:30 p.m. en los 1170 kHz de la banda AM y "Un Minuto de Dios" los sábados después de las noticias de las 3 de la tarde de "Radio Líder" en los 1130 kHz de la banda AM.

Estas son algunas de las cosas que se han llevado y se están llevando a cabo en la diócesis además de las misas dominicales y las celebraciones especiales de cada comunidad.

El Padre Vicente está preparando otras actividades para el futuro y necesita el apoyo y la colaboración de todos, con los talentos que a cada uno le ha otorgado el Espíritu Santo. Pidámosle a Dios Nuestro Señor para que él siga teniendo las fuerzas necesarias para continuar con el trabajo que está realizando y para que se consigan sacerdotes hispanos que puedan venir a esta Diócesis y lo ayuden en este ministerio.

También el "Comuniquémonos" les pide su colaboración con información de sus comunidades, con fotos, con escritos sobre temas que sean interesantes, con narraciones sobre sus Santos Patrones, etc. Recuerden que está publicación sale el segundo viernes de cada mes y las colaboraciones tienen que recibirse con 15 días de antelación. Esperamos su ayuda. ▼

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 6 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

Foto por Patrick Henry

El coro del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte fue uno de los grupos participantes en el concierto ecuménico.

Concierto ecuménico en Charlotte

Por ANGELES MURPHY

CHARLOTTE — El día 22 de agosto de 1998 se celebró en el Marshall Park, de la ciudad de Charlotte, el evento ecuménico "Uno en el Espíritu" (One in the Spirit) patrocinado por la Comisión de Evangelización Católica de Charlotte.

Fue realmente un esfuerzo ecuménico en el que se celebró nuestra unidad en Cristo y pudimos deleitarnos con música cristiana de diversos estilos. En este gran evento participaron bandas de música y coros de diferentes denominaciones. Entre los participantes podemos mencionar al coro del Centro Católico Hispano que verdaderamente hizo elogio de su gran repertorio y deleitó a chicos y grandes con sus canciones e instrumentos musicales. Asimismo participaron las Iglesias United Methodist Brass Band, Forrest Hills-A Few Young Fishermen, Calvary Praise Works Choir, St. Matthew-Alive In the Spirit Choir, Cornerstone Baptist Choir y Our Lady of Consolation Gospel Choir.

La apertura de dicho evento fue oficiada por nuestro ilustrísimo Señor Obispo William G. Curlin, el cual realizó un excelente trabajo al darnos su mensaje. El Sr. Obispo indicó que nosotros los católicos podemos ser diferentes en tradición, pero también todos los cristianos alabamos al mismo Dios. También indicó que eventos como éste nos permiten a todos expresar nuestro amor al prójimo y nuestro amor a Jesús. El Sr. Obispo igualmente ligó el tema de "One in the Spirit" entre el movimiento de las Iglesias hacia el Nuevo Milenio.

Fue una jornada completa. Dios nos premió con una tarde soleada y a la vez llena de brisas que nos refrescaban con la ayuda de la arboleda del Marshall Park. La música y las canciones alabando a nuestro Dios, nos daba un verdadero sentido del espíritu de hermandad que se dejaba sentir a nuestro alrededor y que todos podíamos compartir.

Adultos, niños y jóvenes disfrutaban sentados en sillas o en las mantas en el césped y fue un evento único al poder deleitarnos con tanta diversidad musical. No faltó la presencia de los payasos con sus vestiduras y sus caras pintadas que hicieron las delicias de los pequeños. Fue realmente fantástico reunir a tantas personas de edades tan diferentes.

Este ha sido un evento único por haber estado patrocinado por los católicos y haber sido posible reunir a tantas otras denominaciones, que al mismo tiempo pueden compartir algo que todos sentimos y tenemos en común: JESUS.

"Uno en el Espíritu" (One in the Spirit) ha sido un evento ecuménico en el que todos nos sentimos unidos en Dios y esperamos poder celebrarlo el próximo año. Muchas gracias a cada una de las personas que participó de una forma tan bondadosa en un evento dedicado a la alabanza de Dios. ▼

Con motivo de haberse celebrado el pasado 8 de septiembre la fiesta de la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, Patrona de Cuba, reproducimos el siguiente poema de la Dra. Luisa Muñoz del Valle (1906-1987).

Romance de la Virgen de la Caridad

Para escribir su leyenda,
que es alba primaveral,
busqué una tiza de luna
y ahora quiero llegar
a la pizarra del cielo
por mi escala de cristal.

Quiero escribirla muy alto:
Lección pura que leerán
cuantos levanten la frente
al gran pergamino astral.

Una leyenda de estrellas
solo se puede contar
con la garganta del viento
o el aroma de un rosal.

Voy en silencio a escribirla;
un ángel me la dirá,
desarrollando el ovillo
de seda de un madrigal.

Una mañana, dos indios
y un negrito iban por sal,
iban entre dos zafiros
puros: el cielo y el mar.

De pronto un fanal de espumas
lejano se volvió imán
para sus pupilas niñas;
venció la curiosidad
y remaron hacia el punto
que atraía su mirar.

¿Era una paloma en fuga...?
¿o alguna luz sideral
que buscó el campo del agua
para correr y jugar...?

¿Era una niña...? Remaron
a salvarla. Cerca ya:
¡Era una estrella...! ¡y venía
caminando sobre el mar!

¡Una estrella! Dios hacia
su regalo celestial.
Debieron verse tres almas
nevadas de claridad.

Hicieron cojín de lirios
las manos para acunar
su joya... y una sonrisa
tejió una estrofa de sal.

Subió la Estrella a la barca
y se quedó sobre el mar
un madero que decía
"Virgen de la Caridad".

La emoción lanzó una ola,
despuntó un canto lustral
y un bando de mariposas
pasó besando la mar.

Fueron remando a la playa...
El terciopelo del mar
como en aquella mañana
no ha vuelto a brillar jamás.

Y hoy, un laurel muy anciano
me contaba la verdad:
"La brisa rezó aquel día
y tuvo alas de azahar".

Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, Patrona de Cuba.

Foto por Luis Wolf

La Virgen Santísima y la Iglesia

La función maternal de María hacia los fieles no disminuye la mediación única de Cristo, sino que muestra su eficacia.

Cooperando con la obra del Salvador con la obediencia, la fe, la esperanza y la caridad, María fue para todos Madre en el orden de la gracia.

La función maternal de María después de su consentimiento en la Anunciación no tiene ya fin. Llevada al cielo, nos obtiene con su intercesión la gracia de la salud eterna, y por ello es honrada en la Iglesia con los títulos de Abogada, Auxiliadora, Socorro y Mediadora, sin quitar nada ni añadir nada a la mediación única del Redentor.

Virgen y Madre, María es figura de la Iglesia. Después de haber dado a luz a su Primogénito cooperó con la regeneración de los innumerables hermanos de Cristo, esto es, de los fieles.

También la Iglesia es Madre, porque engendra a nueva vida a los hijos concebidos por obra del Espíritu Santo y nacidos de Dios, y la Iglesia es virgen en la integridad y pureza de la fe de su Divino Esposo.

María refulge como ejemplo de virtud ante toda la comunidad de los elegidos y es modelo de aquel amor maternal del que deben estar animados todos aquellos que en la Iglesia cooperan a la regeneración de los hombres. ▼

Reimpreso de "Unidos en la Oración", con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Foto CNS por Michael Hoyt, Catholic Standard

Kellie Rilla (al frente) y Siobhan Patterson, retocan un mural de la Madre Teresa que ellos crearon en este verano en la Escuela Secundaria Elizabeth Seton, de Bladensburg, Maryland. El trabajo honra a la fundadora de las Misioneras de la Caridad, que murió el 5 de septiembre del año pasado.

Estudiantes honran memoria de Madre Teresa con mural en escuela

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Un año después de su muerte, la monja de 87 años de edad que se proyectó hacia los millares de abandonados por la sociedad y que inspiró a millares de mujeres jóvenes a seguir sus pasos, ha inspirado también a algunos artistas jóvenes de la zona de Washington.

Los alumnos de la Escuela Secundaria Elizabeth Seton, de Bladensburg, Maryland, han inmortalizado a la finada Madre Teresa de Calcuta de un modo muy personal.

Kellie Rilla, graduada de dicha escuela en 1998, y Siobhan Patterson, que es ahora alumno de último año en la misma, regresaron a su escuela en agosto para pintar un mural que representa a la ganadora del Premio Nobel de la Paz de 1979.

Jennifer Martin y Nia Washington-Plaskett, que son también estudiantes de la misma escuela, ayudaron en el trabajo artístico, que aparece en una pared del salón donde los alumnos del penúltimo curso se reúnen para las clases de religión.

"La Madre Teresa fue una persona muy especial para mí. Ella no tenía miedo de mostrar amor hacia las personas pasadas por alto. Ella me recordaba a mi abuela, que fue la persona más humilde que yo haya conocido y muy amorosa", dijo Rilla.

Las jóvenes, que llegaron a ser buenas amigas en las clases de arte, recibieron una petición de la maestra de religión, Therese Bermpohl, para que redactaran una lista de personas inspiradoras a quienes ellas les gustaría pintar.

Ellas decidieron por la Madre Teresa y el Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., quien aparece también en la obra de arte, con más de 10 pies de altura. Un Sagrado Corazón rodeado de espinas con manos que se alzan hacia el mismo, aparece al centro del mural.

Patterson dijo que ella se sintió inspirada para pintar a la Madre Teresa por el ejemplo de desprendimiento de la monja para con el mundo. "Ella tenía una disposición tal para dar de sí misma y para ayudar a otros", dijo ella. ▼

Festival Latinoamericano

CHARLOTTE – El domingo 11 de octubre se celebrará el 8vo Festival Latinoamericano en los terrenos del Museo de Arte Mint (Mint Museum of Art), que se encuentra situado en el 2730 de Randolph Road en Charlotte.

Como todos los años habrá música, bailes, artesanías, comidas típicas, actividades para los niños y muchas cosas más.

El festival está organizado por la Coalición Latinoamericana, la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y el Museo Mint y es patrocinado por **NationsBank, BellSouth,** el peródico **La Noticia** y otras entidades.

El festival se llevará a cabo de las 12 del mediodía hasta las 7 de la noche. La entrada cuesta $3.00 y es gratis para los niños menores de 12 años. El estacionamiento es gratis. ▼

Millares reciben transmisiones de radio del vaticano por internet

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — En sus primeros días de funcionamiento, millares de personas pusieron a prueba un nuevo servicio de la Internet con transmisiones de radio del Vaticano en vivo y acceso limitado a los archivos del transmisor.

El servicio, que se ofrece a través del lugar del Vaticano en la Red, ha estado disponible desde el 15 de agosto, cuando el Vaticano empezó también a suministrar secciones de cintas de video en vivo y de los archivos, por medio de la Internet.

La Radio del Vaticano anunció el 28 de agosto que el servicio de audio había sido objeto de accesos 14,000 veces desde 78 países distintos desde que entró en servicio. Sus programas de noticias en italiano, inglés y francés produjeron el mayor interés. Los programas para la Europa Central y Oriental, el Oriente Medio, las Américas y Asia recibieron también numerosas conexiones.

El lugar del Vaticano en la Red incluye una relación completa de informes por radio e imágenes de video disponibles a través de un archivo electrónico. Una guía para el programa muestra cuándo las apariciones públicas del Papa durante las semanas venideras estarán disponibles a través del servicio.

Para recibir las señales de audio y video, los usuarios deben insertar primero en sus computadoras los programas auxiliares «RealAudio» y «RealVideo», que están disponibles en un lugar de la Red accesible a través del lugar del Vaticano.

El Vaticano se propone igualmente hacer que estén disponibles sonido y fotografías de la visitas del Papa al extranjero y las ceremonias solemnes en la Basílica de San Pedro.

La señal de acceso al lugar del Vaticano en la Red es: www.vatican.va ▼

MIMOSA
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
THE
GROUP

Foto por Luis Wolf

La Feria Latinoamericana de Compradores de Casa

CHARLOTTE – El pasado sábado 29 de agosto se celebró en el atrio del First Union Bank la Feria Latinoamericana de Compradores de Casa la cual fue muy exitosa. Los asistentes pudieron obtener información para comprar casa propia así como entrevistarse con oficiales de crédito de los diferentes bancos y compañías de préstamo y con agentes de bienes raíces. La feria fue organizada por el Banco Centura, First Union, La Coalición Latinoamericana, el periódico La Noticia, Fannie Mae Foundation, Self Help y UJAMMA, Inc., y varias docenas de voluntarios cooperaron en la misma.

A mission for the poor

Singer-evangelist says God's gifts bring peace

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Eight years after releasing his first music album to benefit the needy, Al Barbarino says the plight of the poor still fuels his ministry.

His efforts are for both the materially and the spiritually destitute. "What I try to make people aware of is the fact that each one of us has problems and pains," Barbarino said Sept. 14. "But we all too often fail to recall the amount of blessings and gifts that we have."

Barbarino, a husband, father, grandfather and semi-retired school counselor from Lynbrook, N.Y., has echoed a message of God's grace in singing and speaking engagements since 1991.

He has recorded five albums of spiritual and inspirational songs, and offers all proceeds to entities that help the poor, both where he ministers and back home in New York.

The singer-evangelist figures he's visited nearly 200 parishes in the U.S., Canada and abroad to sing and talk to audiences about faith. "The message," he said, "is two-fold: to remind people that God is with us every minute of the day, and to help people realize the peace of Christ."

Barbarino's visit to Charlotte and Lexington, S.C., will continue through Sept. 20. Scheduled stops include two parishes, an assisted living community home, and a drug and alcohol abuse mission.

He believes the parish family — like that of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, where he sang and spoke at weekend Masses and gave a concert Sept. 12-14 — is a catalyst for celebrating faith and community. "To meet people who ... bring God to one another I think is phenomenal," he said. "There's an excitement. That's what the church has to be."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Al Barbarino is accompanied in song by Joe Ciancia, standing, and Mary Baker at The Little Flower Assisted Living Community in Charlotte. The singer-evangelist visited the facility as part of a week-long trip to the Carolinas.

Doing something more

Barbarino has pursued a love for singing since childhood, when he sang in his parish choir in Brooklyn. He was always an active Catholic, but until the mid-'80s, he said, "my involvement in the church really was superficial."

That changed after a 1985 trip to Medjugorje in present-day Bosnia-Herzegovina, a pilgrimage site of reported Marian apparitions.

"When I was there, I knew something was ticking," he said. "I knew that when I came back, I had to do something more with my life. What that something was, I didn't know."

Several years later, he knew. He met the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a community operating the Padre Pio Shelter for the homeless in the Bronx. "They really are living the Word," he said of the community founded by Father Benedict Groeschel. Barbarino became an associate of the community's lay apostolate.

He had been entertaining the idea of recording an album for some time. Through his encounters with the Franciscans, he saw the opportunity to do something more — with his life and his music.

After deciding to give proceeds from sales to the poor and receiving financial help from a prayer group member at his parish, Barbarino released his first album in early 1991. With his family's support and encouragement, he began singing and speaking about his ministry during liturgies, and evangelizing through song and speech at parish and other events. Word of his ministry spread, record sales increased, more albums were recorded. "Everything has just been flowing as a result," he said.

Alleviating poverty

Barbarino continues to support the Padre Pio Shelter, and he also donates proceeds to Croatian Relief Services, a New Jersey-based agency aiding victims of the war in Bosnia. He gives a percentage to host parishes as well, who use the funds to benefit the poor locally.

His is a ministry that reaches out to those hungry for food and peace. But Barbarino said he senses a spiritual hunger in many of the people he meets, too.

Everyday blessings like the ability to walk, to talk, to go to church are often taken for granted, he said. People need a "reminder of knowing that God is truly present" in their lives, he said, adding that for Catholics, God's greatest gifts are the Eucharist and the Mass.

"We really need each other today for support," he said. Alleviating material and spiritual poverty is a goal people can achieve, but "we need to know where to find it. ... It's within our community of God-loving people. We need to be a part of that. We need to help ignite that spark."

Community is all-inclusive, Barbarino explained. "Jesus said, 'Two of the greatest commandments are to love God and to love one another.' Sometimes, when you do for others, in that very process you have to do for others you don't know," he said. ▼

For more information on Al Barbarino's recordings and ministry, call him at (516) 599-3415 or write to him at P.O. Box 532, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563-0532.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Book Review

"My Children Listen"

By Catherine Helene Toye, M.D. Caritas Communications (New York, 1998). 360 pp., $24.00.

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Catherine Helen Toye was working as a doctor when the first of two life-changing events took place. First, she began to suffer from Meniere's disease, a debilitating illness that often left her bedridden. This disease ultimately ended Toye's medical practice.

At age 38 she had to radically change her life, which she described as "successful and fulfilling." Now, as a single parent she had to cope with a life of dizziness, nausea, pain and fatigue.

Her second, life-changing event came when she was flat on her back in her bedroom. She writes in her book, "My Children Listen," that "I heard a voice but I did not just hear it. I saw and felt the words spoken. ... Immediately, in a familiar, entirely commonplace manner, and without fear, I recognized the Presence speaking to me as God."

She writes that she approached her grandmother immediately after her mystical experience and told her, "The God you've been praying to all these years is really there."

Toye says in her book it would be nice if she could write that along with her wonderful experience of God came a physical cure. However, that was not the case.

Her book, which chronicles her experiences from December 1990 to December 1997, is filled with setbacks, suffering and medical difficulties for Toye.

In one poignant story, she writes that a group of women began to avoid her and not let her children play with their children. She later found out that these women thought that she had a drinking or drug problem and not an inner-ear disorder because of her dizziness and frequent illnesses.

Toye's story is beautiful but it is painful. She also is the first to admit that there will be doubters to her journal of God speaking to her. She writes: "I do not have a theological background. Until the day I had a spiritual experience myself, I did not believe in their existence. There had been no room in my analytical, scientific, medical thinking for such an occurrence. ... To those who are skeptical of what I relate, I can only say I understand."

Toye frequently writes that she did not want to make her mystical experiences public. However she adds that she had been instructed by God to share her experiences.

She makes a great effort to simply include her "locutions." She notes that locutions are communications heard "not within my ears but within my heart. I have experienced these in two ways. The first is through individual words. The second is through the instantaneous comprehension of thoughts or insights without intervening words."

The typeface in her book varies according to what she has heard. Her careful distinctions are to be appreciated, but a reader can find the changing typeface distracting.

She also is a bit cryptic when she writes about her encounter with evil. It is understandable that she would not want to name a person or persons. However, she gives no indication of what kind of experience it was, so the reader is left wondering.

In general, though, the book is extremely powerful and shows the face of a wonderfully compassionate and understanding God.

Even if one does not believe in Toye's mystical experiences one will be inspired by this book. For those who do believe it will be a comfort. ▾

Weber is the author of "Weaving a Family" and a reporter for The Catholic Observer newspaper in Springfield, Mass.

Word to Life

September 20. Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113:1-2, 4-8
2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
3) Luke 16:1-13

BY DAN LUBY

For a while, walking two different career paths was fun. Both the academic world of university teaching and the diocesan ministry of religious education offered the chance to serve; both held opportunities for growth; both tapped talents I enjoyed using.

Soon, though, I found myself growing frantic, trying to nurture both careers. An important diocesan meeting would conflict with a major campus event. Much desired invitations — to membership on a faculty committee and an important diocesan task force — canceled each other out. Time spent on ministry in one arena came to feel stolen from ministry in the other.

Over time, the excitement of having a foot in two worlds turned into a feeling of panic, the place never right, the time always wrong.

Finally the day I dreaded came. The opportunity to work on a far-reaching diocesan project arose simultaneously with an offer to teach overseas. There could be no more switching priorities, no more trade-offs. I could work in both worlds, but one would have to become primary. I had to choose.

It was painful to give up the illusion that I could keep the inevitable conflicts at bay, keep all the balls in the air at once. But it was an illusion.

So too is the belief that discipleship with Jesus can be a part-time job; that we can juggle the vision held up in his Gospel with the vision of a consumer culture. Disciples can live in a world infected with consumerism — there's really no other option — but a choice has to be made. One set of values, one call, one overarching goal, one commitment, has to take precedence over the other.

Jesus' words are no less true today than they were when he first uttered them: "No servant can serve two masters." ▾

> **"You cannot give yourself to God and money."
> — Luke 16:13b**

Questions:

What's one way in which you struggle with the pull to "serve two masters"? What helps you to choose the vision of the Gospel over the vision of consumer culture?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 20 — Sept. 26, 1998

Sunday, Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday,** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Tuesday,** Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday,** Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday,** Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday,** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday,** Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8, Luke 9:43-45

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

To All Churches:

Good day to you from MUSIC & ELECTRONICS, INC. here in Mooresville. We are really excited about our TOTAL SYSTEM SURVEY SERVICE that we are now offering area churches. There is no charge for this in-depth analysis of your instruments, sound system, chimes and other needs...and there is no obligation.

Having had over 30 years experience serving the musical needs of the church community, we know this service will benefit every church. Simply call our toll-free number below.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis, President

Music & Electronics, Inc.
1-800-331-0768

Share your day and lunch with friends
Surrounded by God's beauty at the
Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.
Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
Directed by Fr. Anthony Marcaccio
Closing Mass with Fr. Mo West
Wednesday, October 14, 10:30-3:30
(Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m.)

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $10 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name __________ Phone __________
Address __________
City __________ Parish __________
$10 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: October 5
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

New at the box office

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Knock Off" (TriStar)

In this high tech, low concept action thriller, a crook-turned-businessman (Jean-Claude Van Damme) battles renegade American and Russian agents using Hong Kong as their base for terrorizing the world with miniature superbombs. Directed by Tsui Hark, the result is a shoddy piece of merchandise which doesn't bother trying to make any sense of its contrived plot, stock characters and cliched situations, all of which serve only to set up the mindless violence of unimaginative and tiresomely predictable action scenes. Excessive and occasionally graphic violence, some sexual innuendo, foul language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

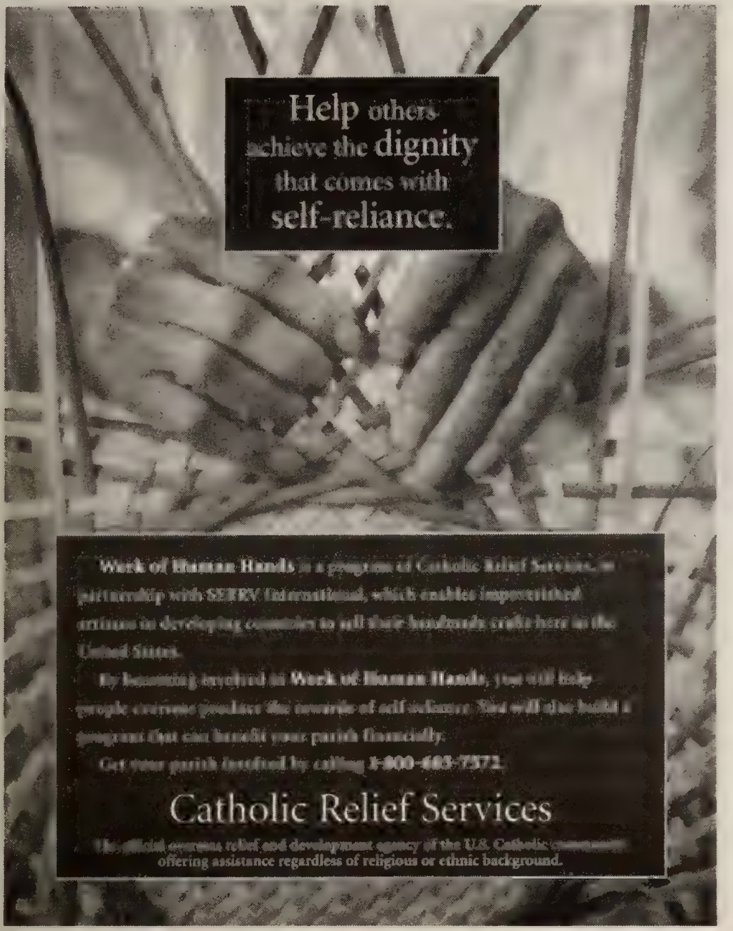
"Rounders" (Miramax)

Flawed drama in which a card shark becomes a law student (Matt Damon), then is lured back into illegal gambling when the life of his ex-con pal (Edward Norton) is threatened by huge poker debts. Despite Damon's taut performance, director John Dahl deals a losing hand with an unconvincing narrative drawn out to a weak conclusion. Fleeting violence, some sexual references, brief nudity and drug abuse, much rough language and recurring profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

1-800 MOVIE REVIEW LINE 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Simon Birch" (Hollywood)

Old-fashioned tale of friendship between two 12-year-old boys in 1964 Smalltown U.S.A., one (Joseph Mazzello) seeking the identity of his father while the other (Ian Michael Smith), afflicted with dwarfism, is convinced God has put him on earth to do something heroic. Suggested by John Irving's 1989 novel, "A Prayer for Owen Meany," writer-director Mark Steven Johnson's well-meaning attempt to explore faith through the eyes of a doomed child has tender moments but its uplifting message is delivered with a heavy hand. A scene of extreme menace to children, sexual references, a few rude expressions and minimal profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.


Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Catholic Relief Services

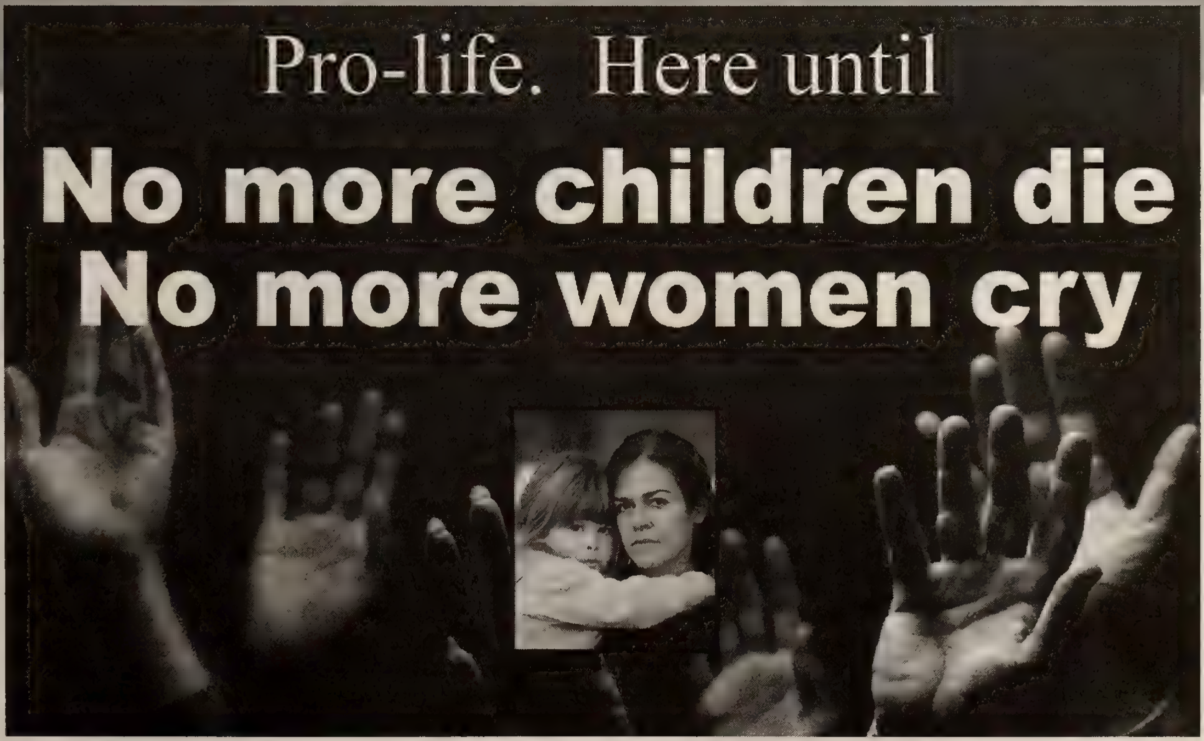
offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

The St. Matthew's Respect Life Committee and the Diocesan Respect Life Office are on...

A CRUSADE to save the lives of INNOCENT CHILDREN.



We are placing pro-life messages on area billboards to increase the awareness that abortion **TRULY DESTROYS** a precious human life. Join us and send your tax-deductible donation to:
Diocesan Respect Life Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

"Truly You Have Formed My Inmost Being; You Knit Me In My Mother's Womb."
Psalm 139:13

National recognition goes to Charlotte Catholic student

NEW YORK — Charlotte Catholic High School senior Brian Zapata has been recognized as a scholar finalist in the National Hispanic Recognition Program. The College Board program recognizes exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors, and identifies academically well-prepared Hispanic high school seniors for post-secondary institutions. Zapata is among 3,000 students recognized as program finalists. The finalists' names will be listed on a roster and released to colleges and universities to encourage them to seek these students as potential candidates for admission.

Founded in 1900, the College Board is a nonprofit membership of schools, colleges and other educational organizations working together to assist students in the transition from high school to college. It is based in New York City.

Former Cherokee Franciscan among jubiliarians

TIFFIN, Ohio — Sister Roberta McKinnon, a Tiffin Franciscan who until recently served in Cherokee, N.C., at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, is among five sisters who celebrate 60th jubilees in religious life this year. A Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated last month in the community's convent chapel in Tiffin, Ohio.

Sister Roberta is the daughter of the late Ira and Anna Marie Derr McKinnon of Carey, Ohio. She attended the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., DePaul University Music School in Chicago, and Notre Dame University.

Her ministry has included teaching in Ohio and North Carolina, extension music teaching from Ohio and Michigan, pastoral ministry in Ohio and North Carolina, diocesan music consultation in Toledo, Ohio, and pastoral and outreach ministry in North Carolina.

All of her North Carolina work has been done in the Cherokee area. Sister Roberta and Tiffin Franciscan Sister Virginia Gase, who also served in Cherokee, returned Sept. 1 to the motherhouse after many years of service in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Dedication of the Rosary Walk

Father Gordon Pillon gathers young volunteers to lead the life size rosary during the dedication of the Rosary Walk at St. Joseph Church in Newton. The initial idea came from an article in "Catholic Digest" about Marian gardens. Several parishioners started with a fountain surrounded by Marian plants and flowers. They eventually inserted cement circles to form an outside rosary. In the center of the rosary walk is an old bomb shelter which now serves as a reminder of the power of prayer.

The other jubiliarians are Sisters Maryann Orians, Florian Young, Adela Diller and Maurice Kleman.

Sisters elected to new administration

PHILADELPHIA — Three Sisters of the Most Blessed Trinity who served in the Diocese of Charlotte were installed Aug. 15 in Philadelphia during a ceremony for the order's new major superior and council.

Sister Barbara DeMoranville was elected general custodian earlier this summer. Sisters Mary Elizabeth Butler and Miriam Elizabeth Fiduccia were among those elected to the general council. Sister Mary Elizabeth was named assistant general custodian, and Sister Miriam was elected general councilor.

Other general councilors elected are Sisters Joaquina Carrión, Marion Dillon, Mary Shaun Dunphy and Nancy Walsh.

The three served in the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services. They will serve in their new offices until 2003.

Belmont Abbey College to memorialize students

BELMONT -- In response to alumni and friends, Belmont Abbey College will establish a fund to memorialize Derek Marston and Tommi Byrd, alumni who were murdered Aug. 2 in the North Carolina mountains.

"Many people have already sent donations designating a memorial for Derek and Tommi," said Dr. Robert Preston, president of the college. "We are honored that so many people want to remember them, and we are exploring the best way to memorialize these fine young people."

The fund will be used either to establish a scholarship in their names or to build a memorial garden area near the William Gaston Science Building on campus.

Marston, a 1995 graduate, was a business administration major. Byrd, who graduated in 1996, earned her degree in chemistry.

Persons interested in contributing may send checks to Development Office, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N.C. 28012. Make checks payable to Belmont Abbey College, and designate the students' memorial fund.

Catholic nurses attend conference, install leader

WASHINGTON — Catholic nurses gathered recently at the Catholic University of America for the annual national conference of the National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA, and to witness the installation of Marlene Rasmussen as president of the organization. Rasmussen is a registered nurse who was named Nurse of the Year by the New England Catholic Nurse Councils in 1997.

The NACN is a national nonprofit organization for employed, student and retired Catholic nurses, as well as associated health care professionals. Its members promote education in Catholic nursing ethics, spiritual growth and support for Catholic student nurses.

The NACN is a voting member of CICIAMS, an international Catholic nurses organization.

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Basilica parishioner to work as missionary in Honduras

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — While other members of the Christendom College Class of 1998 are headed off to income-producing jobs this fall, Jennifer Gordon has chosen a different route: an unpaid, volunteer position as a missionary in Central America.

Gordon, 22, and her family are raising the more than $5,000 she will need for her 15 month-commitment at Finca del Nino — Farm of the Child — about 4 1/2 miles from Trujillo, on Honduras' northeast coast.

"I've been interested in doing missionary work for years," Gordon explained.

"I've always wanted to experience different cultures," she added. "I realize how easy my life has been. We have a really nice house and food on the table....I want to give some of that back."

Gordon's response echoes a statement in Farm of the Child's brochure: "Volunteers at Farm of the Child come together in community because they feel called to live together, pray together, share in each other's lives and work together in response to the needs of the poor, most especially the children of Honduras."

The Basilica of St. Lawrence parishioner, who is the daughter of John and Helen Gordon, graduated cum laude from Christendom, a Catholic college in Front Royal, Va., in May with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. Her brother John, 24, also graduated from the school; sister Jessica, 19, is a junior at Christendom and is interested in doing missionary work as well.

PHOTO BY JOANITA NELLENBACH

Jennifer Gordon

While a student at Asheville High School, Jennifer tutored third graders in reading and math and served as a camp counselor.

Her college years in Virginia strengthened her faith; the time there also reinforced Gordon's desire to help the less fortunate. "Christendom revolves around teaching you that God has a plan for you," she said.

While at school, Jennifer learned about the Farm of the Child program through the college's guidance office. About 40 children live at the farm, eight per house, with Honduran couples serving as houseparents. In addition to academics, children can take vocational training in sewing, carpentry, farming and bread-making.

Jennifer will be one of nine volunteers at the Honduran farm. She will work in one or more of several positions: teacher, social worker, administrator, or children's activities director.

"I made an initial commitment for 15 months but may stay 2 1/2 years," Gordon said.

The farm day begins at 6 a.m. as volunteers pray the "Liturgy of the Hours" together in the farm's chapel. Once a week they have a Communion service in place of the regular morning prayer. Everyone attends Sunday Mass at the cathedral in Trujillo.

Volunteers also have a weekly community night with dinner, personal sharing and a spiritual reflection hour.

Jennifer will receive room and board for her work, but no salary. Friends at her Asheville parish have donated money to assist her.

"People I don't even know have supported me (and what I'm doing)," she said.

All money raised by volunteers is deposited in an U.S. account. From that, volunteers must provide their airfare, the cost of language classes if they don't speak Spanish, health insurance and vacations. They are also given a monthly $30 stipend.

"I've been so impressed with the organization and the spirituality," said Helen Gordon, Jennifer's mother.

Mrs. Gordon added she is not worried about her daughter's time in Honduras.

"I'd be more fearful if the children did not do what they were meant to do," she said.

Jennifer said her parents have been the greatest influence in her life.

"We've been taught that faith is the center of your life, doing God's will and doing it with joy," she said. I've always seen my parents work hard and sacrifice for us, and that's the best example." ▼

Eucharistic adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information, call the parish office at (704) 252-6042.

BREVARD — Eucharistic adoration is hosted at Sacred Heart Church, 4 Fortune Cove, every Tuesday from 7-11 a.m. First Friday adoration is from 9:30-11 a.m. Call Bill Knowlton at (704) 696-1715, or Dick Smith at (704) 884-7823 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Pat Gundaker, (704) 366-9687, or Bernice Hansen, (704) 846-2958, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (828) 464-9207 for more information.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., hosts eucharistic adoration each Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon. Call (704) 633-0591 for more information.

If your parish hosts eucharistic adoration, please send information to Jimmy Rostar, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morgantown/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Organist/Pianist: St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard. Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com
RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)
Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound
Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities
Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Bilingual (Vietnamese-English) Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating refugee services; transporting clients. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English; also prefer Rhade and/or Koho. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Donation Coordinator Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include scheduling donations, agency vehicle and inventory maintenance. Some heavy lifting required. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license, good driving record and ability to drive standard 5-speed vehicle required. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Part-time Nanny: Three days a week. Must have own transportation. Call (704) 814-0377.

Part-time Accounting Assistant: Catholic high school seeks person with accounting background who works well with others to work part-time in the Business Office. Responsibilities include processing tuition receivables and vendor payables. Provides assistance to the Business Manager in reconciling and managing monthly accounts. Good organizational and analytical skills required. M-F, 8am-12pm. Send letter of application and resume by 9/25/98 to: BMHS Employee Search, 1730 Link Rd., W-S, 27103. EOE

Mortgage Loan Officers: 1st Choice Mortgage Corporation. Experienced loan originators - openings in Conover, Mooresville, Salisbury, Shelby, Charlotte. Fax resume to Gerald or Sandy at (704) 543-9809.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude for favors granted. — D.A.

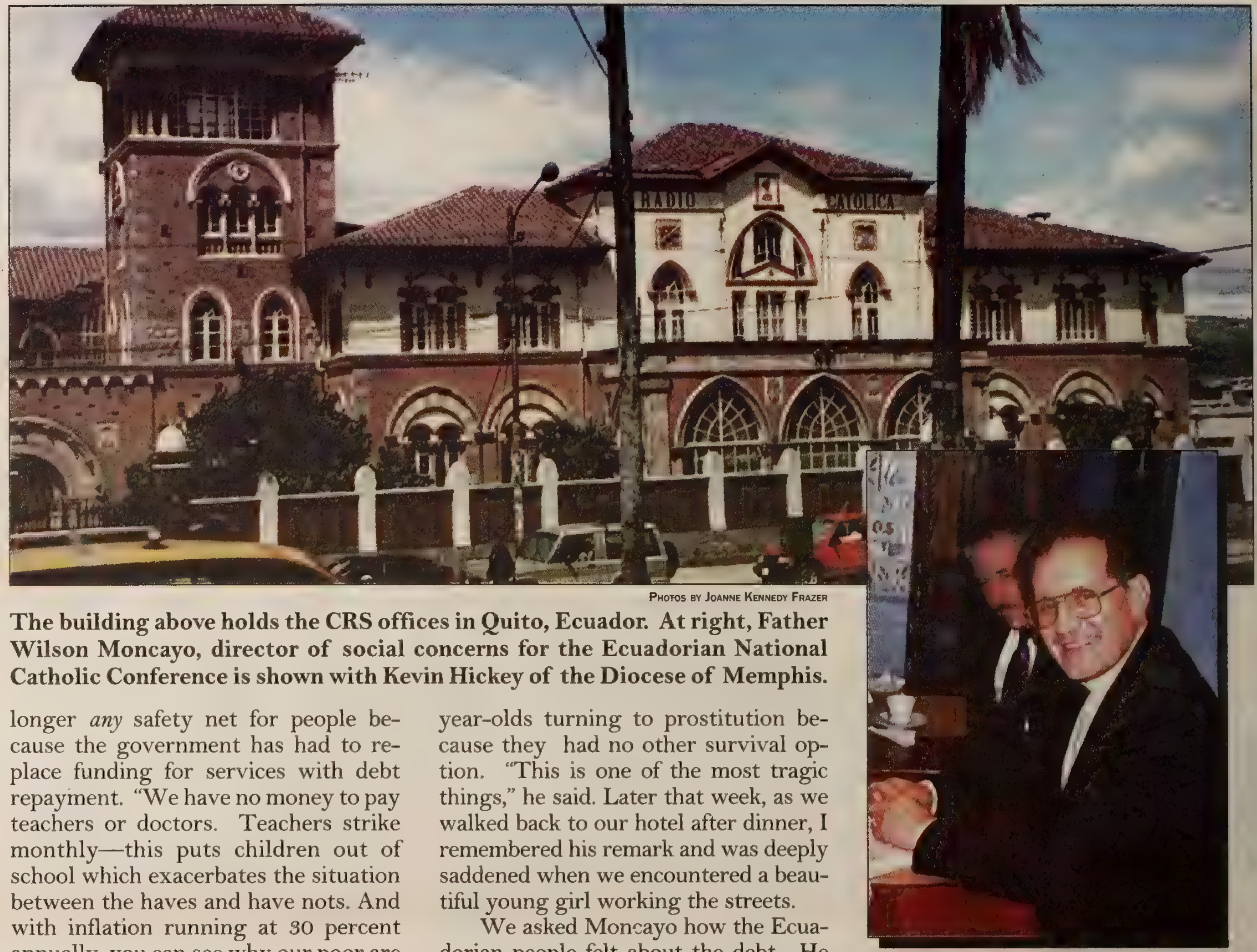
Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered. — D.S.

Part 2 of 4: Poverty in South America

Ecuador's crushing external debt

Editor's Note: In June, Joanne Kennedy Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Charlotte, was one of four U.S. directors who accompanied two national Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff members to visit CRS sites in Ecuador and Peru. Lenten Operation Rice Bowl donations fund CRS programs.

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
Director of the Office of
Justice and Peace



Photos by Joanne Kennedy Frazer

The building above holds the CRS offices in Quito, Ecuador. At right, Father Wilson Moncayo, director of social concerns for the Ecuadorian National Catholic Conference is shown with Kevin Hickey of the Diocese of Memphis.

On our first day in Ecuador, after a morning of orientation meetings and surviving our first ride through the Quito mid-day streets (where we were able to discern few identifiable traffic patterns), we sat down to enjoy lunch with the charming and knowledgeable Father Wilson Moncayo, director of the Social Concerns Section of the Ecuadorian National Catholic Conference. Our discussion soon turned to Ecuador's external debt; we were incredulous when he told us that almost half the national budget, 48 percent, goes out of the country to service the debt.

CRS and the United States Catholic Conference are part of a worldwide movement to relieve the crushing debt of impoverished countries. After hearing from two Ecuadorian religious leaders about the impact on poor people, I understood more clearly why we should actively support this campaign.

Ecuador owes $14 billion to international debtors, which according to the World Bank means Ecuador has one of the largest per capita external debt levels in Latin America. At a meeting later in the day with Enrique Galarza, director of the Catholic National Justice and Peace Commission in Quito, he individualized the debt this way: "As each Ecuadorian is born, he or she inherits a debt of $1100, and while that may not seem exorbitant, when you consider that the gross national product is only $1,700 per capita, it puts it in a different light."

During lunch with Father Moncayo, we asked what the effect of the debt has been. He shook his head somberly as he told us that there is no longer *any* safety net for people because the government has had to replace funding for services with debt repayment. "We have no money to pay teachers or doctors. Teachers strike monthly—this puts children out of school which exacerbates the situation between the haves and have nots. And with inflation running at 30 percent annually, you can see why our poor are getting poorer," he said.

How did Ecuador get into this fix? There are several contributing factors: In addition to the international debt, there has been a significant drop in oil prices (one of Ecuador's largest exports), a severe drought was followed by the flooding caused by El Niño, and a border war with Peru has added to the economic burden.

The economic situation has deteriorated seriously in the last few years. According to Galarza, "The decline is one of the most abrupt in our history. Today 78 percent are poor, 41 percent are extremely poor, making Ecuador comparable to Haiti." As he spoke, he was clearly agitated as he told us of 11-year-olds turning to prostitution because they had no other survival option. "This is one of the most tragic things," he said. Later that week, as we walked back to our hotel after dinner, I remembered his remark and was deeply saddened when we encountered a beautiful young girl working the streets.

We asked Moncayo how the Ecuadorian people felt about the debt. He wasn't certain how cognizant the general population was about the situation. "But when indigenous farmers and others hear about the debt, they say 'don't pay it, we didn't borrow it, it shouldn't be our problem.' We know that is not realistic," said Father Moncayo. "But we need some sort of relief so that our people will not continue to be hurt."

Although the general picture is bleak, Galarza and Father Moncayo also spoke of solutions. "Some countries are substituting the debt payments owed to them, directing that the payment instead be put toward economic development within the debtor country," according to Father Moncayo. "I believe that Canada, Holland and Switzerland have canceled part of the debts Ecuador owed to them."

"The North American Church can have a lot of influence on corporation and government policies and terms. The U.S. Bishops' statements have influence around the world," added Father Moncayo. Both asked that U.S. Catholics join the campaign to relieve crushing debt for the poorest countries.

For the parish packet, "Forgive the Debt Campaign," contact the Office of Justice and Peace. Or write to the Jubilee 2000 U.S.A. coalition for their education packet at East Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20003-1036. You can also visit their website, www.j2000usa.org/j2000. ▼

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S296 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Inside

Priest gets lost in mountains
See full story

...PAGE 3

Living the Faith
Part 3 of 4: Poverty in South America

...PAGE 16

Senate fails to override partial-birth veto

...PAGE 13

Local News

Stephen's Ministry at St. Eugene Church

...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 4-5

Faith Alive!

...PAGES 8-9

JUBILEE 2000

The meaning of Jubilee

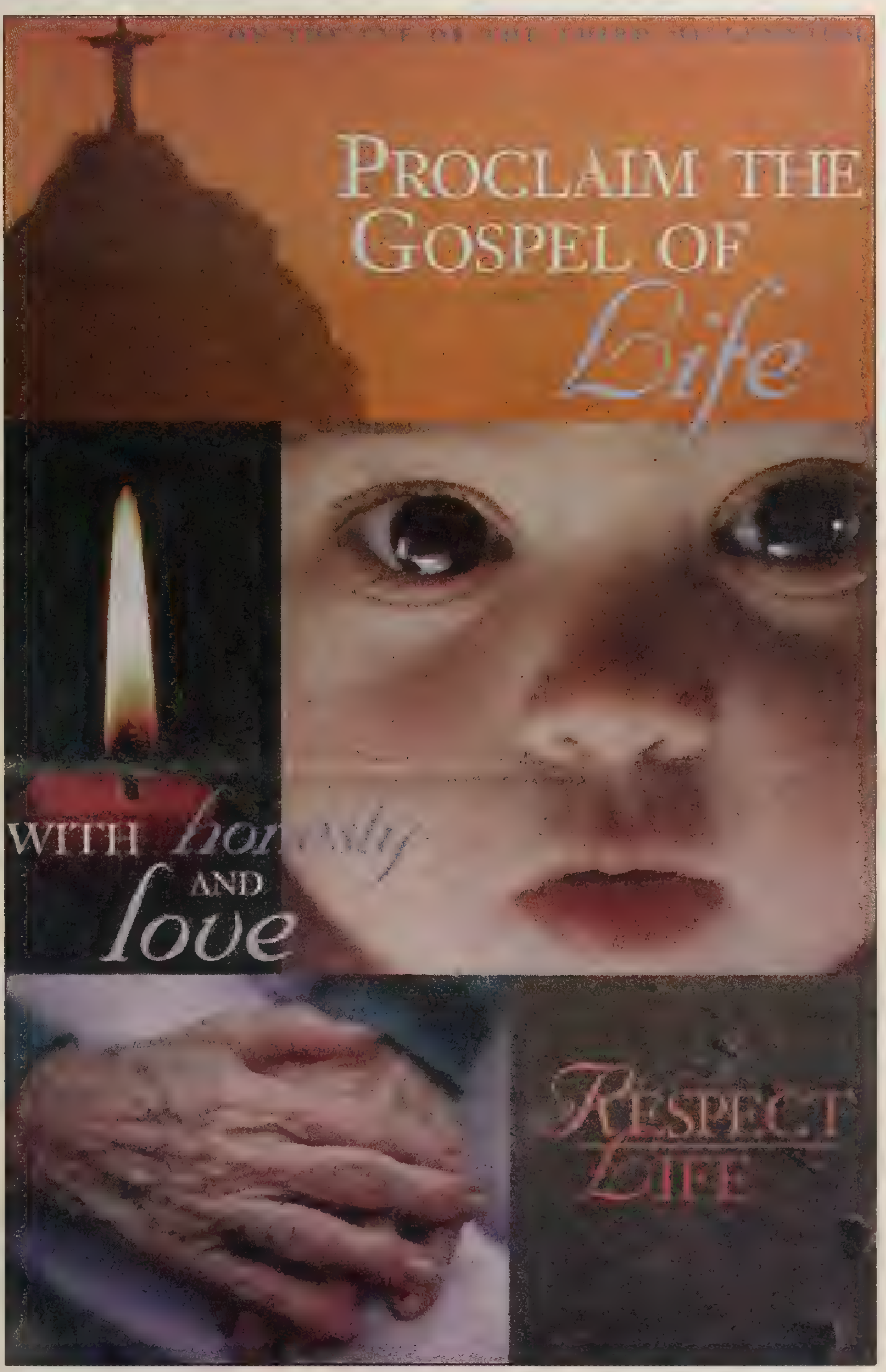
...PAGE 7

Millennium conferences sponsored locally

...PAGE 14

U.S.C.C.'s 27th annual Respect Life campaign

This poster reflects the theme of the U.S. Catholic Conference's 27th annual Respect Life campaign. Almost 2,000 years ago, Christ brought us a timeless message: We are the children of a merciful and loving God, and for this reason, each human life is sacred and inviolable. The poster portrays these central truths through the majesty of the "Rio Christ" which seems to link heaven and earth, in the wonder of a baby's gaze, and in the elderly hands which reveal a lifetime of service to others. On Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4, more than 1 million participants nationwide will peacefully pray for babies threatened or killed by abortion. Within the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes in Greensboro, Hickory, Lincolnton, Charlotte and elsewhere will be participating in local links as well. People of various ethnic and religious backgrounds have been gathering throughout the country on National Life Chain Sundays since 1987. For details on the Life Chain nearest you, contact your parish office.



Virgin Islanders hunker down as hurricane comes

Editor's Note: Shortly before Hurricane Georges reached the Virgin Islands and phone connections were broken, Mary Conway, editor of the Catholic Islander, filed this report by fax. She wrote it in longhand, explaining that her computer had been packed up and stored to protect it from the storm.

BY MARY CONWAY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (CNS) — As Virgin Islanders battened down homes and shops for Hurricane Georges, Coadjutor Bishop George V. Murry of St. Thomas urged them to make their preparations with God, too.

Sunday Masses were celebrated as usual Sept. 20, but everyone knew nothing would be usual once the hurricane hit the next morning.

Preaching at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Charlotte Amalie, Bishop Murry said the day's Gospel, on the unjust steward, had a lesson on preparing for the storm.

He said Jesus did not praise the steward for his dishonesty, but for his recognition of the urgent need to do something that he might be saved.

"There is an urgent need to turn to God right now," he said. "Just as it would be unwise to wait until midnight to prepare for the hurricane, it is unwise to wait to the last minute to turn to God."

As is their custom throughout the hurricane season, parishioners and priests processed around the cathedral after Mass, singing a litany invoking God's mercy and Mary's intercession.

Then they left for the standard pre-hurricane drill: Board up your home and place of business; pack up whatever possessions you can, knowing you may or may not see them again; stash emergency supplies for the days or weeks to come — canned goods, bottled water, flashlight, radio, spare batteries.

As Hurricane Georges approached the Virgin Islands with winds up to 150 miles per hour, it was following the same path as Hugo in 1989, its eye going directly over St. Croix, about 40 miles to the south of St. Thomas and St. John. ▼

Despite effort, casualties said still high from mines

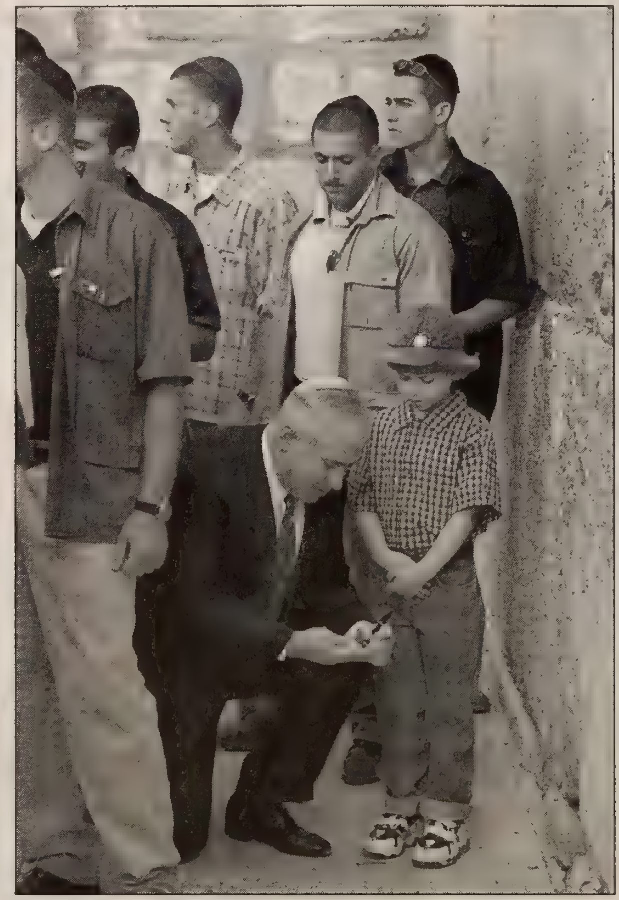
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Although thousands of anti-personnel land mines around the world have been dug up and deactivated, the devices still claim up to 26,000 casualties a year — a figure unchanged from four years ago, according to Karl Inderfurth, the U.S. special representative for global humanitarian demining. Inderfurth, speaking Sept. 17 at a Seton Hall University forum on land mines, said they continue to maim innocents, especially women and children in developing nations that cannot afford the enormous costs of removal. Hope for total land-mine removal is now being seen in public-private partnerships to help finance these operations.

Protests against U.S. presence in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Thousands of people marched through Philippine cities to protest the proposed Visiting Forces Agreement between the United States and the Philippines. Opponents of the agreement cite many of the same concerns used seven years ago to oppose the renewal of U.S. leases of military bases in the Philippines: The U.S. presence could include nuclear arms and increase prostitution and disease. At an ecumenical rally in Davao City, about 600 miles southeast of Manila, Father Leonardo Dublan, social action director of the Archdiocese of Davao, said, "We must remind (the government) that these are old issues that have been carefully repackaged to deceive the people and lighten the financial burden and moral responsibility of maintaining (U.S.) military and economic dominance in the Philippines and in the Asian region."

Forensic reports conflict after autopsy; bishop's body reburied

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — The controversy over the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City resurfaced as forensic experts failed to agree on the presence of dog bites on the body of the dead clergyman. The bishop was exhumed Sept. 17 and reburied in the metropolitan cathedral Sept. 18. In separate press conferences Sept. 18 at the end of the second day of medical examinations of the remains of the bishop in the city's main morgue, forensic scientists from the United States, Spain and Guatemala openly contradicted each other's conclusions of the autopsy carried out on Bishop Gerardi.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Netanyahu at Wailing Wall
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kneels alongside his 7-year-old son, Nair, as he writes a note to place on Jerusalem's Wailing Wall. The Israeli leader visited the last remaining wall of the biblical temple to pray prior to the start of the Jewish new year, which was to begin Sept. 20.

New Catholic university planned in Texas

TYLER, Texas (CNS) — La Roche College in Pennsylvania has signed a contract to purchase Ambassador University in Texas and turn it into a Catholic liberal arts university. "We'll start with a freshman class (in 1999) and gradually phase in other classes," said La Roche president Msgr. William A. Kerr. Ambassador University is owned by the Worldwide Church of God, based in Pasadena, Calif. It had more than 1,100 students before it closed in August 1997. If the project goes ahead as planned, the new university will be the first Catholic institution of higher learning in the Diocese of Tyler, a 32-county area in northeast Texas with nearly 50,000 Catholics in a total population of about 1.2 million.

Print media must stay technologically flexible

PARIS (CNS) — Catholic publications need not join the dinosaurs as long as they maintain a sense of flexibility about emerging technologies, said Barbara Beckwith, editor of St. Anthony Messenger magazine. On the Internet as on the newspaper or magazine page, "print is the foundation" of what all journalists do, Beckwith said Sept. 15 at a North American regional forum of the International Catholic Union of the Press in Paris. "The competition of today demands the best publications we can produce. A print publication that stays close to its readers and pays attention to the needs of that community will never become obsolete," she said.

Careful planning urged for possible papal visit to holy land

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — If not handled properly, a papal visit to the Holy Land could be a "nightmare" for local Christians, causing resentment by Muslims, said Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser. He said Pope John Paul II's counterpart during any visit to Jerusalem could not be Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. "Such a visit will naturally provoke the feelings of the Muslims if it is handled in a bad way, because it will be seen as the pope accepting Israeli control over Jerusalem, as if he is accepting a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," Nasser told Catholic News Service Sept. 9. "This will affect the situation between Christians and Muslims."

As casino opens in Holy Land, Catholics voice concerns

JERICHO, West Bank (CNS) — Despite concerns by some Catholics over gambling and prostitution, a group of Austrian businessman says its new casino in Jericho will help the Palestinian economy and contribute to the peace process. "Creating jobs is the first step to creating peace," said Norbert Steger, head of the group of private Austrian and Palestinian investors in the Oasis Casino, which opened Sept. 16. The Casinos Austria chain owns 69 percent of the casino with the remaining 31 percent held by other private interests. "We are not here to touch any of the religious or political questions," Steger said.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

September 25, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 4
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events.

September 26 — 2 p.m.
Profession of vows for Mercy Sister Lisa Atkins, Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Belmont

September 27
MACS Circle Celebration, Charlotte

October 2 — 7:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Noon
Mass with Homeschool Association of Charlotte

October 3 — 4 p.m.
Mass with Diocesan Permanent Deacons, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

September

26 CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus Council 11102 sponsors a spaghetti dinner today after the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Drive. Cost is $5.50 per adult and $2.75 per child.

27 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a Catholic home-school support group, hosts a "moms' evening" today at 7 p.m. For details, call Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pre-game food today prior to the Carolina Panthers football game. Sales begin at 10:30 a.m., and proceeds benefit local children's charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the 103-year-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today and every fourth Thursday at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, by Father Peter E.Q. Pham, the parish's parochial vicar. Call (704) 867-6212 for details.

28 CHARLOTTE — An Alzheimer's disease support group meets today and each fourth Monday at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HIGH POINT — Dr. Loretta Silvia, professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, will discuss women's health issues at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., today from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (336) 884-0244.

October

1 GREENSBORO — St. Pius X and St. Benedict the Moor Catholic churches host an estate planning semi-

Humor, faith helps priest lost in woods

By DEIRDRE C. MAYS
The New Catholic Miscellany

CLEMSON, S.C. — A two-hour hike turned into a two-day ordeal for Paulist Father John Kenny, pastor of St. Andrew's Church.

On Aug. 25, the 66-year-old priest headed out to nearby Whiteside Mountain in Cashiers, N.C., to enjoy nature on his day off but wandered from the trail and spent two nights in the woods. The jovial priest did not tell anyone where he was going because he expected to be home in time for lunch, so police searched only South Carolina parks the first day.

"Usually when I'm leaving in the morning, Father Gerry Aylward will ask me where I will be hiking and I'll tell him," Father Kenny explained, "but that morning only Father Gus McGuire was there and he just kidded me about carrying the small volume, "A Way to Love by Anthony De Mello" (a Jesuit spiritual writer whose work was recently condemned by the Vatican).

Father Kenny, who is a diabetic requiring two insulin shots a day, only carried a peach, a plum, a canteen of water and four small peppermints in a backpack. After an hour-and-a-half drive, he arrived at the trailhead at 10:30 a.m. He expected to be finished in time to have lunch in nearby Highlands, N.C. The trail, however, was crowded and when Father Kenny passed a group slowing his pace he moved off the main trail, and didn't realize it for some time until it came to a halt at a cliff. He spent the next several hours trying to find his way back.

"By 4:30 p.m. I was bruised, torn and exhausted, and all of my food and water was gone, so I decided to find a place for the night," he said. The optimistic priest, inspired from having seen a helicopter earlier in the day, chose an outcropping of rock in the hopes that he could be seen by a rescue plane or helicopter.

Photo by Deirdre C. Mays

Paulist Father John Kenny, pastor of St. Andrew Church in Clemson, S.C., addresses the congregation during a recent liturgy. The priest, an avid hiker, spent two nights in the western North Carolina mountains near Cashiers after wandering from the trail Aug. 25. Bruised and exhausted, he was found Aug. 27 and kept overnight in a local hospital for observation.

He spent a restless night accompanied by the roar of insects and occasionally jarred by the sounds of something he perceived as a sniffing animal.

"I shouted and waved my hat but now I think it was just another insect sound," he explained. He also learned that his new watch glowed in the dark.

"I'm not sure that was a plus or a minus," he joked. "That was a long night."

In the long hours he said his rosary twice, without beads, and began praying for people whom he had known throughout his life, starting at his childhood in Chicago.

That morning, his fellow priests called the police who expanded the search.

During that second day, now feeling the effects of missing his insulin, Father Kenny read for a while and then pulled out his wallet. He found eight business cards on which he began writing farewells, the directions to find his will and whom he would like to preach at his funeral. He said he was not afraid, just worried.

The second night was cooler, his book became a pillow, and branches became his blankets. He was cold and said he began to hallucinate, but he felt he had made his peace with God.

"I wasn't sure about whether I thought I would die," he said, "I was just really worried about doing a third night."

The state police had taken the initiative to start checking North Carolina parks and found the priest's car on Thursday in the Whiteside Mountain parking lot. Father Jim Brucz and Sister Janet Carr were searching on their own and Father Brucz took it upon himself to climb to the top of the trail and shout for Father Kenny. About 1:30 p.m. the ailing priest heard someone shout his name and he responded.

The Glenview-Cashiers Rescue Team reached the priest and helped him climb the steep slope back to the trail. He was taken to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and kept overnight to replenish his fluids and monitor his blood sugar level.

"When I finally came home on Friday, I was amazed and humbled by all the concern expressed by so many, the newspaper and TV accounts and especially by all the prayers offered for my safety. I guess the Lord expects to get some more work out of me before I go," he said.

Though he says everyone is scolding him for not saying where he was going or carrying more items in his backpack, he candidly said he will "probably" tell people where he is going next time. ▾

Deirdre C. Mays is a photo journalist for The New Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. Her story is reprinted with permission.

---

nar at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., today. The focus is on the will as one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. For details, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

2 HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. today and every first Friday in Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., with rosary at 6:30 p.m. and Benediction and adoration following the Mass.

3 ARDEN — A training session for parish implementation of the N.C. bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Drive, for Asheville-area parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, businesspersons and all interested. Joanne K. Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. Bring a bag lunch; drinks are provided. There's no fee, but registration is required by calling (704) 370-3231.

BREVARD — Musician Susan Petersen performs a benefit concert of folk, blues, gospel and mountain music today at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 4 Brian Berg Lane. Proceeds benefit Whitewater Cove, a project of the parish's Community Life Commission. Call (828) 883-9572 for details.

CHARLOTTE — A Marriage Encounter reunion and potluck dinner is today following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Please bring a covered dish and beverage. For more information, call Kevin or Theresa Williams at (704) 374-0973.

WINSTON-SALEM — Birthright, a pro-life crisis pregnancy center, hosts a friendship counseling seminar today in the activity center at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Speakers offer insights on counseling techniques, listening skills, community resources and other topics. Lunch is provided. The center is expanding operation hours and is in need of more counseling volunteers. Reservations are required by Sept. 29 and can be made by calling (910) 723-2204.

4 CHARLOTTE — The Third Annual Versatile Harp Concert, featuring harp with flute, violin, a Celtic band, voice, handbells and more, is today at 3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. There is no admission charge, but a freewill collection will be taken to defray costs. Call Susan Schlie, (704) 364-5526, for more information.

GREENSBORO — Respect Life Sunday is commemorated today with The Eighth Annual Greensboro Life Chain from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along Battleground Avenue. Call (336) 665-0851 or (336) 282-3424 for more information.

HICKORY — A Life Chain is formed today from 2-3 p.m., extending on Highway 70 from Sagebrush restaurant on Robinson Road and Lenior Rhyne College to CVCC. At least 50 congregations are planning participation in this peaceful gathering to pray for the end of abortion. Participants are asked to meet in the T.J. Maxx parking lot at 1:45 p.m. For more information, call Jean Marie Hirsch at (828) 495-4339.

9 CONCORD — A Mass and rosary for home-schoolers in the Concord area is at St. James Church, 251 Union St. N., today at 11 a.m. A potluck meal in the parish center follows. To R.S.V.P. and for directions and other information, call Geri Young at (704) 795-6077.

MAGGIE VALLEY — "I Lift Up My Eyes," a nature retreat focusing on how God awaits his people in Scripture, silence and the beauty of all creation, is today through Oct. 15. Cost is $260. To register, write to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Water's Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, call (828) 926-3833, or send a fax to (828) 926-1997.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says seeds of truth found in philosophy, art

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the fullness of truth is found in the Gospel, "seeds of the truth" can be found in many branches of philosophy and art, Pope John Paul II said.

Far from despising the human search for truth, which takes place outside of a religious context, the Catholic Church believes the Holy Spirit is working behind the scenes to lead all to salvation in Jesus, the pope said Sept. 16 at his weekly general audience.

"The church is the friend of every authentic search of human thought, and it sincerely esteems the patrimony of wisdom elaborated and transmitted by various cultures," he said.

Vatican officials have said that an in-depth papal discussion on the relationship between philosophy and faith would be the focal point of an encyclical expected to be published in October.

The variety of ways in which people express their yearning for knowledge of the truth and beauty is an expression of "the inexhaustible creativity of the human spirit directed by the spirit of God toward the fullness of truth," the pope said.

The task of the church is to enter into a dialogue with the various branches of human wisdom and philosophy, presenting the truth of the Gospel as the ultimate answer to their questions, the pope said.

As the year 2000 approaches, he said, the church must increase its efforts to promote encounters between "the revealed truth as safeguarded and transmitted by the church and the multiple forms of human thought and culture."

Believers have a duty to work to overcome the division between the Gospel and culture, which is a tragedy of modern times and has had serious consequences in the way modern people think and act, he said.

An analogous dialogue should occur between the church and artists, who give expression to the beauty with which the Holy Spirit has filled creation, the pope said.

Pope, newspaper decry priests' murders in Kenya, Colombia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and the Vatican newspaper expressed sorrow and outrage over the murders of Catholic priests in Kenya and Colombia in mid-September. "The church continues to pay a heavy price in blood in countries on every continent afflicted by civil wars, strong political and social tensions or by the plague of banditry," the Vatican newspaper said. Redemptorist Father Alcides Jimenez Chicangana, a Colombian, was shot the evening of Sept. 11 as he celebrated Mass in his parish at Puerto Caicedo. L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, reported that the 48-year-old priest tried to flee to the rectory after he was shot, but the two young gunmen shot him again. Italian Consolata Father Luigi Andeni, a 62-year-old missionary in Kenya, died Sept. 14 after being shot by three armed robbers dressed in military garb. The priest was shot in the hands and the abdomen and died while being transported to the hospital, which was about 40 miles away.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

The new vocations

Like most parishes, we pray every day for vocations. God is answering our prayer. Although, as often happens, the Holy Spirit answers in ways we did not expect.

This year five adults from our parish began studies for ministry in the church. None of them is in the traditional vocations of priesthood and religious life. But all of them are badly needed by the church.

One young married couple, in their mid-30s with two small children, left high-paying engineering jobs to go to the University of Notre Dame to study theology. Both husband and wife will prepare themselves for full-time ministry. The woman will specialize in liturgical music. The man will study theology, with the hope of becoming a director of religious education for a parish or working for a diocese in adult education.

They were fortunate enough to obtain a fellowship to pay for their education, but they are still making a huge sacrifice of potential future earnings.

We have two women, both wives and mothers whose children are now nearly grown, who have gone back to school to prepare for ministry.

One is getting a master's degree in theology at the Washington Theological Union in the parish partnership program. This program prepares people for work in parishes and shares the cost of the education with parishes. When she is finished she will be able to coordinate adult education and other spiritual enrichment programs for the parish.

Another woman goes to the Washington division of the Education for Parish Service Program, a nationwide program that prepares lay people for parish work with two years of college-level theology, history and pastoral courses. The program is tuition free, but calls for a major commitment of time in two years of study and prayer.

Graduates coordinate various ministries, such as hospital visitation, children's religious education and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. EPS exists in places as diverse as Fargo, N.D., and New York City. There are hundreds of EPS graduates working full time and part time in parishes across North America.

Finally, one man in our parish, a father of six, started his studies for the permanent diaconate. For the next four years, he and his wife will drive 50 miles, each way, and twice a week, to prepare for his ordination.

Wives often participate in the preparation for the permanent diaconate because it is a major time commitment and it is important that a wife be part of her husband's vocation.

When he is finished he will be able to help with all the duties of a deacon, including baptisms, funerals, weddings, wakes, marriage preparation and ministry to the sick.

Of course, none of these "new vocations" replace the dire need for priests. We still pray every day for priestly vocations and the vocations of women and men to religious orders. But we recognize that as the number of priests in parishes inevitably declines over the next decade, these "new vocations" will be increasingly important.

Without these, parish life would come to a halt, and priests would die of exhaustion. These vocations are a godsend. They are answers to a prayer.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Getting young adults involved in church

One of the best ways to get young adults involved in the church is to get them involved in the work of the church. Working with youths can be the most rewarding work for young adults. We see this often in the young adults working in youth ministry. But this is also our history as lay ministers.

In the mid-1970s, after several years uninvolved with the church, we were invited to speak to a teen group at the church we had started attending frequently. We weren't sure why we were asked to say anything to those kids. We weren't sure of much then, except that we enjoyed the feeling of connectedness we got from our recently resumed church attendance.

We didn't want to display any false piety, and we didn't think that our story was worthy of role modeling. Surely our director of religious education grimaced once or twice as we spoke from our earthy perspectives on life, love and God. But something happened that clicked for us and the kids. They could really relate to us. The ease in our connecting with the kids had much to do with our youthfulness. We were not far removed from where they were, and we could speak from our current experiences while understanding their situations.

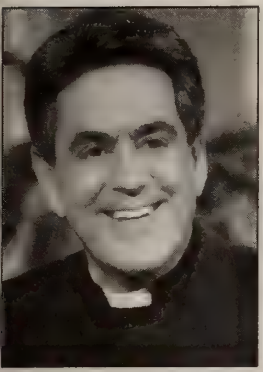
The kids first addressed us as "Mr. and Mrs. Lyke." But we quickly got to a first-name basis with them. There was a level of trust they showed us. They readily opened themselves to us. We were not contemporaries of their parents, and we loosened between us the intergenerational protocols they were accustomed to with their parents and teachers.

Sometimes we had to remind them of the no-swearing rule. However, their familiarity with us that was sometimes a challenge also allowed an openness between the teens and us. Modeling marriage to them was the seeds to a ministry to marriage and family life that we have today.

We gained a more responsible sense of our role among them. Our continued work with youths taught us much about them and about ourselves. It was our first experience of leadership as adult lay ministers. Because of an invitation that parish leadership risked offering to us, we gained a sense of responsibility that put us on the road as an apostolic couple. Our parish had opened wide the doors to the church to us, and we found a place for ourselves.

Today we see a need for such risk taking on a larger scale. With training and continued adult faith formation, and an openness the fresh perspectives of young adults, we can open wide the doors of the church to more young adults. Teens need role models closer to their age, and young adults need license to lead and share what they know from their unique perspectives. Young adults need to feel fully involved in church life. And you know, we the church need them too!

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Yom Kippur: Getting back what you give out

As autumn begins, Jewish people all over the world are observing the High Holydays, a period of 10 days beginning with Rosh Hashanah, which means New Year, and ending with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

During this season, Jewish women and men pause to reflect on things worth consideration by all people. Jews think about their behavior during the previous 12 months. They thank God for the ability to distinguish right from wrong and look for mistakes they might have made and areas that can be improved upon in the year to come. They ask for forgiveness and the strength to forgive.

It is a time to recognize that most often what we get back from life depends upon what we give out.

When she was 71, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel, a position she held for five years, including the period of the Arab-Israeli War. With sheer determination, she worked unflinchingly for peace, meeting with world figures such as Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and Pope Paul VI. Known affectionately in Israel as "Golda Lox," she was much loved and respected by her people.

Her story is a good example of receiving back what we give out. Her sincerity, integrity, loyalty, and strong desire for peace became contagious. During the negotiations with the Arabs, Golda insisted on meeting her opposition face to face. An aide suggested to her that this was not necessary. "Even divorces are arranged without personal confrontation," he argued. To which Golda responded, "I'm not interested in a divorce, I'm interested in a marriage."

I am grateful to our Jewish friends who draw attention to the ways our behavior affects the quality of our lives. Because it is important to be reminded that indeed you get what you give out.

There is a Jewish legend concerning the place where the Temple was built. It is the story of two brothers who lived on adjoining farms. One was married, the other a bachelor. Their farms were of equal size and at harvest time they were equally fruitful. The wheat had been cut and was standing in sheaves in the fields.

The married brother was at home, thinking of his unmarried brother. "He is a lonely person," he mused. "He has not experienced the joy of a wife and children. I think that I will take some of my sheaves and put them in his field tonight. It will give him joy to see such a big harvest on his farm."

It so happened that, at that very moment, the bachelor brother was at home reflecting on his married brother. "My brother has many mouths to feed," he said to himself. "I do not require nearly as much as he does. I'll take some of my sheaves and put them in his field tonight."

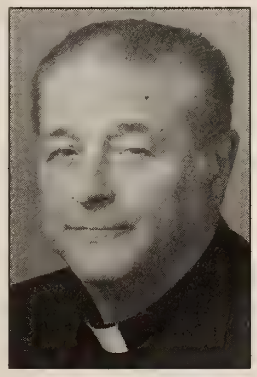
The night was dark as each of the brothers began to carry out his plan in secret. But as they made their way toward each other's farm they met face-to-face in the open field. The legend says that at the spot where they met the Temple was built, because on that spot heaven was nearest to earth.

Yom Kippur speaks to the habits of our hearts: Live among others as if God was watching you, and speak to God as if others were listening — and you will know that you are always giving your best!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Married converts eligible for priesthood

Q. According to recent news reports, the Catholic Church seems to have no problem letting Episcopalian converts come into the church to serve as priests, while still married and with families.

Yet, it holds the position that allowing Catholic priests to marry and minister to the people as priests is not possible.

These policies seem to be contradictory. How can they be held at the same time?

A. Catholic policies permitting married converts to become candidates for the priesthood are less than 20 years old and are still developing. Some basic criteria, however, seem to be emerging.

The largest number of married Roman Catholic priests in our country are former Episcopal priests. Their situation is somewhat, but not entirely, unique.

As was true with the Oxford Movement in England during the 1800s, the present generation of Episcopal priests who leaned toward Roman Catholicism generally felt they should remain within the Anglican tradition and work toward corporate reunion with Rome.

Later, many of these decided to apply individually as married candidates for ordination in the Roman Catholic Church.

They were formed within the Catholic system, they argued, and embraced Catholic tradition and teaching. Some of the group, especially among those who longed for the larger reunion of the churches, even accepted the primacy of the bishop of Rome.

Their position was that both in marrying and in their movement to the Roman Catholic Church with hopes of ordination they acted in good faith.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith accepted this reasoning, it seems. It recognized these Episcopal priests and their families as acting in good faith, and approved their reception into the Roman Catholic Church and eventual ordination as married men.

They were, in other words, dispensed from the promise and commitment of celibacy.

A well-known former Lutheran minister, now a Catholic priest, has pointed out to me that the Catholic self-understanding of these Anglican clergy applies also to the many Lutherans who consider themselves as "evangelical Catholics."

Such Lutherans, he said, see themselves as temporarily separated from Rome and working for reunion.

With this understanding, which is grounded in the Lutheran Augsburg Confession of 1530, he believes Lutherans could be received on the same basis as Episcopalians, with married men having the same possibility of ordination to the priesthood.

On the other hand, people who are raised Roman Catholic are presumed to know and be committed to the Catholic discipline of a celibate priesthood.

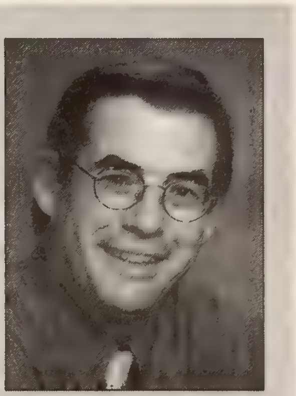
Thus, their choice to marry in the church assumes the choice of the sacrament of marriage rather than priesthood.

And ordination to the priesthood by one raised in and aware of the Roman Catholic tradition indicates a choice of this sacrament rather than marriage.

Obviously, it appears that the Roman Catholic policy for ordaining married converts to our faith still needs time to develop, and many factors, perhaps some yet unforeseen, will enter the discussion.

The effort to work all this out with fidelity to both Catholic tradition and the Gospel will require extraordinary wisdom and prayer.

Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

A winning lesson in baseball

This has been a unhappy summer for the news. A lot of what we see on television is pretty depressing.

Thank God for baseball. Sports may be the toy room in the news world, but at least there's something good happening this summer.

Two really decent fellows, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, each broke Roger Maris' record for the most home runs in a season. As I write, the record stands at 63. Who knows what it will be when you read this?

Professional sports in America seem to involve a bunch of greedy players, who only care about the size of their contract and shoe-marketing deals. They work for a bunch of equally greedy owners, who regularly blackmail cities into building new ballparks so they can make even bigger profits.

McGwire and Sosa seem like the antidote to all of that. Sure, they get paid a magillion dollars each. Somehow, though, they avoid shoving that in our faces. They both are having a wonderful time doing what they do better than anybody else who ever lived — pounding the dickens out of a baseball.

Why does it matter? Perhaps in the vast scheme of things, it doesn't. Still, I think it's worth our attention.

First, what they are doing is remarkably difficult. Major league pitchers throw the ball between 80 and 100 miles an hour, and they don't throw straight — that ball moves all over the place on its way to the plate.

Of all the ballplayers who ever stepped up to the major-league plate, only four ever hit 60 or more home runs in a season. The fact that two of those five did it this year is amazing.

And nobody hates these guys — in fact, we love them. They sign autographs, they talk to the media, and they say nice things about each other.

A new home run record won't cure cancer. It won't get the guns our of our inner cities, and it won't make our high schools the best in the world.

Still, I think those problems will be solved by men and women who approach their jobs the same way Sosa and McGwire approach theirs.

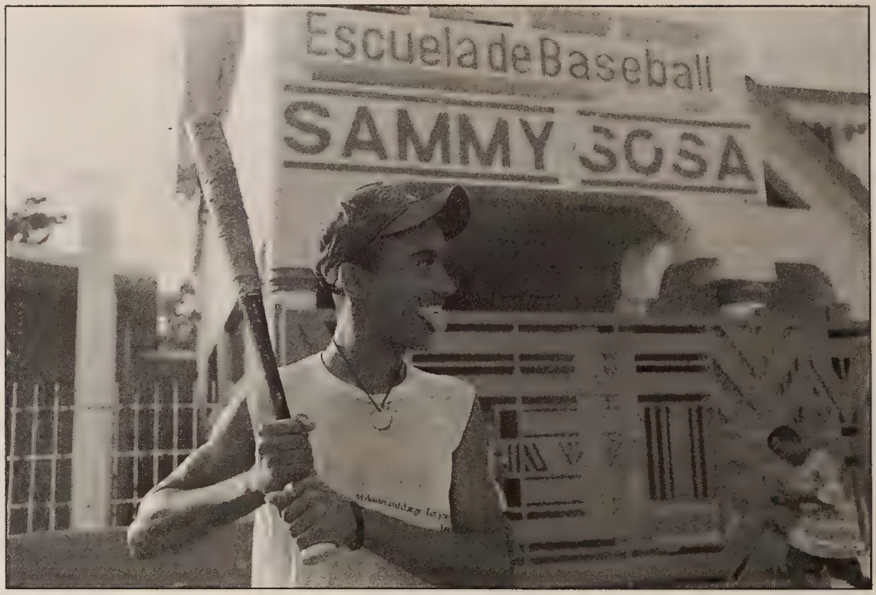
First, each of them has worked hard to develop the natural talents God gave them. They hit the ball the way they do because they've studied batting technique for years, and taken thousand and thousands of hours of batting practice. Without that effort at self-development, they're just run-of-the-mill players.

Second, each is part of a team. Nobody wins even one baseball game alone.

Finally, they are cheering each other on in the midst of one of the most remarkable competitions of all time.

That's how big problems get solved. Talented men and women develop their own special skills. They work in teams and celebrate the success of anybody who contributes to the important work they share. That's the approach that will let us solve the important problems of our time.

Sosa and McGwire are sure fun to watch — and they're showing us how it's done.



CNS photo from Reuters

Fans of Sosa

Leon, a 14-year-old baseball fan shows other children his interpretation of the batting stance used by Chicago Cubs star Sammy Sosa. The Sammy Sosa Baseball school is in the town of San Pedro de Macoris, the record-breaking player's hometown in the Dominican Republic.

French bishops object to proposed law on unmarried couples

PARIS (CNS) — France's bishops objected to a proposed law that would give unmarried couples nearly the same legal status as married ones. The proposed Civil Pact of Solidarity, known by its French acronym as PACS, would provide heterosexual and homosexual couples the tax benefits of married pairs, entitle them to the same rights and make them eligible to adopt children. In a Sept. 16 statement, the French bishops' conference called the PACS "a useless and dangerous law," and urged its defeat as it was being considered in a legislative committee.

Brief filed to protect libraries from Internet porn

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — An amicus brief filed by a Catholic Virginia legislator could play a part in Internet pornography being kept from reaching public libraries throughout the country. The brief was drafted by Richard H. Black, a delegate to the state Legislature and Loudoun County Library board member who is a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Great Falls in the Arlington Diocese. He prepared it for a case called Mainstream Loudoun et.al. vs. Loudoun County Library Board of Trustees. A group known as Mainstream Loudoun has sued the trustees for implementing a ban on Internet access to pornography in county libraries.

Protestants urge removal of Catholic cooks from school

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Two Catholic women have stayed away from their work as cooks in a Northern Irish primary school after the school was picketed by Protestant protesters. However, the Fair Employment Commission is siding with the two women, saying that the picketers could be prosecuted and fined because their protest is preventing people from working. The situation shows the continuing tension between Northern Ireland's Catholic and Protestant communities. The Protestant parents say that all three of the school's kitchen staff are now Catholics and that the situation is one of "an imbalance of employment."

Using Scripture to predict end times is a mistake, says bishop

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Using Scripture to predict the end times is a mistake, said Bishop Kenneth E. Untener of Saginaw, Mich. For doomsayers who point to the dawning of the Third Millennium as a harbinger of the end of the world, the bishop has a message: Listen to Jesus in Mark 13:32-33. "Jesus is saying that he doesn't know," Bishop Untener told a gathering of 600 Catholic parish ministers Sept. 12 in Erie. "We have no idea when it's going to be." Bishop Untener's remarks came in his keynote address at the annual Parish Ministries Conference of the Erie Diocese.

Archbishop says cultural desire not to offend affects catechesis

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis told religious educators he believes a desire not to offend or exclude in today's postmodern culture has caused deficiencies in Catholic resources for catechesis, preaching and liturgy. The archbishop addressed some 400 master catechists, directors of religious education and other diocesan leaders Sept. 12 in Salt Lake City, where they were attending the diocese's 36th annual Pastoral Congress.

Catholics, Baptists discuss salvation, Scripture

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a three-day meeting in Kentucky, members of the Southern Baptist-Roman Catholic Conversation discussed God's salvation in Jesus Christ and Catholic and Baptist understandings of Scripture. The 16 participants worked on, but did not complete, a written report to their respective sponsoring bodies on the results of three years of conversations about differences and similarities in the way their traditions understand the authority of Scripture. The Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville hosted the Sept. 10-12 meeting.

Nuns honor 'Nothing Sacred' writer, actress

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit Father Bill Cain, the principal writer of last season's ABC television series "Nothing Sacred," and Ann Dowd, the actress who portrayed "Sister Maureen," were honored Sept. 19 by a group of nuns trying to encourage more realistic and positive images of their life in the media. The effort, called Media Images and Religious Awareness, or MIRA, is led by a committee of nuns representing eight congregations, according to Charity Sister Irene Fugazy. Sister Fugazy, former director of television for the Archdiocese of New York and a leader in forming MIRA, said the series about the fictional Catholic parish was "all we had hoped and dreamed for." The nuns found it "heartbreaking" to hear the series "defamed" by some Catholics in the name of defending some Catholic position, she said.

Chicago conference examines image, role of black Catholic men

CHICAGO (CNS) — A mustard seed, a Masai warrior and a raging river in the silent night. Transitional deacon David Miller, a Jesuit seminarian and chaplain at Chicago's Loyola University, used these images to summarize the thoughts expressed by his small group at a conference Sept. 12 in Chicago. Participants had been reflecting on the conference theme, "Who Do You Say That I Am?: A Day of Prayer and Reflection on the Image and Role of Black Men in the Catholic Church." More than 240 black Catholic men and women and their parish priests and religious took part in the event at St. James Church on the South Side.

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm
A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

HOMEOWNERS
Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.378%
LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958
We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation
Rates subject to change.
1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION
Charlotte (704) 543-9815
Burlington (336) 538-0213
Gastonia (704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver (828) 466-7701
Marion (828) 659-6750
Mooresville (704) 664-3577
Salisbury (704) 638-0285
Shelby (704) 482-6900
York (803) 684-1095

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES 567-4021 HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Carolina Catholic BookShoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information on specific programs, please call your local office.
Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Jubilee: Time to get over the hurts

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee Year of 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with articles from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

By PETER FEUERHERD

Still stewing because your brother-in-law borrowed that snowblower last year and hasn't returned it?

Let go of it, and you'll be honoring a long religious tradition dating to the ancient Hebrews and endorsed by Pope John Paul II, according to Dr. Maria Harris, a national religious education consultant and expert on the practice of jubilee. A visiting professor at New York University, Harris is the author of "Proclaim Jubilee" (Westminster John Knox) and "Jubilee Time" (Bantam Books).

Jubilee was an occasion when the ancient Hebrews "set aside time to allow the land to lie fallow and forgive all debts," said Harris in a recent interview. In ancient Israel, the jubilee was held every 50 years and was a time of fasting and repentance followed by a festival.

Pope John Paul II, in his exhortations on the upcoming millennium celebration, has urged Catholics to follow that tradition. To prepare for the jubilee he has urged reconciliation and asked that the crushing debt burden on developing countries be relieved.

Harris said that the pope is referring to a tradition cited in Leviticus 25:8-12. The concept of jubilee also is part of the fourth chapter of Luke, which includes the account of Jesus preaching in his hometown synagogue. In that chapter, Jesus proclaims that he has been sent "to bring glad tidings to the poor" and free captives from bondage.

Harris summed up the concept of jubilee in four "f's" and one "j": fallowness, forgiveness, freedom, justice and festival.

For modern U.S. Christians, the spiritual benefits of jubilee are readily apparent, she said. While most don't live on the land, they still are called to let the land lie fallow, which, in a spiritual sense, "means to stop and take a Sabbath."

In a culture which honors activity, "letting the spirit lie fallow" allows "a Christian to move towards forgiveness," she said.

Jubilee was an occasion when the ancient Hebrews "set aside time to allow the land to lie fallow and forgive all debts," said Harris in a recent interview. In ancient Israel, the jubilee was held every 50 years and was a time of fasting and repentance followed by a festival.

Moving towards forgiveness involves both personal decisions — such as letting go of that snowblower — and larger international concerns.

Poorer countries frequently are saddled with debt, and because of it are unable to progress. It is a concern frequently articulated by Pope John Paul II, who has asked international agencies to relieve the debt burden of developing countries, she said.

On the homefront, U.S. dioceses can work to balance resources among richer and poorer parishes.

The concept of forgiveness of debts is something "very hard and very practical," she added.

Spiritual debts also need to be considered. For example, Harris spoke of a Detroit parish in which priests asked parishioners to forgive anything they might have done to estrange them from the faith. Parishioners then asked their priests to forgive the times they weren't supportive.

In the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, Bishop Kenneth Untener has urged parishioners and priests to reflect on how the local church should forgive its spiritual and financial debts. That reflection should take place before every parish meeting, he said.

Such ceremonies and discussions are a way of "getting rid of all grudges" to prepare to celebrate the jubilee, Harris said.

A similar mixture of personal and social concerns permeates the jubilee concept of freedom.

Scripture's call to proclaim liberty is engraved on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, famous for its crack.

"It's quintessentially American. It's there on the Liberty Bell. Even though we are flawed and cracked ourselves, we have to work for liberty," said Harris.

On a personal level that can mean reflection on "What is keeping me bound?," a question which can address addictions and weaknesses.

On a social level, it can suggest that Catholics focus on liberating people from the social imprisonment of illiteracy by tutoring children and adults who need help.

The concept of jubilee justice means "finding out what belongs to whom and giving it back." For modern U.S. Catholics, fulfilling this jubilee command means recognizing the gifts that many middle-class people possess, Harris said.

Americans who have the skills to obtain decent jobs can focus on sharing their resources, perhaps by training others who lack education and training, she said.

Only when the jubilee requirements are fulfilled can the jubilee party begin, said Harris.

While the ancient Hebrews modeled their jubilee on a 50-year-cycle, the approaching millennium celebration recognizes a 1,000-year cycle in the Christian world, making its impact felt even more. As part of the jubilee preparation, the pope is considering a gathering of religious leaders from all over the world, including Christians, Jews and Muslims, for a festival in the Holy Land.

Harris, along with the pope, hopes that Catholics will spend the years leading up to the big festival in reflection on the spiritual and practical aspects of jubilee. Only then, she said, will Catholics be prepared for the biggest worldwide party in history. ▼

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Finding the pulse of the Spirit in the world today

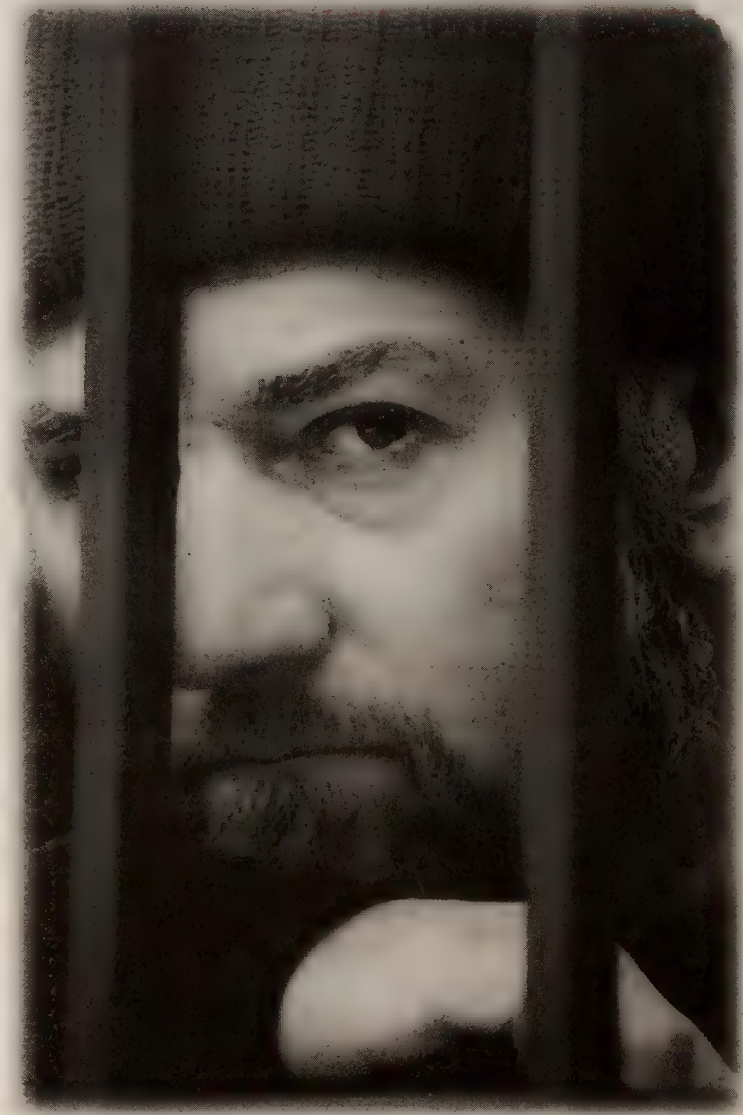
Mark your calendar! October 23-25, 1998
Charlotte, NC Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel
A conference to celebrate "The Year of the Holy Spirit" in preparation for the Christian third millennium

The urgent question of our souls...
Where in our world is the Holy Spirit?
"The church wishes to prepare for the jubilee in the Holy Spirit, just as the Virgin of Nazareth in whom the Word was made flesh was prepared by the Holy Spirit."
— Pope John Paul II, The Lord and Giver of Life, 1986

***To request a brochure:** Office of Evangelization*
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3214 or (704) 289-2773

JUBILEE 2000

Can you respect someone who doesn't respect you?



CNS photo from Cleo Photography

When it comes to respecting someone who doesn't respect you, Father Herb Weber says, "for most people the struggle lies not in finding respect for society's major criminals, whom they do not know, but for the personal villains of their lives: family members who exploit one's good will; neighbors who abuse privileges over and over again."

By FATHER HERB WEBER
Catholic News Service

An engaged couple and I were planning the liturgy for their wedding when the bride stopped us. She felt there was a problem to resolve first.

The bride's father was extremely abusive to her mother before they divorced. The daughter said, "I have no respect for the man," adding that she did not know how or even if she should involve him in her wedding.

On the one hand, she admitted that he was still her father. Even her mother said she should consider that. On the other hand, the man's violent nature represented everything she did not want in her own marriage. She was in a quandary.

After the young woman went on a while, the soon-to-be-husband, who obviously had discussed this before, turned to his fiancee and said, "Dear, it's not really about respecting him for being a dad or not respecting him for being abusive. He's still George, and even George has some dignity. Let's not take that away from him."

Discovering the personal dignity in the disagreeable or despicable is not always easy. Unfortunately, most folks know a few individuals like George. Many would like to write off all those Georges. Nonetheless, God's love for all instills dignity even into those who are most difficult to love.

One of the greatest tragedies I have observed as a priest involved a man who kidnapped, raped and strangled a 3-year-old.

The man lived in an apartment complex near the church where I was pastor. I knew him for a number of years. He had been in and out of mental institutions and county jails.

With a crazed look in his eyes, this man frightened most folks. He was also lonely and would stop by about twice a week "just to chat."

After he confessed his crime and was incarcerated, I visited him regularly. There was nothing attractive about him. Besides, seeing what the family of the victim went through in their own grief, it seemed that the man's contribution to humanity was at a minus level.

I realized that God already loved this person. God saw through the crazed glare and self-centered verbiage. It was God's reaching out to him that gave him dignity, not any accomplishment or behavior of his own.

Catholic social teachings emphasize over and over again the innate dignity of every human being. That is why the church respects the life of the unborn, the disabled, the elderly and the criminal.

That is also why the church calls for an economy that would respect all laborers and provide just wages for all.

Ohio, the state where I live, accepts capital punishment although no one has been executed since the death penalty was reinstated. Death row for the state happens to be located two miles north of our church. Because my office is on the top floor of the parish center, which itself is located on a hill, I can look out my window at night and see the amber lights of the prison surrounding death row.

Often I find myself stopping, praying for those on death row - as well as for their victims' families - before I head home at night. Each time it looks like someone may be executed, I read in the press how people call for the death of those "animals" for their barbaric behavior.

In truth, many of the crimes of those on death row are atrocious. Certainly, they have demonstrated that they should be deprived of their freedom. But even the worst crimes cannot take away the God-given dignity of personhood.

A person's dignity may be covered up or buried under ugly and vile behavior. However, since human dignity is not dependent on the person's own actions, it still exists.

- To deny anyone's dignity opens up the possibility of behaving in the same barbaric way that some of the criminals behaved.
- To deny human dignity ultimately denies Christ's redemptive grace still at work in people.

In truth, for most people the struggle lies not in finding respect for society's major criminals, whom they do not know, but for the personal villains of their lives:

- Family members who exploit one's good will.
- Neighbors who abuse privileges over and over again.
- Work colleagues who undermine others' efforts.

Those are the men and women whose behavior can overshadow their dignity.

Nonetheless, the people who disrupt our peaceful existence are also the ones we are commanded to love and find respect for. Jesus said that there is not much merit in loving those who are nice to us. Even pagans can do that (Matthew 5:43-48).

The true challenge is to see that human dignity still exists even in those who are disagreeable — even in the Georges of our lives. ▼

Father Weber is pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Mansfield, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.

Food for Thought

You may find it very difficult to honor the human dignity of someone you believe is treating you unjustly. The same holds true when you sense that someone is exploiting a person you care a lot about or when you're confronted (victimized?) by someone you are convinced is wrong about an important matter.

The issue is all too real: how to respect human dignity in difficult cases.

The answers aren't easy. But the image of Pope John Paul II visiting and forgiving a man who attempted to kill him may well motivate us to keep searching for answers.

Effective communication is one way to approach many human difficulties. Often a good conversation clears things up between people — especially when problems have resulted from misunderstandings or because two people just don't know each other very well.

But suppose the other person isn't interested in communication or genuinely is unjust toward you. What then?

I'm sure we're not called to condone injustice. But if we can't change someone else, we can work at changing ourselves — how maturely, responsibly, caringly we handle the matter.

Part of the challenge is to recognize the other's dignity while also handling difficult situations well.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

In a nutshell

- Do you find it difficult to recognize some people's human dignity? Try searching for the kinship located beneath the surface of human differences. Try praying for those you find disrespectful.

- Jesus' followers are called to recognize the God-given dignity even of those who disrupt our peaceful existence.

- Catholic teaching emphasizes, over and over, the innate human dignity of each human being.

An approach to disrespect

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

The new teacher's first day at work was proving stressful but exciting. The students were reasonably attentive. A few even seemed interested in the subject. The teacher was buoyantly hopeful when he walked into his last class that day.

Then things went badly. These students were restless, bored. One chewed gum defiantly in the front row and made a big show of spitting it out. Nobody volunteered to read or answer questions.

The last straw came as the teacher gave an assignment. Ignoring him utterly, a girl stood up, peering out the window. The teacher stared in speechless fury. When he finally found words, he asked incredulously what she thought she was doing.

Impatiently, she snapped, "I was trying to see if Rocky was out there yet," and turned her eyes back to the parking lot.

From then on he referred to that class as "the zoo." Even if the rest of his day went well, the last period cast a shadow over it. The students seemed lazy, uncooperative, insolent, argumentative. It boiled down to a profound lack of respect, and it wounded him.

Grace, in the form of a retreat talk, brought the breakthrough.

First, the talk carried a challenge: "If people are disrespectful to you, examine your attitude toward them. Do you respect them, or do you return their ill treatment with more of the same?"

He squirmed in his chair.

Then came a word of hope.

"Try this for a month. Consciously remember that the people making you miserable bear God's image and likeness. Remember that God loves them. Try not to retaliate. Pray for them instead. See what happens."

What happened seemed miraculous.

He wrote a note to himself with the names of two of the most disrespectful youths and read it daily: "Debbie and Fred are God's beloved too."

After a few days the teacher's attitude began to change. He became less eager to draw first blood in this battle of wills. He became a little more patient.

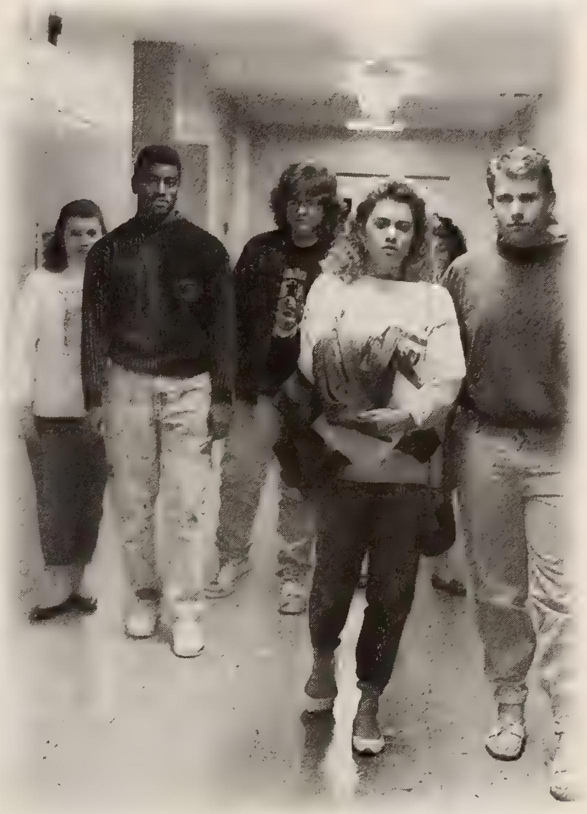
Soon the students began to behave differently. By semester's end, the entire experience of the class was transformed. Students were quieter, more attentive. There was less back talk, and when it happened he reacted more calmly.

Then came Christmas and with it a gift for the teacher: a gallon jug of whiskey with a holiday bow!

Yes, even though a parent made the purchase and supervised the delivery, it was a dubious gift for underage students to give a teacher. Nonetheless, the teacher recognized in that gift a powerful symbol of the change they'd all undergone.

They had begun to discover a kinship beneath the surface of their differences. ▼

Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation, Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas.



CNS photo from Cleo Photography

Dan Luby recalls a high school teacher who was having trouble dealing with unruly students. Then he was challenged while on retreat to rethink his position of woundedness: "If people are disrespectful to you, examine your attitude.... Do you respect them, or do you return their ill treatment?'... He squirmed in his chair."

Faith in the Marketplace

What does it mean to show respect for someone who disagrees with you on matters that are serious?

"Sometimes it's better not to argue. Instead I try to listen to their point of view. I don't have to agree, but to show respect I listen. To argue sometimes makes things worse." — Anna Serrano, New York, N.Y.

"Listen to their point of view, hear out their side and attempt to find a point of compromise if possible." — Mark Wagner, Great Bend, Kan.

"Be open to listening ... and learning how and why they think before we make decisions about or with them concerning the issue between us. It's OK to disagree.... Our differences help us to grow as people and to learn to accept each other." — Rhonda Leneaugh, Mission, S.D.

"Pray for understanding and listen to them well, trying to understand whatever posture they are in. Then respond kindly, speak the truth as you would see it, as clearly as possible, being willing always to entertain the other person's information. Finally, let them be." — Shirley Wanchena, St. Francis, Minn.

An upcoming edition asks:

What is your definition of courage?

What is needed to be courageous?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

A rule to protect human worth at home

By ANDREW and TERRI LYKE
Catholic News Service

Have you seen the TV commercial that, attempting to appeal to typical families, ends with two siblings exchanging insults, respectively blurting "Dweeb!" and "Dork!" at each other?

Name-calling and sibling enmity may be common enough in homes, but they don't represent family life at its best. This sort of labeling denies the God-given dignity of the person under attack.

We have a rule around our house: When angry at someone, call that person by his or her first name — not even a nickname or pet name. It is a discipline that started when we were dating. It is a rule that has garnered good results for us as a couple and for our family.

We know that if this rule is to be followed by our children, it must be adhered to strictly by we the parents. Of course, seldom are we tempted to call each other "dork" or "dweeb." Our name-calling rule has worked well to keep us from attacking that way. But there are times, in anger, that we negatively label each other and our children.

"You're lazy!" "Look at your room. You live like a pig!" "You don't care about anyone but yourself!" In our anger and frustration we have blurted such statements, and we're not proud of it.

However, our name-calling rule keeps such negative labeling to a minimum. And we try to counteract negative labeling with positive labeling. In the heat of the moment we try to look for esteemed qualities of the person.

Then, as we address the problem, those positive qualities help us to reprimand in healthy ways, putting our attention on the behavior without attacking the person. And, following our rule, we purposely invoke that person's given name.

Calling each other by our given names reminds us of something important about each of us. There is a story behind each of our given names. When we were given our names, it was in love and with great hope and expectation for our futures.

Our son, Marty, the more rambunctious of our two children, often has us leaning on this family rule. His name is Martin Perry Lyke. His first name was given in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., St. Martin de Porres and two very good friends, Martin Redd and Martin Dumas, both of whom are men who stand for Christ and who with their wives have been companions with us on our faith journey as married partners.

Marty's middle name was given in honor of Terri's father, Perry Howard, a kind, gentle man and a model of fatherhood for us. When Marty's antics have gotten on our last nerve, invoking his given name reminds us of the great men after whom he was named, and the faith, hope and love in which his names were given. Then we deal with his antics from a better perspective.

The love that poured over each of us when we were given our names was pure and unconditional, not unlike the love of God. In the heat of anger, remembering to call out the given name instead of a negative label, sets us straight about who we're angry with: a child of God, a holy creation born with inalienable dignity and always deserving respect.

When we hear our children lash out at each other with insults, we remind them of the rule. In doing so, we focus on their inherited dignity as children of God. ▼

The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry to the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

All contents copyright 1998, Catholic News service

FAITH alive!

Book Review

"Brave New Worlds"

By Bryan Appleyard. Viking Penguin (New York, 1998). 198 pp., $23.95.

REVIEWED BY JESUIT FATHER
CHARLES L. CURRIE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Aldous Huxley's 1932 novel, "Brave New World," described a nightmarish, utopian century. British journalist Brian Appleyard borrows that title to tell a tale not of fiction, but of a very real unfolding story of the application of genetics and molecular biology today. The author challenges the reader to a fresh awareness of what is going on, lest we sleep our way into a brave new genetic world.

It may take another 50-100 years to see how much our understanding of DNA can transform the world, but the use of this molecule is likely to leave nothing, including ourselves, unchanged. We are confronted with the most fundamental questions, not just how we are going to live, but who we are going to be.

The author recounts the usual cast of characters in the drama of genetics today, for example, the Human Genome Project and the challenge of what we will do with the information it generates; genetic testing and counseling, with the heart-wrenching options with which they deal; gene therapy for which the theory but not the practice is impeccable; transgenic plants and animals; and the complex policy implications of genetic advances.

If the prospects, issues and questions on the genetic frontier are not sufficient to get our attention, Appleyard compares DNA to the nuclear bomb. Just as the bomb created the image and the possibility of global catastrophe, today the mushroom cloud is replaced by the double helix.

Such concerns and anxieties resulted, in the late '60s and early '70s, in a number of ethical initiatives designed to study the impact of the new biology. But that caution has largely dissipated. The average citizen does not feel queasy about new genetic breakthroughs today, although the cloning that led to the sheep Dolly and recent boasts about human cloning have raised new ethical concerns.

Appleyard feels that reservations from within and without the religious establishment tend to be overwhelmed by the persuasive promise of genetic science and technology. Many people want to draw lines, but are uncertain how and where to draw them. Ethics is often replaced by a balancing of political forces.

The author also reminds us of negative consequences of previous attempts with eugenics, all supposedly directed toward preserving the human race. The American eugenics movement in the '20s and '30s led to more than 20 states passing compulsory sterilization laws, and to severe restrictions on immigration, suggesting that to preserve the human race, we had to become worse people. Huxley's "Brave New World" of the 25th century was a society in which a program of total eugenics, carried with the most humane of motives, had finally triumphed. The price was a loss of freedom and humanity. But the most important book of the eugenics movement was "Mein Kampf," in which biology is used to justify mass murder. Hitler's "final solution," was the extermination of the "genetically inferior" Jews.

Appleyard argues that molecular biology has made eugenics respectable again with new promises to overcome the suffering caused by disease and abnormalities. He points out that genetic information often leads to abortion, a kind of privatized eugenics and a unique medical treatment in that it helps everybody except the patient.

The author argues strongly against genocentrism, which puts the gene at the center of all things. He disagrees with the reductionism of Crick, Watson, E.O. Wilson, Gould, Dawkins and Dennett, while quoting approvingly from Francis Collins, the director of Human Genome Project, who can comfortably relate genetics with his strong Christian faith. ▼

Father Currie is a chemist and currently serves as the president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Word to Life

September 27, Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146:7-10
2) 1 Timothy 6:11-16
3) Luke 16:19-31

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER

Some years ago as I was driving in the car and listening to audio tapes, I heard a quote from Dorothy Day that seared itself into my brain and spirit. I think I remember it pretty much verbatim: "The Gospel has taken away from Christians the right forever to distinguish between the deserving and the undeserving poor."

That statement forced me to look at my own attitudes toward the poor, to face my prejudices, my preconceptions, and to look at how I respond to the poor I meet. It has not been a comfortable or easy process.

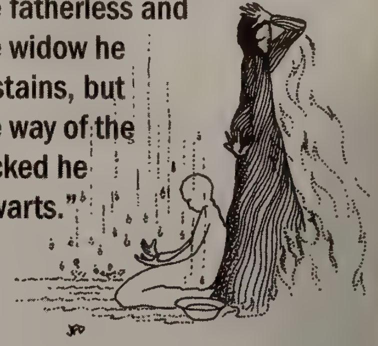
As I was reflecting on the parable that Jesus tells the Pharisees in today's Gospel, I found myself for the first time ever asking some very different questions about Lazarus, questions that Dorothy Day says we have no right to ask, but that surfaced anyway. Who was this Lazarus?

Clearly the reader's sympathy is with him and so is God's. But does he merit our sympathy? Was he a deserving poor man, or was he some shiftless good-for-nothing? All we know is that he was a beggar, that he lay at the gate of the rich man's house longing for some table scraps, that the dogs came to lick his sores, and that he eventually died. Not much else.

Because our sympathy is with him, we assume that he was a good man who, through no faulty of his own, was down on his luck. But what if that isn't so? What if he was lazy, didn't want to work, lost the jobs that he got and took such poor care of himself that he developed skin sores and let them fester? Maybe his friends and neighbors had tried their best to help him, but he refused to help himself and eventually they too gave up on him.

That could have been the scenario, the Gospel narrative does not preclude it. But even if it was, even if Lazarus was lazy and shiftless, the parable and its teachings stand firm. Jesus gives us no background on Lazarus, and that may well be intentional. What he tells us, and what Dorothy Day understood so clearly, is that our imperative to help the poor (and it is no less than that) does not depend on whether the poor are deserving or not. Our response should be, "Just do it!" ▼

"The Lord protects strangers; the fatherless and the widow he sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts."



Questions:

What criteria do you use when deciding whether or not to help a poor person? Do you find it difficult to aid the "undeserving" poor? Why?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 27 — Oct. 3, 1998

Sunday, Amos 6:1,4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday,** Job 1:6-22, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday,** Deuteronomy 7:9-10,13-14, John 1:47-51; **Wednesday,** Job 9:1-12,14-16, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday,** Job 19:21-27, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday,** Job 38:1,12-21;40:3-5, Matthew 18:1-5,10; **Saturday,** Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-16; Luke 10:17-24

Joseph P. O'Rourke
Certified Public Accountant
4921 Albemarle Road, Suite 116
Charlotte, NC 28205

Tax consultation, planning and preparation
for individuals and small businesses.
Accounting services available.

704-568-7886

A Piece Of
Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Quality
Personal
Care.

For half a century,
Maryfield Nursing Home
has provided outstanding
nursing care in a Catholic
environment. When you
need more care than is
available at your home,
come visit us. We invite
you to discover for
yourself our many
stimulating daily activities
and services which make
Maryfield the best
possible choice for
long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

TV Review

New documentary is solemn, chronological account of polio virus

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How a dreaded disease gripped parents for decades is recalled in "A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America," airing Monday, Oct. 5, 9-10:30 p.m. EDT on PBS.

Written and directed by Nina Gilden Seavey, the documentary is a solemn, chronological account of how the virus poliomyelitis was finally tamed by the Salk vaccine in the mid-1950s.

Although around for centuries, polio first terrified Americans in the summer of 1916 when an outbreak of infantile paralysis in New York City had thousands fleeing; outsiders were quick to blame the unsanitary conditions in immigrant slum neighborhoods.

But that theory died in 1921 when 39-year-old Franklin Delano Roosevelt contracted the disease in coastal Maine. His misfortune actually advanced the cause of treating victims as he established a rehabilitative thermal spa in Warm Springs, Ga., and named his law partner, Basil O'Connor, to head a national foundation that resulted in the March of Dimes, the biggest fund-raising charity in history.

In 1935 a promising vaccine only exacerbated public fear when a dozen inoculated children contracted polio and half of them died.

"A Paralyzing Fear: The Story of Polio in America," airing Monday, Oct. 5, 9-10:30 p.m. EDT on PBS.

Survivors from that period are interviewed and relate how they were confined, often in iron lungs, to contagion wards, with parents only allowed to speak to them from the other side of a nearly closed window. Another recalls how if a child died, few neighbors even attended the funeral, so gripped by fear that family members might be harboring the crippling killer.

The meager treatments were improved with the arrival of Australian nurse Sister Elizabeth Kenny in 1940, who promoted moist heat applications and repetitive exercise as research on a safe vaccine continued.

As polio statistics soared, the grassroots efforts of housewives across the land showed tremendous solidarity and in 1949 with their help the March of Dimes raised $30 million.

Finally, Dr. Jonas Salk's vaccine was tested on nearly 2 million children in 1954 and was found to be safe and almost 90 percent effective by the following spring.

Meanwhile, a bitter rival, Dr. Albert Sabin, was developing an oral vaccine that, after being tested in the Soviet Union, was approved by the American Medical Association for use here in 1961. The scourge of polio was vanquished, but the documentary ends on the cautionary note that it is still decimating the Third World.

The documentary ironically contrasts how initially fear of contracting polio turned neighbor against neighbor, but eventually that same fear united worried parents across America to raise the money necessary to find a way to stop its spread. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Pro-Life Corner

A lie will go around the world and back while the **truth** *is still pulling on its boots.*

Proverb, often attributed to C.H. Spurgeon (British preacher)

CNS photo from Universal Studios

"One True Thing"

Renee Zellweger, right, stars as Ellen Gulden, who moves back home with her parents, Kate, played by Meryl Streep, left, and William Hurt, and soon discovers they are not who she thinks they are in "One True Thing." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Movie Review Line 1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

TV programs of note

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Sept. 27:

Monday, Sept. 28, 8-11 p.m. EDT (PBS)
"Samson et Dalila"

Season premiere of "The Metropolitan Opera Presents" featuring Camille Saint-Saens' opera about the biblical strongman with Placido Domingo and Olga Borodina in the title roles.

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 9-10:30 p.m. EDT (PBS)
"Ambush in Mogadishu"

A "Frontline" documentary investigating the aftermath of the failed raid by the U.S. Army to capture Somali warlord General Aidid in 1993.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 9-11 p.m. EDT (PBS)
"Touching Evil"

Season premiere of "Mystery" offers part one of a five-part tale of a child serial murderer investigated by a special FBI-like branch of the London police.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 9-11 p.m. EDT (CBS)
"About Sarah"

Drama about a mentally retarded mother (Mary Steenburgen) whose daughter (Kellie Martin) encourages her to become more independent, leading to unexpected revelations about family secrets.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

ModularCorp

Specialists in ***Custom Modular Buildings*** *to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Every

Act Of Mercy

Is Backed By The

Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

Charlotte Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient/Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System
In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org

Disappointment at partial-birth vote, but fight to continue

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and pro-life leaders mourned the Senate's failure to override a presidential veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act Sept. 18, but some said the vote could play a critical role in the November elections and beyond.

"If three new pro-life senators are elected in November, this bill will become law next year, despite the opposition of Bill Clinton and Al Gore," said Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee.

The 64-36 vote in the Senate was three short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto. The House had overridden the veto in July by a 296-132 vote.

The legislation vetoed by Clinton would have banned a procedure used in late-term abortions in which the unborn child is partially delivered, feet first, before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of the infant's head. The child's brain is then removed by suction, allowing for easier delivery of the collapsed head.

Virgil C. Dechant, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said it was "incomprehensible that 36 of the nation's top legislators could summon neither the wisdom nor the courage to defend the lives of infants who are killed when almost fully born."

"This vote negates the right to life embedded in our Constitution, and its outcome will cast a pall of shame over our land," he added. "I thank those 64 senators who voted to override, and assure them that their vote will both inspire and challenge us to keep working for life, and for the eradication of this horrible procedure in the future."

CNS photo by Marty Lueders

At a Capitol press conference following the Sept. 18 failed vote to override President Clinton's veto of a bill outlawing partial-birth abortion, Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., was joined by Catholic musician Tony Melendez, left, Kay Coles James of Regent University and Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, right.

D. Michael McCarron, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, expressed disappointment with the vote but said, "we will not be discouraged."

"The truth about this procedure, the reality of what takes place, is stronger than the intransigence of politicians who cling to false reasons in upholding the killing of almost fully born infants," McCarron said. "No matter how it is camouflaged, this act cannot be justified."

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, also said he was "disappointed and disturbed" at the vote, calling it "a national tragedy that it remains legal to kill infants who are almost fully born."

But he thanked "those millions of pro-life Americans" who worked for a ban on partial-birth abortions. "With your continued work, I am confident that this procedure will be banned in the near future," he said. "As for the Catholic bishops, we will continue our efforts until this work has been accomplished."

Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis also expressed "profound disappointment" at the vote but added, "Our faith does not allow us to indulge ourselves in discouragement over yet another setback in this effort. We know that ultimately truth will prevail and that life will be victorious.

"When the American people cast their ballots in November, it is my hope that they will press this issue by supporting those candidates who are unambiguously pro-life," he added.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago called it "disheartening and disgraceful" that 36 senators — including both Illinois senators — had voted to sustain Clinton's veto.

"His veto and their votes sustaining it make them party to a consistent pattern of deception around our public discussion of partial-birth abortion," he said.

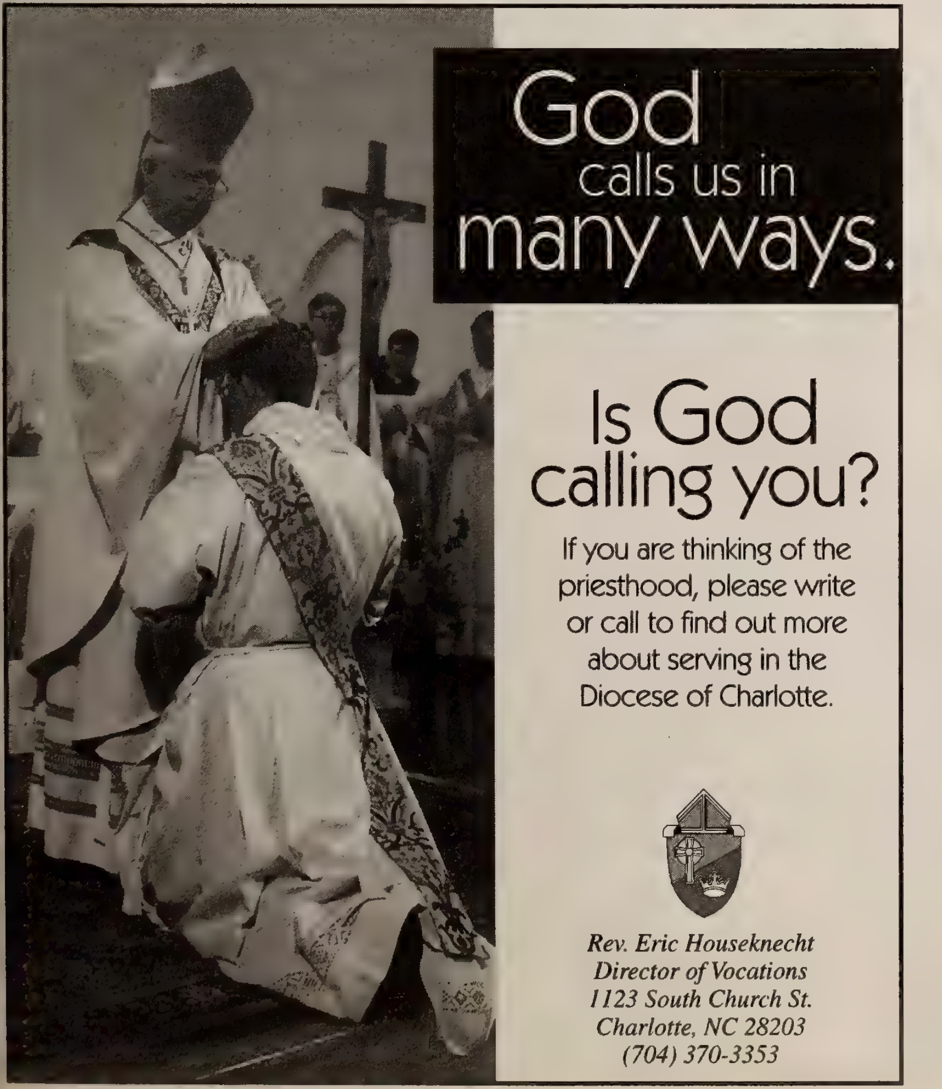
Saying that partial-birth abortions "cross a line which protects us from barbarism," the cardinal added, "The history of this century should have taught us that well-educated people, professionals and citizens of cultured nations on every continent, are capable of barbarism."

Bishop Kenneth A. Angell of Burlington, Vt., called the Sept. 18 vote "another sad episode in our nation's failure to shake off its self-serving denial and disrespect for human life."

"I exhort you, my disappointed friends, not to give up hope in this cultural battle between light and darkness," he said. "We must continue to fight the good fight, armed in prayer and peace."

Father Frank Pavone, president of Priests for Life, reminded Catholic senators of the U.S. bishops' 1989 declaration that "no Catholic can responsibly take a 'pro-choice' stand when the 'choice' in question involves the taking of innocent human life."

Of the 36 senators voting to sustain the veto, 10 were Catholic. ▼


God
calls us in
many ways.

Is God
calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Share your day and lunch with friends

Surrounded by God's beauty at the
Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

Directed by Fr. Anthony Marcaccio
Closing Mass with Fr. Mo West
Wednesday, October 14, 10:30-3:30
(Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m.)

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $10 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ______________________ **Phone** ______________
Address ______________________________________
City ______________________ **Parish** ______________

$10 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: October 5
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE, N.C. CATHOLIC

Eighty-year-old newlyweds

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. — Sophie and Charlie Dupont are getting a second chance at love, not that their first chances weren't successful. Sophie was married 58 years to first husband Ernest; Charlie was married 47 years to Valerie. Their spouses died within three days of each other in July 1997.

Both 80 years old, the two were married by Father James F. Butler this August after meeting in May as volunteers for vacation Bible school at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Southern Pines, N.C.

Asked what it is like to fall in love again, Sophie Dupont said, "It's wonderful. We went on a cruise right after we got married and we had a wonderful time."

"I found out you can have a second love in a lifetime," said Charlie.

Charlie and Sophie Dupont acknowledge a three-month courtship is rare, but they joke that they need all the time they can get.

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte

#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast

#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen

6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC

(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336

"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Conferences to find pulse of Spirit in today's world

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Office of Evangelization has announced two conferences aimed at finding the pulse of the Holy Spirit as the world prepares for the new millennium.

A general audience is invited to attend a variety of presentations and workshops Oct. 23-25 at the Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel in Charlotte. Scheduled seminars will focus on the Holy Spirit's role in the Jubilee Year 2000, spirituality, culture, liturgy, and other areas. Detailed brochures will be available soon from the Office of Evangelization. Cost is $85, which includes a $10 registration fee.

An in-service education conference has also been scheduled for directors and coordinators of religious education, youth and campus ministers, religion teachers and others in professional ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte. The meeting is Oct. 23 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Workshops include discussions on the church's vision of the millennium, ministers of the Gospel, spirituality in the context of liturgy and the sacraments, the church as community, professional ministry and the sacrament of confirmation.

The cost is $10, and lunch can be purchased for $5.

The conferences are sponsored by the Office of Evangelization of the Diocese of Charlotte and the Spiritans (Congregation of the Holy Ghost). To register or receive more information, write to the Office of Evangelization, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003. Registration deadline for both conferences is Oct. 5. ▼

In brief...

UNCC senior awarded memorial scholarship

Arica Gough

CHARLOTTE — Arica Gough, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and member of the school's Catholic campus ministry, received the Kim Piccolo Endowed Scholarship after a campus ministry Mass Sept. 1. The $520 scholarship honors the life of Kim Piccolo, a devoted UNCC student and campus ministry member who died in 1989. Gough is a finance and marketing major, and a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The scholarship is the first established by the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte. Send tax-deductible contributions to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003. Please designate the Kim Piccolo Scholarship Fund in the memo.

Parish program focuses on family

ASHEVILLE — St. Eugene Church hosted a two-day family retreat late last month at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly center in Black Mountain, providing a variety of opportunities for adults and children to discuss and practice family prayer, spirituality and community building. The retreat was the first gathering of the parish's family retreat program. Father Frank Cancro, pastor, was the featured presenter. "I have wanted to begin this special ministry to families for some time," he said. "In a parish that has made a commitment to being family, it is important for us to nurture the family as a building block."

To All Churches:

Good day to you from MUSIC & ELECTRONICS, INC. here in Mooresville. We are really excited about our TOTAL SYSTEM SURVEY SERVICE that we are now offering area churches. There is no charge for this in-depth analysis of your instruments, sound system, chimes and other needs...and there is no obligation.

Having had over 30 years experience serving the musical needs of the church community, we know this service will benefit every church. Simply call our toll-free number below.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis, President

Music & Electronics, Inc.

1-800-331-0768

Christ caring for people through people

Stephen Ministry program helps those in need

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

ASHEVILLE — Margaret Cagle knows what it's like to deal with grief.

The St. Eugene parishioner and mother of five has experienced several crises in her life, including the loss of a spouse and struggling as a single parent.

Cagle turned to her faith and others to assist her through life's struggles. "My children are grown now, they are wonderful individuals, ...and it took the care of my family and friends and certainly the grace of God (to get where I am now)," she said, "because I didn't go anywhere for any kind of teaching or counseling. I did it a day at a time."

With her feet firmly planted, Cagle now is giving something back to help others in need. She is one of 14 parishioners at St. Eugene volunteering as a Stephen minister.

In the ministry that combines psychology with Christian morality, trained lay people offer a listening ear to help others through the tough times in life. Stephen ministers are not counselors or therapists, but individuals who provide Christ's care to those in need, particularly people in crisis.

"It could be any one of many things — a person getting divorced in a family, a separation, problems with a teen-ager, the loss of a family member, a spouse dying...," explained Jerry Bergeron, St. Eugene pastoral associate for family and community life, who helped bring the program to the parish.

Bergeron and fellow parishioners Bea Lamb and Jack Monahan attended an intensive, 10-day program at Loyola College in Baltimore, Md., last summer to become Stephen Ministry group leaders. They train and supervise the ministry at the parish. Thus far, nine women and five men have been commissioned to be Stephen ministers at St. Eugene.

Training consists of 50 hours of comprehensive instruction plus bimonthly meetings for peer supervision and continuing education. Because of the nature of the work and the amount of instruction, ministers are asked to give a minimum of two years of commitment of service. They are taught confidentiality, listening skills and approach. In the one-on-one caregiving, same-sex advocating is required.

Once they are assigned a person, ministers will visit once a week for at least an hour. "The whole idea is to go in and be a Christian who really cares about their situation, and give people the opportunity to talk about whatever is on their mind relating to that particular crisis in their life, and to help them move through the process," Bergeron said.

"Those that are trained become an extension of the pastoral ministry within the church," he continued. "They take a case and follow it through to the point of completion, closure."

"Our role is to be there for the other person, but we don't have to give all the answers," Cagle added. "We're the caregivers; God is the cure-giver."

> "Our role is to be there for the other person, but we don't have to give all the answers," Cagle added. "We're the caregivers; God is the cure-giver."

The non-denominational program began with a Protestant church in St. Louis 22 years ago and has spread to thousands of congregations of more than 75 denominations throughout the world.

"They (the people we minister to) do not have to be a member of our parish, and they do not have to be Catholic to have a minister assigned to them," Bergeron noted.

Like Cagle, Bea Lamb was eager to become a part of the program. "I had been connected with Stephen Ministry through the very first friend I made in Asheville. She was a minister who asked me to help her with a young mother who had lost her husband and had children. My friend thought since I was a widow, I could help support her," Lamb said.

Now Lamb is helping train others to cope with grief and crisis. "When Jerry (Bergeron) came along with the offer to help (last year), it was like God tapping me on the shoulder and saying, 'I gave you a sample of this. You can do this,'" she said.

"This is not just a ministry. This is a calling," Lamb added.

Father Frank Cancro, St. Eugene pastor, sees the program as an extension of the pastor's ministry as well as a way for individuals in the church to participate in their baptismal promises. "It (the program) gives people the opportunity for training so that in reaching out to others they have some good handles that come from their experience as believers," he said, "and good handles that also come from the kind of training that supports them with what's necessary to meet people with grief, or in crisis, or in the other circumstances of everyday life where the church needs to be present."

Like in other ministries, Stephen ministers have come together to form a small community within the larger church community, Bergeron said. "It's bringing people together and getting them to do hands-on service in the church," he added. "It provides the opportunity to go in-depth and grow closer to God and Christ."

For Cagle, the program is a chance to repay others for the gifts she has received in her life, although she admits she entered the ministry with reservations. "At first, I kept thinking, I'm not capable of doing this. I'm a survivor. I have no expertise to help anybody else. And the more they talked about the program, the more I thought with training I could (do this).

"Now and again, I would chicken out, and say I'm not going to do this, I wouldn't be good at it. But God kept tapping me on the shoulder and would not leave me alone, and I kept saying, 'I have to try it. If I don't I'll be sorry forever.' So that's when I made the phone call, and I have never regretted it," she said. ▼

For more information on the Stephen Ministry program, call the national office at (314) 645-5511. For more information on the St. Eugene program, call Jerry Bergeron at (828) 254-5193.

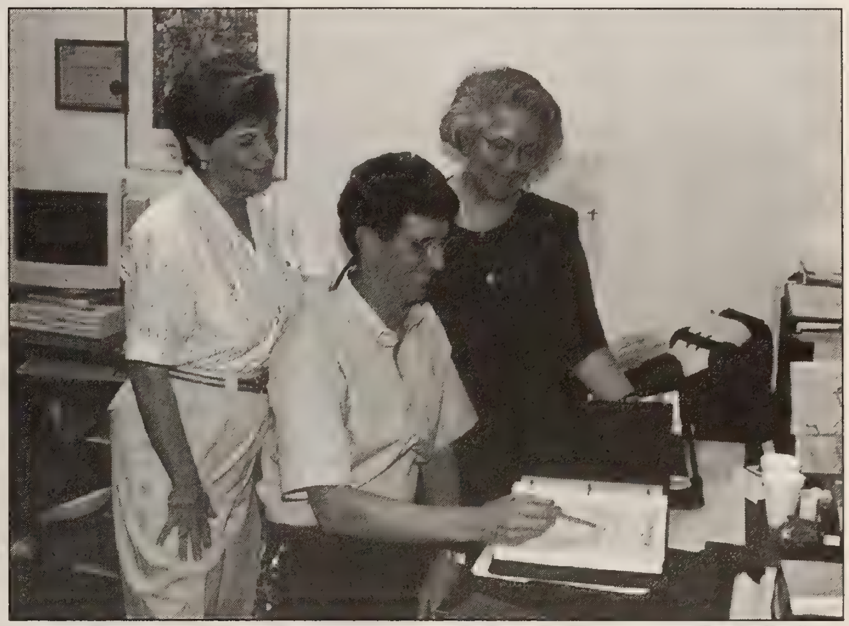


Photo by Mike Krokos

Margaret Cagle, Jerry Bergeron, and Bea Lamb review the Stephen's Ministry manual. St. Eugene Church in Asheville recently commissioned 14 parishioners as Stephen ministers. Ministers are not counselors or therapists, but individuals who provide Christ's care to those in need, particularly people in crisis.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Maid in Heaven: House cleaners needed. $12 an hour. Weekdays Flexible schedules. Charlotte area. Approximately 15 hours per week. Call (704) 643-5545.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morgantown/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Organist/Pianist: St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Two choir rehearsals and Masses per week; rotate Saturday evenings with director. Eligible for lay retirement plan; budget for conferences and materials. Additional income from weddings. Position begins immediately. Send resume and salary history to Brett Ballard. Director of Music Ministry at the above address. Phone: (704) 664-3992.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com

RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Bilingual (Vietnamese-English) Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating refugee services; transporting clients. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English; also prefer Rhade and/or Koho. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Donation Coordinator Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include scheduling donations, agency vehicle and inventory maintenance. Some heavy lifting required. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license, good driving record and ability to drive standard 5-speed vehicle required. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Part-time Nanny: Three days a week. Must have own transportation. Call (704) 814-0377.

Mortgage Loan Officers: 1st Choice Mortgage Corporation. Experienced loan originators - openings in Conover, Mooresville, Salisbury, Shelby, Charlotte. Fax resume to Gerald or Sandy at (704) 543-9809.

Guidance Counselor: Charlotte Catholic High School needs Guidance Counselor beginning January 1999. Must have NC School Counselor Certification and experience with the college admissions process. For an application, please call (704) 543-1127.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

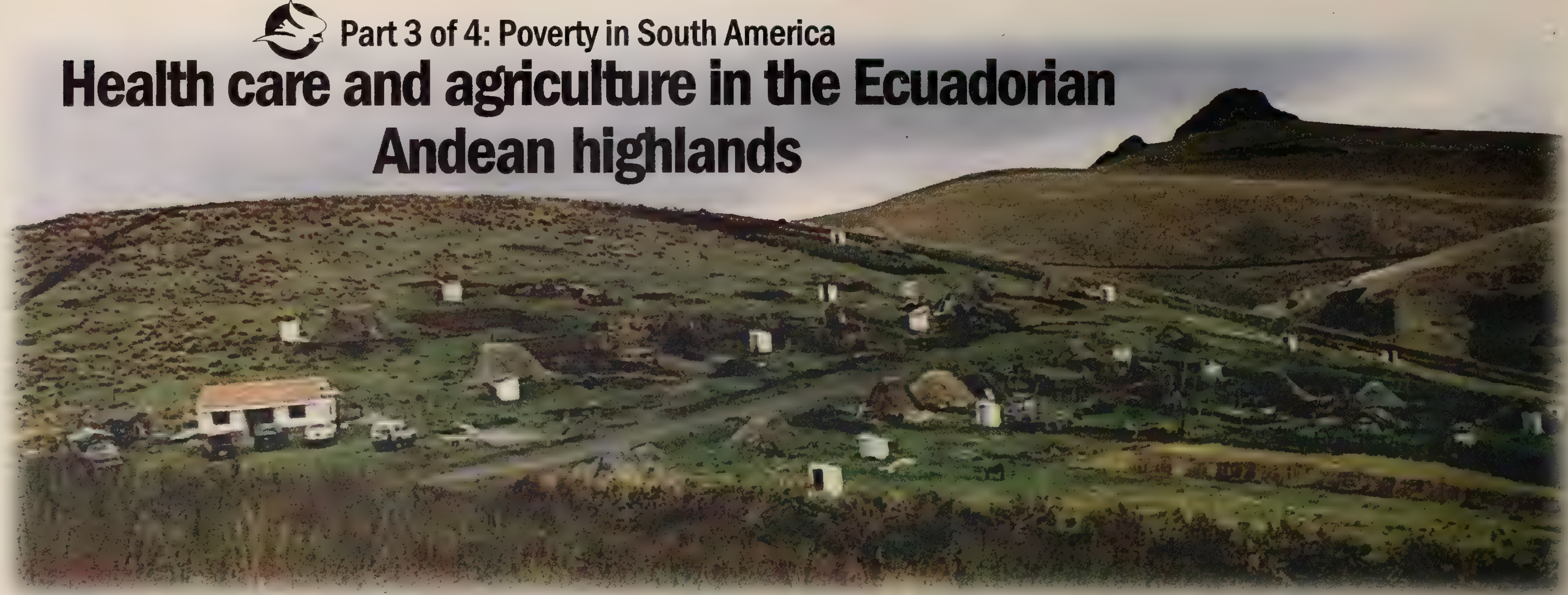
Beach Condo: Rent 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath oceanside condo at Myrtle Beach. Available during October. Call (336) 924-2842.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. — R.F.
Thank you to St. Jude. — J.B.

Part 3 of 4: Poverty in South America

Health care and agriculture in the Ecuadorian Andean highlands



Editor's Note: In June, Joanne Kennedy Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Charlotte, was one of four U.S. directors who accompanied two national Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff members to visit CRS sites in Ecuador and Peru. Lenten Operation Rice Bowl donations fund CRS programs.

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
JUSTICE AND PEACE

We left Quito early one Monday morning for a five-hour drive in our four-wheel vehicles to the base of the Chimborazo volcano in the Andean highlands. After leaving the highway near the city of Riobamba, we turned toward the distant mountains, traveling on what our driver kept assuring us were roads, past mud huts with grass roofs. We were on our way to visit a combined community agriculture and health project in what we had learned was not only one of the poorest areas in Ecuador, but also ranks among the poorest in the entire world.

As soon as we were welcomed with kisses and handshakes, we were given "canelosa" (a hot drink of cinnamon, sugar, water and mountain brew) to ward off symptoms that could be brought on by the 14,000-foot altitude. It was a very windy cold. "¿Es muy frio, no?" our hosts kept repeating. We agreed, "¡Si, es muy, muy frio!" Ten of us were seated at the table on two benches, the only furniture in the small concrete dwelling. We had to speak loudly to be heard above the gusts blowing against the four small windows.

Before we could begin any discussion, we were served a meal — "una banqueta," really: "havas," a sort of large lima bean; a chewy, unsweet, hominy-type of corn on the cob; a broth with a variety of chicken parts including claws; a delectable, freshly made, soft white cheese; boiled potatoes; and roasted whole "cuy" (for the uninitiated, that's guinea pig complete with head and teeth!). We asked our hosts to join us at table, but we knew they would not; we had already learned that their ritual of hospitality precluded eating with "honored" guests. Each of us expressed our discomfort to the CRS staff that we were literally eating enough food to feed our host community for days. They assured us that if we refused to eat anything we were offered, it would be an insult of the highest order. They also said that any food we left would be eaten by the community.

As we ate, 25-year-old Dr. Maria Semper explained why she and her team work in this area: One in four children die before reaching the age of five; 100 percent of the kids tested have at least one parasite; 90 percent of women who are seen have a severe inflammation of the uterus; and many people suffer from diarrhea, malnutrition and respiratory disease. These are all treatable conditions, and Dr. Semper said they are making significant inroads because the people have learned to trust her and her team. Later she was clearly pleased as she gave us a tour of her two-room clinic, sparsely equipped with one examining table, a chair, a desk, and a medicine cabinet.

We asked what the biggest health problem is. "Malnourishment," she responded. We were appalled at one of the reasons: "Because the people sell their produce and buy junk food. They are attracted to that lifestyle." Because of the population's general lack of knowledge about the importance of good nutrition, a health educator now assists Dr. Semper in her work.

Later that afternoon, we went to a sloping hill in rural Mesarumi where we witnessed an amazing sight. Over 500 men, along with women and teens, many of whom had babies strapped to their backs, were digging with shovels and picks an irrigation ditch that stretched as far as we could see — 63 feet long, 4 feet deep and 2 feet wide. CRS had given engineering technical assistance and leadership training to four highland peasant communities who now collaborate in bringing water to the crops of 280 families. ▼

PHOTOS BY JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

Over 500 men,women and teens dig an irrigation ditch in rural Mesarumi, Ecuador.

Looking for a work ethic?

pro labor power
(704) 566-9088

We place *all* nationalities.
Need general laborers with a work ethic? We place them.
Need professionals with a second language skill? We place them.
Temp, temp-perm, direct — We do it!
Competitors identify the culture of their client.
We also promote the culture of the applicant.

Bob Janda, Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

F282
C362

****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S298 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 2, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 5

Inside

Blessed Edith Stein
Pope will declare her sainthood in mid-October

...PAGE 3

Hurricane relief efforts after Georges

...PAGE 13

Local News

Teacher honored in Winston-Salem

...PAGE 14

Campus ministers, interns nurture college students

...PAGE 15

Flannery O'Connor play on stage in Mocksville

...PAGE 12

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

The papal anniversary

...PAGES 8-9

20 Years

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Sister Lisa Atkins shares a sign of peace with Sister Mary Loreto Brown. Sister Lisa professed her perpetual vows in the institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina.

Responding with mercy

Sisters join in celebration of perpetual vows

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Lisa Atkins clearly recalls first hearing of Jesus. Young Lisa was six and the story was told by a Franciscan Sister, her first-grade teacher. Unbeknownst at the time, this educator would be the first of many women religious to shape the faith journey of Lisa Èlaine Atkins.

Over the next 24 years, Lisa's life would take many turns, but always seemed to veer back under the reigns of a calling it took years to fully understand.

On Sept. 26, Lisa reached a milestone on her pilgrimage of faith with the profession of her final vows as a woman religious. Standing before her sisters in faith, family and friends, she stepped forward. Sister Lisa Atkins, RSM, emerged with acceptance into full membership of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Journey of faith

The product of a Catholic grade-school education in New Jersey, Lisa adapted to her family move to High Point and a switch to public high school. Active in her parish of Christ the King, she volunteered at Maryfield Nursing Home and was befriended by the Poor Servants of The Mother of God Sisters.

Lisa was embracing all that life had to offer, and was loving every minute. She tolerated high school. Suffice to say, she was not a honor roll student. She spent summers tending the lawn and gardens of Maryfield.

The sisters sensed Lisa had a vocation; Lisa dismissed the notion. The sisters in High Point introduced Lisa to Mercy Sister Mary Loreto Brown, who was visiting a relative in residence at the High Point nursing center.

"The meeting was providential," recalls Lisa. "Sister Loreto opened a window for me that I didn't even know was there." Sister Loreto talked to Lisa about Sacred Heart College, encouraging her to consider the liberal arts college in Belmont. Lisa listened, though she was predisposed, refuting a structured college environment.

Of specific concern to Lisa were her grades, or complete lack thereof. Sister Loreto explained the mission of their college. "'It's not just academics, it's about helping to develop your relationship with God and being a caring person in the world.'"

Faithful friends

"'Come and see,'" beckoned Sister Loreto. Lisa accepted the invitation. Lisa flourished at Sacred Heart. When the college closed its doors in 1987, she transferred to nearby Belmont Abbey. She graduated in 1990 with a degree in psychology. Lisa took a job working in a parish. Her ties to Mercy friends grew stronger.

"God has always been very important in my life," says Lisa. And she was drawn by the charism of the Mercy Sisters; qualities she calls a welcoming spirit. "It's not by preaching, it's by being real and helping people recog-

SEE MERCY, PAGE 14

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Hard times in Russia

An elderly Russian woman tries to sell candles and matches on the street in central St. Petersburg Sept. 24. Many Russians are struggling to survive without cash during the economic crisis that boosted inflation to 45 percent in the first three weeks of September.

Russia Caritas director says western aid may worsen crisis

MOSCOW (CNS) — Aid from the West might not be the best way to solve Russia's economic crisis, said the director of Caritas Russia, the largest Catholic aid operation in the country. Antonio Santi, an Italian citizen who heads the agency, and others warn that Western aid may do still more damage to the economy and discourage Russians from fixing the problem. Yet another church official noted that because the Russian Catholic Church receives most of its funding from the West, the church's operations have not been devastated by the crisis.

Holy See joins 26 states signing renewed nuclear agreements

VIENNA, Austria (CNS) — The Holy See joined 26 other states in signing renewed agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency to strengthen nuclear safeguards. Twelve states signed separate protocols, and the 15 European Union members signed a collective agreement during the agency's annual meeting in late September at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Each agreement is meant to supplement the 1972 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which limits the use of nuclear technology and outlines systems for verifying that such technology is being employed for peaceful purposes. The new agreements also set guidelines for the transport of nuclear materials.

Vote to close School of Americas fails again

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An annual attempt to cut off funding for the U.S. Army School of the Americas failed again Sept. 17 in a vote on the House floor of 201 to 212. In a late evening vote, the House rejected an amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that would have eliminated much of the funding for the school at Fort Benning, Ga., where the U.S. Army runs a school that trains Latin American military officers. The school is criticized by a growing number of activists, led by Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, for its record of graduates who have been involved in some of Latin America's worst human rights atrocities of the last 30 years.

Challenge to suicide law denied; judge says no legal standing

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A federal judge Sept. 22 nixed the latest court challenge to Oregon's singular law allowing doctor-assisted suicide. Those troubled by legal suicide, including Catholic officials, say the ruling in effect blocks further lawsuits and a hoped-for appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan ruled that opponents who sought to renew a lawsuit against the Oregon law did not have legal standing to do so. In his decision, which expressed frustration, he wrote that he was bound by a 1997 decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lutherans to study next step on joint declaration in November

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Lutheran World Federation has announced that its Executive Committee will try to work out the next Lutheran step on the Catholic-Lutheran "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" when it meets Nov. 13-14. The announcement followed efforts by two top Vatican officials to clarify and reaffirm the Catholic Church's unreserved support for the declaration. Prior to the Executive Committee's deliberations, said LWF General Secretary Ishmael Noko, there are "no plans for a joint confirmation."

Mexican state criticized for honoring persecutor of Catholics

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Church and academic figures criticized the decision by the government of the state of Tabasco to honor the memory of a man who persecuted Catholics in the early part of this century. As a result of efforts by Tabasco Gov. Roberto Madrazo and members of the state congress, Tomas Garrido Canabal has become the 10th person to have his name inscribed in gold on the walls of Tabasco's Congress. From 1919 through 1926, Garrido was governor of Tabasco. He closed all the churches in the state, drove priests into hiding and required his aides to greet him with the words, "God does not exist." Tabasco leaders said their decision Sept. 15 to honor Garrido was for his work in building schools, establishing a minimum wage, supporting voters' rights for women and expanding agriculture.

USCC, other churches seek reversal of abuse lawsuit ruling

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A civil suit award against the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., should be overturned because the ruling was based on the court's interpretation of religious doctrine, according to a brief filed by seven denominations. The case involves a lawsuit claiming the Catholic diocese was legally responsible when Frank Martinelli was sexually abused by a priest, Father Laurence Brett, in the 1960s. A federal district court agreed with a jury that found the diocese liable because church doctrine teaches Catholics to trust priests and other religious institutions. The U.S. Catholic Conference's general counsel's office was joined in the friend-of-the-court brief challenging the ruling by the legal representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, the United Methodist Church, the Christian Science Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Preview of play with gay Christ draws protest

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Corpus Christi," the play by Terrence McNally that presents a variation of the Gospel story in terms of homosexual characters, began preview performances in New York Sept. 22 with 200 people protesting near the theater. The protest was spearheaded by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, an 11-year-old order of the Archdiocese of New York, and several of them were present, wearing their habits. They were joined by a few priests in clerical garb, nuns in habits and lay people.

The Catholic News & Herald

October 2, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 5
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 2 — 7:15 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights
and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

12:10 p.m.
Mass with Homeschool Association of Charlotte

October 3 — 4 p.m.
Mass with Diocesan
Permanent Deacons
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 4-8
Annual Priests' Retreat
Maggie Valley

October 11-21
Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Diocesan planner

October

3 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick School, 1125 Buchanan St., hosts its fall festival and "Pot of Gold '98," including games, food, music and fellowship, today from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds will help fund beautification of school grounds and the math enrichment program.

4 CHARLOTTE — The Third Annual Versatile Harp Concert, featuring harp with flute, violin, a Celtic band, voice, hand bells and more, is today at 3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. There is no admission charge, but a freewill collection will be taken to defray costs. Call Susan Schlie, (704) 364-5526, for more information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., hosts the 45th Semi-Annual Family Rosary Day today at 3 p.m. Included are praying the rosary, hymns and procession. Father Ray Williams, parochial vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, is the featured speaker.

GREENSBORO — Respect Life Sunday is commemorated today with The Eighth Annual Greensboro Life Chain from 2:30-3:30 p.m. along Battleground Avenue. Call (336) 665-0851 or (336) 282-3424 for more information.

HICKORY — A Life Chain is formed today from 2-3 p.m., extending on Highway 70 from Sagebrush restaurant on Robinson Road and Lenior Rhyne College to CVCC. At least 50 congregations are planning participation in this peaceful gathering to pray for the end of abortion. Participants are asked to meet in the T.J. Maxx parking lot at 1:45 p.m. For more information, call Jean Marie Hirsch at (828) 495-4339.

9 CONCORD — A Mass and rosary for home-schoolers in the Concord

Pope to canonize blessed Edith Stein: Auschwitz martyr, Carmelite

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will canonize Blessed Edith Stein in mid-October, declaring sainthood for a woman he considers one of the more complex and inspiring figures of the 20th century.

Born into a Jewish family in Poland in 1891, she became an atheist before converting to Catholicism at age 31. She joined a Carmelite convent 11 years later and died in the Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz in 1942.

The church considers her a martyr for the faith. Over the years, some Jews have protested her sainthood cause, saying that she was arrested and killed because of her Jewish heritage.

But the pope beatified her in 1987, declaring her a "daughter of Israel" and a "daughter of Carmel." In 1997, the church recognized the cure of a U.S. girl as a miracle attributed to Blessed Stein, and the pope was to celebrate a canonization Mass at the Vatican Oct. 11, with thousands of pilgrims in attendance.

For the pope, elevating Blessed Stein to sainthood gives the church a model of faith in action — in normal society and in the dramatic context of wartime suffering.

The canonization holds deep personal significance for the Polish-born pope as well. The pope grew up not far from the Auschwitz death camp, and as a young seminarian he, too, was attracted to the Carmelite order. Like Blessed Stein, he wrote extensively on the Carmelite mystic St. John of the Cross. Both studied philosophy and pondered the connections between reason and faith.

Reflecting on her accomplishments in life in 1995, the pope said Blessed Stein's activities as a philosopher, writer, social activist and contemplative made her a model for women of today. Her works include "The Science of the Cross" and "Life in a Jewish Family."

At that time the pope spoke about the sensitive issue of her conversion to Christianity, saying it was reached after a painful personal search and "did not signify the refusal of her cultural and religious roots." Instead, Christ was helping her to "read the history of her people in a deeper way," he said.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Edith Stein is seen in this photo, sometime after her baptism, as a young teacher in Speyer, Germany. Pope John Paul II is expected to canonize her Oct. 11.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, who coordinates the Vatican's dialogue with Jews, said Sept. 28 that although some Jews were expected to attend the canonization Mass, Blessed Stein's sainthood cause remains a problem for others.

"I think that among many of the Jewish people it's still looked upon as an attempt by us to take over the Holocaust. ... And there's always the feeling among many Jews that someone who takes on another religion to some degree betrays the Jewish religion," he said.

Cardinal Cassidy noted that Blessed Stein was not a practicing Jew at the time of her interest in Christianity. He also suggested that people remember that "she was martyred for her faith in the same God" recognized by Christians and Jews alike.

Edith Stein was born the youngest child in a large Jewish family in what is now Wroclaw, Poland. She received a doctoral degree with honors in philosophy during World War I and later became assistant to Edmund Husserl, the founder of phenomenology, the current of philosophy that the future Pope John Paul wrote about in his doctoral dissertation. She became a well-known professor, lecturer and writer. After years of unbelief, she was baptized in 1922 into the Catholic Church. She taught several years at a teacher's college in Speyer, now in Germany, but was forced to leave teaching in the 1930s by Nazi anti-Semitic legislation.

In 1933, she joined the Carmelite cloister in Cologne, Germany, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Alarmed by the Nazi policies, she requested transfer to a convent in Holland in 1938.

She was arrested there by the Nazis in 1942 and was among 200 Catholics sent to Auschwitz in reprisal for a pastoral letter the Dutch bishops had written criticizing Nazi persecution of Jews. The Germans had ordered the arrest of all priests and religious who were even one-eighth Jewish.

Within a week she and her sister, Rosa, were gassed and cremated at the Auschwitz death camp. The pope has said Blessed Stein faced the prospect of deportation and death with a "heroic" awareness of dying for her people.

One aspect of Blessed Stein's life that the pope has recently highlighted is her work in favor of women and women's rights, in the home and in wider cultural spheres. ▼

---

area is at St. James Church, 251 Union St. N., today at 11 a.m. A potluck meal in the parish center follows. To R.S.V.P. and for directions and other information, call Geri Young at (704) 795-6077.

10 BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina host their annual bazaar today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the gymnasium and dining room of the former Sacred Heart College. Raffles and a variety of all-occasion and holiday gifts and crafts are featured. Proceeds benefit Holy Angels, a center for children and adults with severe mental and physical disabilities; the House of Mercy, a residential home for people in the final stages of AIDS; Catherine's House, a residence for women and women with children who are homeless; and the Well of Mercy, which offers support to persons in need of healing and wholeness. The evening coincides with Belmont Abbey College's homecoming weekend.

CHARLOTTE — A financial seminar for men and women whose spouses have died is from 9-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Daniel J. Taylor, founder of a Charlotte-based financial firm specializing in working with the widowed, facilitates. To register, call Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216, or Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

CHARLOTTE — The Irish Society of Charlotte presents "Comhaltas," a colorful show of traditional Irish music, dance and humor, today at 8 p.m. in the community hall of St. Gabriel Parish, 3016 Providence Rd. Tickets are $15 and can be ordered by calling (704) 543-9664 or by sending checks payable to ISOC to The Irish Society of Charlotte, 9145 Kings Canyon Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28210.

CLEMMONS — A training session for parish implementation of the N.C. bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., for Triad-area parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, businesspersons and all interested. Joanne K. Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. Bring a bag lunch; drinks are provided. There's no fee, but registration is required by calling (704) 370-3231.

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., hosts its annual "hoe-down," with dance, music and food, today after the 5 p.m. Mass. Call (336) 884-5212 for more information.

11 CHARLOTTE — A procession and children's rosary is at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Bring your rosary and a flower to honor Mary. Rosaries will be available for those who don't have one. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Theresa Guild of St. Leo the Great Church hosts a Mass at 9 a.m. today in the church, 335 Springdale Ave., followed by a Communion breakfast at the Hawthorne Inn, 420 High St. Rev. Mr. Dennis O'Madigan, one of the parish's permanent deacons, is the featured speaker. Cost is $10. For reservations, call Moye Lowe at (336) 725-7455 by Oct. 7.

14 CHARLOTTE — A representative from Sharon Luggage gives a packing demonstration at the monthly meeting of the 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church today. Sandwiches, dessert and coffee will be served. The second payment for the Myrtle Beach trip is due at this meeting. For more information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

15 HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Holy Spirit guides Christians to see God's action, says pope

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Holy Spirit guides Christians to see signs of God's presence in human history and to be in solidarity with all people in their joys and sufferings, Pope John Paul II said.

The light of the Holy Spirit helps clarify human problems and gives people the intelligence to find solutions that fully respect the human person, the pope said Sept. 23 at his weekly general audience.

"Only the Holy Spirit, impressing in the hearts of believers the living image of the Son of God made man, can give them the ability to discern history and to see in it signs of the presence and action of God," he said.

Jesus encouraged his disciples to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance in evaluating events and in working for the establishment of God's kingdom, he said.

But Jesus completely overturned "the worldly logic aimed at seeking signs which would confirm a desire for self-affirmation and human power," the pope said. Jesus rejected the "diabolic temptation to use earthly means to realize the coming of the kingdom of God" and instead accepted death on the cross.

Jesus' teaching and example, he said, show Christians that self-emptying love, openness to the Holy Spirit and solidarity with others form the only true path toward the fulfillment God wants for the world and all its inhabitants.

Polish officials say papal visit set for June 1999

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit Poland in June 1999, according to a provisional itinerary announced by members of a church-government planning group. Members of the working group described the unofficial schedule to journalists after the group's second meeting Sept. 19. Poland's Rzeczpospolita daily said the 1999 visit would begin June 5 in the Baltic port of Gdansk, where the Solidarity union movement was launched in August 1980. It was scheduled to end June 13 in the Polish capital, Warsaw.

Papal schedule in St. Louis set

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — A youth rally and a Mass at the Trans World Dome will be the highlights of Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis Jan. 26-27. The official schedule for the one-city papal stop in the United States was released Sept. 25 by the St. Louis Archdiocese. The pope will make the pastoral visit to St. Louis next January following his visit to Mexico to issue his apostolic exhortation reflecting the work of the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

A grieving father's book

Matthew Arnold once wrote, "More and more mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us."

Never have I found those words so vibrantly true as I did this week, reading the poetry of Saul Bennett, a father and a friend. The poems in "New Fields and Other Stones — On a Child's Death" (Archer Books), arise from the crucible of pain Bennett has been immersed in the past four years, ever since his 24-year-old daughter Sara, who had been in perfect health, died suddenly from a brain aneurysm.

Bennett's lines sear you with an Old Testament quiet fury. They capture you with imagery generated from depths of tortured wonder. Ultimately, they astound you for their soul-wrenching honesty.

Sara died the morning of July 14, 1994. I was one of the first to get the tragic news. It was a strange set of circumstances that had set my friendship with Bennett and his wife Joan into motion.

I was the editor of a Connecticut weekly newspaper and Bennett, a former reporter who was then president of a Manhattan public-relations firm, contacted me about a community event he was helping to publicize.

My book, "The Pummeled Heart, Finding Peace Through Pain," had just come out. By the time Bennett and I got together, he had bought a copy and read of the tragic deaths of two of my sons. He and Joan, parents of three, reached out to me with such compassion. We became friends.

That July morning in 1994 I was in Bennett's Manhattan office. He had wanted to introduce me to another mother he knew and respected. When I arrived, Bennett wasn't there. His secretary put me at his desk, and within a few minutes, he was on the phone. "Toni," he said, "Sara died this morning." And he asked, "Is there anything in your faith to help me now?"

My heart broke as the tears fell, for I knew the pain he was racked with. I also knew he was now permanently altered, forever lonely from the loss of a child. I told him it was all too soon for comfort, but that we do eventually find help from those who love us. And at the top of that list would always be his Sara and the Lord, buoying him with love from their other habitat.

Almost immediately after Sara's death, Bennett found himself writing poetry. He never had written a poem before, but now the words came. His daughter Sara was a writer, and I never have doubted that she is the muse inspiring his new literary work.

And his poems are inspired! "New Fields and Other Stones" is poetry written with a sword of sorrow, emanating tortured confusion, yet exploding with love.

How grateful I am to Bennett for exposing his heart. I heard myself uttering as I finished each poem, "He understands!" His words help dispel the awful loneliness that one who has lost a child feels.

Saul Bennett may be a newly minted poet, but he has become the best — creating a vision with his words that does indeed "console us" and "sustain us."

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Worried about the homeless

The rap on the door of Eva's Family Shelter was so timid it almost went unheard. The door opened a crack, just enough to see the rather swollen eye of a young woman standing next to her two sons, one 3 the other 5. She said she had been referred to us by a friend the day after her husband beat her in a drunken rage.

One of our counselors welcomed her immediately. "Come in, there's room for all of you inside," she said. She took them to a comfortable room with bunk beds and said: "You can stay here until you get back on your feet. Now let's get some milk and chocolate-chip cookies, and I'll get you settled for the night."

As executive director of Eva's Village, I can tell you many stories of women and children who come to us in need. The stereotypes you hear about the poor are often unfair and unkind. Very few of them are welfare cheats or freeloaders. They do not want to be in this terrible situation, but have found themselves powerless to change it.

Like many women and children before them who came to us because of poverty, abandonment or violent battering, this woman, whom I will call Pam, found a safe haven with us. Apart from the family shelter, we also have separate emergency shelters for men and women, two drug and alcohol treatment centers, one for men and one for women, and a medical clinic serving the poor who come in off the street. It is also our privilege to feed three meals a day to approximately 150 people, staff and clients living in-house.

In addition Eva's Kitchen feeds 250 to 300 meals a day to those who come each day for a free meal. Eva's was named after Sister Eva, our first cook.

Why am I telling you all this? Frankly because I am worried about the future.

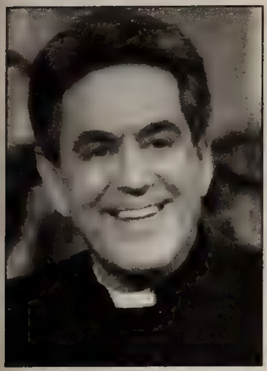
The headlines in our local paper, The Herald News, on June 17, 1998, read as follows, "Welfare Reforms May Leave 500 Homeless — Welfare Rent Subsidies to Expire July 1st, 1998." It is now September, and an emergency extension of the deadline saved the day for a limited number, but the crisis is upon us, not only here in Paterson, N.J., but all over the nation.

Welfare recipients are in jeopardy of losing their federal rental assistance, and many good people will eventually find themselves homeless. That means they will be out in the street with all their property in a pile.

Many of them will join the ranks of the hidden homeless by moving in with a relative in overcrowded conditions. The rest will be exposed to the elements.

I don't know what we're going to do as a nation to help the growing number of homeless families in crisis. Here at Eva's we are doubling our capacity at the family shelter, but this expensive effort will take a year to complete and will only be a drop in the bucket.

Please pray for the homeless, and for all those who are working to help them. We all need your prayers.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Lessons from a church's darkness

For years I have been encouraged to visit the Holy Land by those who found the experience profoundly transcendent and religious. When a friend of mine reported on her recent visit there she, too, told me how wonderful it was — except for one altogether disturbing interlude.

It had nothing to do with the expected anxiety over the ever-present danger of terrorism, but rather the unexpected discovery of division among the Christian groups that tend to the maintenance of holy sites.

She was with a small group of pilgrims from a Washington, D.C. church. They had been delayed on their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the traditional site of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. It is in an area of Jerusalem under Islamic control. Since it was getting dark when they arrived, a Muslim policeman who was posted in the church as a security guard gave them each a little candle.

Noticing that there were plenty of light fixtures in the church but none had been turned on, my friend asked, "Why do we have to stumble around with candles?" The guard explained that the Christian groups who use the church were fighting among themselves about who should pay the light bills. Consequently, the power had been shut off in order to stop the dispute. A little while later, the Muslim gently but firmly requested them to leave. They protested because they hadn't really seen much of the church yet. Again, he patiently explained that because Christian groups constantly fight among themselves about who is to have the right to open and close the church, the key had to be taken from them.

My friend told me that she could not help but reflect, "This is the Middle East where there is more urgent need for a witness of unity and brotherhood than anywhere else in the world. And here are Christians in this great Christian church, witnessing to disunity!"

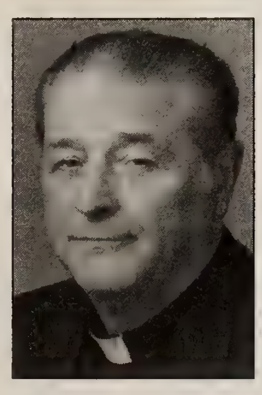
For hundreds of years Christians have been fragmenting and arguing over doctrine and theology and Scripture and church government. Scandalously, and often violently, fed by politics and economics, culture and class, the Christian religion has too often bred intolerance even while it preaches peace.

Is there a chance for understanding? Well, yes. In spite of squabbles, there is good reason to hope.

At least some ancient suspicions and hostilities are beginning to be abandoned. The Spirit of God is working through religious communions that long for the unity promised in the Scriptures. In 1995 Pope John Paul II issued an encyclical on the commitment to ecumenism, reminding us that "Jesus Himself, at the hour of His passion, prayed 'that they may all be one' (John 17:21). This unity, which the Lord has bestowed on His Church and in which He wishes to embrace all people, is not something added on, but stands at the very heart of Christ's mission." This year an historic agreement has been reached between Lutherans and Catholics ending mutual condemnations that have existed since the days of Martin Luther on faith, works and justification.

It is not only among Christians that there is a renewed sense of interreligious respect. From the Middle East to Northern Ireland, despite hatred and terror, the hope for peace and unity refuses to be extinguished. Stumbling in the dark, grasping small candles may be a perfect metaphor for where we are.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Communion to the homebound

Q. Sometimes I wonder why you don't go one step further with some of your answers. In your recent column about watching Mass on television, you told the woman to utilize this and any other ways available to unite oneself to the sacrifice of the Mass.

Why not suggest that the homebound contact the pastor about having Communion brought to the home, perhaps by an extraordinary eucharistic minister if the priest's schedule won't allow it?

It seems a shame to have this possibility and not advertise and use it.

A. Thank you for the reminder. Often, people who cannot get to Mass are not aware of this possibility or do not wish to "bother" anyone.

The church's instructions for pastoral care of the sick stress that the sick or aged should have and use the opportunity for frequent, even daily, Communion.

It is necessary, says the Ritual for Pastoral Care of the Sick, for priests with pastoral responsibilities to ensure that the community has a sufficient number of eucharistic ministers to provide frequent Communion for such people (No. 72).

In parishes I have served, eucharistic ministers give thousands of Communions every year to people the priest could serve this way much less frequently. And they do it graciously and generously.

I hope people confined to their homes will heed your suggestion. Their prayers and their reception of the sacraments are a source of great blessing for themselves as well as their community.

Being exact with key words and actions of sacraments

Q. Your column on the so-called "new" Sign of the Cross reminded me of an incident in our parish. The priest baptized an adult during Mass, "In the name of the Creator, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

I asked him about it, but he had no explanation. After some months I asked the new pastor, who told me he would look into it. But nothing has been done.

Was this woman truly baptized? Should I keep asking until something is done?

A. How do you know nothing has been done? Take your present pastor's word. Judging from your letter, it sounds as if he would be concerned and pursue it as necessary.

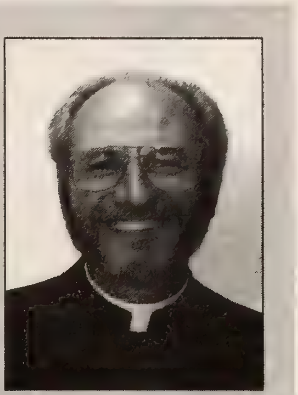
In all the sacraments, and at Mass, the church's liturgical guidelines and practice leave plenty of room for the priest (or other minister) to adapt the ceremony to the circumstances of the occasion.

Your experience is another example, however, of why we need always to be careful and exact, particularly with the key words and actions of the sacraments. Several reasons urge this, not the least of which is that failure to do so is bound to cause wonder, confusion and even worry to ordinary, well-informed people — as it obviously did in this case.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Is the "Fourth World" a place or concept?

The folks at the Binns-Counts Community Center, McClure, Va., sent the people of Haiti a quilt and a copy of the 1995 Appalachian bishops' pastoral, "At Home in the Web of Life." They and the parishioners of the local Catholic parish signed the document and sent greetings. In return the people of Haiti offered symbols of their lives made from used food tins: a small kerosene lamp that the poor use at night and a model of a mini-truck, or "tap-tap," that carries people to work. Over a 1,000 miles apart, both communities touched one another in the spirit of solidarity as they struggle for a decent life.

Vincent and Fanchette Fanelli, volunteers with the Fourth World Movement, traveled between the two worlds to emphasize the contributions the poor make to one another and society. This affirmation of the poor's potential rests at the heart of the Fourth World Movement.

The movement began when Father Joseph Wresinski, a French priest, working with homeless families outside Paris in 1956, became overwhelmed by the suffering of the people. He started a community development project after listening attentively to the aspirations of the people. He realized social programs initiated from the top down target the energetic families in poor areas to demonstrate quick, but frequently superficial success.

Being alone in front of extreme poverty, he called for help.

The term "Fourth World" refers not to a geographic place, but to the place the poor occupy in society—exclusion from the mainstream.

The U.S. ignores pockets of poverty on Indian reservations, in ghettos and along back roads despite the enormous wealth of the general economy. To the members of the Fourth World Movement, chronic poverty reaches beyond the terms of economic or political. Long term solutions to poverty cannot rest on charity alone, but must invite the poor into the decision-making process as partners.

Moreover, tolerating poverty as a permanent condition constitutes a violation of human rights. In the Trocadero Plaza near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the United Nations (U.N.) signed the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. On Oct. 17, 1987, the French government dedicated the Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty. Five years later the U.N. declared Oct. 17 the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

At the Binns-Counts Community Center last year, the folks gathered on Oct. 17 to observe the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. The program included prayer, song and a communal meal. But, reaching beyond Appalachia, Vincent, who teaches computer skills at the center, they chatted with a group in Senegal, West Africa, via the Internet. Once again a Fourth World volunteer was shrinking the world and linking with the poor in solidarity.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics.

True Catholics cannot be anti-semitic, cardinal says

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York came to Clark University in Worcester Sept. 17 with a simple message about Catholic-Jewish relations. "Our roots as Catholics are so deeply rooted in the Judaic that we would not be Catholic if it weren't for Judaism," he said during a press conference. "You cannot truly be a Catholic and be anti-Semitic." The cardinal visited Clark to inaugurate what is said to be the world's first doctoral program in Holocaust history.

Malaysian woman elected president of world Catholic press group

PARIS (CNS) — The International Catholic Union of the Press elected Theresa Ee-Chooi of Malaysia as president, the first woman and the first non-European to head the organization since it was established 71 years ago. Ee-Chooi was elected on the second ballot at the last session of the Sept. 15-18 international congress of the press group, known by its French acronym as UCIP. She will serve a three-year term. Ee-Chooi was selected over Leon Zeches, who runs the Catholic daily Luxemburger Wort in Luxembourg, and Barbara Beckwith, managing editor of the monthly St. Anthony Messenger magazine in the United States.

Annual Cardinal Cooke pro-life award goes to New York's priests

NEW YORK (CNS) — The annual Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award was presented to the priests of the Archdiocese of New York Sept. 22 at a luncheon attended by 700 people at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Named for the late Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, the award was accepted by his successor, Cardinal John J. O'Connor, on behalf of the priests. Thomas J. Moran, president of Mutual of America Life Insurance Co., made the presentation, saying that "priesthood meant everything to Cardinal Cooke," and that Cardinal O'Connor, like him, is "above all a priest."

CNS photo by Jack Iddon for CCHD

Catholic Campaign for Human Development project

Timothy Diggle (left) learns the food service business from job coach Craig Gonsalves at a snack stand in New Bedford, Mass. A grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development helped create the business where mentally challenged adults can work and eventually become business owners.

American founder of Redemptorist mission in Thailand dies

BANGKOK, Thailand (CNS) — Retired Bishop Clarence J. Duhart, the American founder of the Redemptorist mission in Thailand where he served 50 years, died of heart failure in Bangkok at age 86. A Redemptorist provincial spokesman in Bangkok said Bishop Duhart, who died Sept. 21, will be remembered for his devotion to serving the poor, especially in Thailand's arid northeast region. Bishop Duhart was also a pioneer worker among Vietnamese refugees in Thailand.

Archbishop backs woman in ending life support of husband

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville, Ky., said he supports the decision of Michele Finn, currently being challenged in the Virginia judicial system, to remove her comatose husband's feeding tube and let him die. "Her decision is within the church's realm of acceptable moral decisions" for such cases, the archbishop said Sept. 23 in a telephone interview. Hugh Finn, 44, was a television news anchor in Louisville when an auto accident in 1995 ruptured his aorta and deprived his brain of oxygen. Although doctors saved his life, he went into a coma. In 1996 he was moved to Annaburg Manor nursing home in Manassas, Va. Hugh Finn's sister, Karen, supported Michele Finn's decision to terminate life support, but Hugh's parents and five brothers opposed it. The Associated Press reported Sept. 22 that brother John Finn's legal challenge to the ruling has the support of priests at his parish, All Saints in Manassas.

Bill against assisted suicide clears senate panel

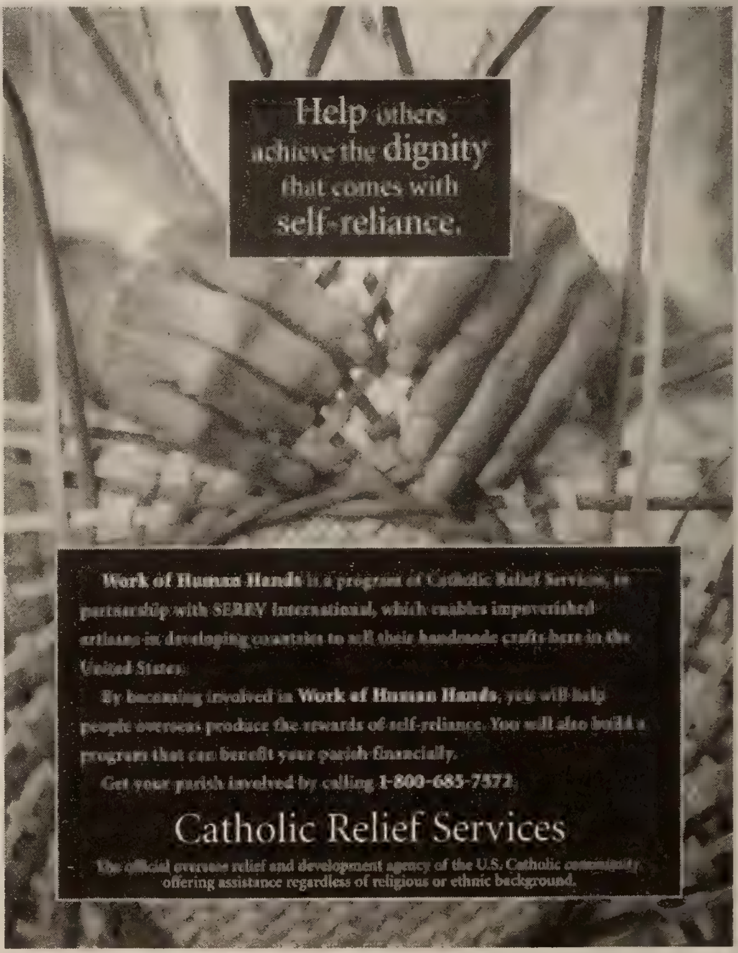
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill to keep doctors from using federally regulated drugs for assisted suicide cleared a Senate panel Sept. 24, but action this year by the full Senate on the bill seemed unlikely. Several members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who approved the measure 11-6, said they voted for it only with the understanding that it would not be taken up this year on the Senate floor. The bill would clarify the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 by preventing doctors from prescribing certain drugs to help a patient commit suicide.

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353



Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling **1-800-685-7572.**

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Great art: Christianity's gift to culture

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee Year of 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with articles from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

By CHRISTOPHER GAUL

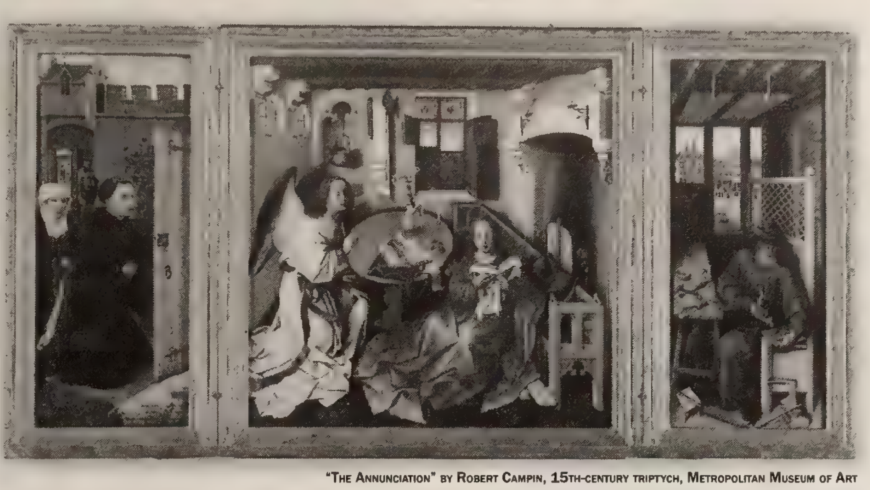
The church takes the lead among art patrons in the past 2,000 years, especially with its support for such artistic giants as Michelangelo and Fra Angelico and their work.

Even more, artists for centuries have found inspiration in the church.

This comes as no surprise, of course; for from earliest times, the link between art and spirituality has been indestructibly strong. For many ancient cultures, and for some that survive today, creative art and its spiritual symbolism are essentially indistinguishable.

When an Asante tribesman artist in Ghana carves a mask or other ceremonial item, for example, he does so secretly for it is a sacred process and he believes his hand is guided by spiritual beings. When the Navajo medicine man creates elaborate sand paintings, he does so to summon the holy people, the Navajo gods, to heal a patient.

Almost all medieval Christian art was directly spiritual in nature, unlike later art. Yet, even though today's art, at least western art, often draws a broad line between itself and spirituality, the contemporary artist still engages in a spiritual experience.


"The Annunciation" by Robert Campin, 15th-century triptych, Metropolitan Museum of Art

"One of the states the artist enters into is akin to praying," said Father Timothy Klunk, a distinguished painter, graduate of the Maryland Institute of Art, and pastor of the dock-side parish of St. Athanasius in Baltimore. In a sense the artist works from a sort of right brain, alpha wave state, he explained.

"In the act of creating, the artist is sharing in God's creative power in trying to make something," Father Klunk said. "Even though he's using raw material, it has a life of its own as he allows it to unfold."

Father Klunk notes that contemporary art is less focused in spirituality than that of the days when religious images were part of the lexicon of art. But being "more secular," he said, is "not necessarily less spiritual."

Joaneath Spicer, the James A. Murnaghan Curator of Renaissance and Baroque Art at The Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, notes that some paintings can draw in the viewer and connect with his or her sense of both reality and spirituality. She specifically cited religious paintings, including some of those that made up The Walters' Masters of Light exhibition, which she designed. She cited as examples, Dirck von Baburen's powerful drama on canvas, "The Mocking of Christ," an almost life-size portrayal of Christ's pain and humiliation, and the "Calling of St. Matthew," which captures the moment when Matthew must decide between serving the state and answering Christ's call. She also cited the artist's depiction of Thomas thrusting a finger into the open wound of the risen Christ.

It is in paintings like these that art and spirituality mesh, she said.

Spicer said that good art touches souls and added that when she taught 17th-century Netherlands art at the University of Toronto, her course had such an impact that a lot of the kids went back to church.

They had not been exposed to the spiritual in art, especially in painting in their earlier education, she said.

Dr. Frederick Lamp, curator of the Arts of Africa, the Americas, and Oceania collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art, sees the African artist's creative process "almost always" involving spirituality. While the tradition is still alive in Africa "although less so in East and South Africa," it is, he said, sadly fading in those cities where the young people have become westernized.

Father Klunk finds a spiritual, "meditative" sense in the art of Monet, and even in the cutouts of Matisse.

The relationship between art and spirituality does not exist only in paintings with religious themes, he stressed. He pointed to the portraits of the late-19th and early-20th century American painter John Singer Sargent. Artists like Sargent, he said, capture the essence of the individual, "finding the soul and representing it." ▼

Finding the Pulse of the Spirit in the World Today

Sponsored by **The Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Evangelization** *and* **Congregation of the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) USA - Eastern Province**

Mark your calendar!
October 23-25, 1998
Charlotte, NC
Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel
A conference to celebrate "The Year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Christian third millennium

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City, State, Zip ____________________

Phone ____________________

Parish ____________________

Diocesan cost: $85.00 ($75.00 conference, $10.00 registration fee)
Please return form with payment to: **Office of Evangelization, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203**

JUBILEE 2000
CHRIST YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER ™

The urgent question of our souls...
Where in our world is the Holy Spirit?

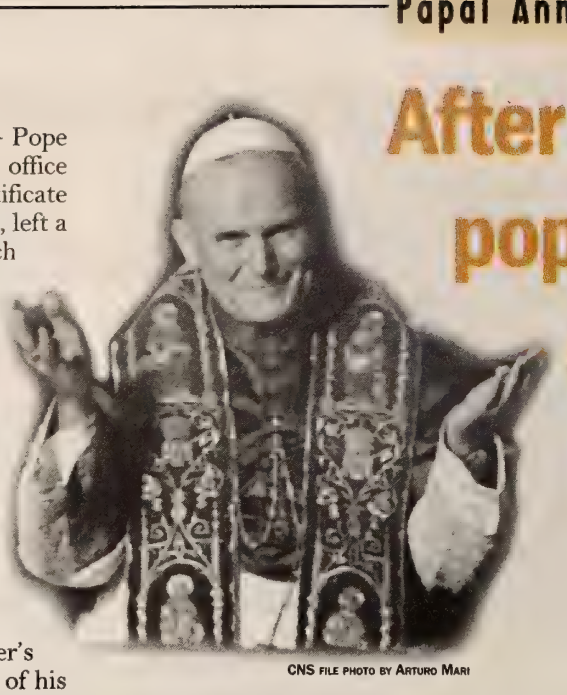
"The church wishes to prepare for the jubilee in the Holy Spirit, just as the Virgin of Nazareth in whom the Word was made flesh was prepared by the Holy Spirit."
— Pope John Paul II,
The Lord and Giver of Life, 1986

Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel: Phone (704) 392-1200 for room reservations. Ask for discounted room - conference rate.

To request a brochure: Office of Evangelization, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3214 or (704) 289-2773

After 20 years as pope, John Paul still looks to the future

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service



CNS file photo by Arturo Mari

Pope John Paul II makes his first appearance as pope following his election on Oct. 16, 1978.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II marks 20 years in office this fall, a milestone in a pontificate that has influenced world events, left a distinctive stamp on the church and touched millions of individuals around the globe.

The anniversary was shaping up as a tribute to an already historic papacy. But Vatican officials, saying this pope is still capable of surprising people, also emphasized his goals for the years to come.

Although the pope discouraged extravagant ceremonies, a video and musical presentation are planned for below the papal apartment in St. Peter's Square Oct. 16, the anniversary of his election, and the pope will concelebrate a special Mass Oct. 18.

Pope John Paul's Polish compatriots, including the country's bishops, were expected to arrive in Rome by the thousands to bring the songs and sentiments of their homeland and recall together the electrifying moment when the world learned of the election of the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years: Poland's own Cardinal Karol Wojtyla.

The pope they see today has changed dramatically from the youthful and vigorous man who spoke from the balcony in St. Peter's Square 20 years ago. At 78, his gait is slow and his speech halting. Often, his eyes cast a heavy gaze — perhaps a symptom of Parkinson's disease, or perhaps simply the expression of a man who has much on his mind and in his soul.

Beyond the festivities, Pope John Paul planned to celebrate the anniversary in his own fashion, by issuing a new encyclical on one of his favorite topics: "Faith and Reason." The document was expected in mid-October.

Typically, the pope was spending more time looking ahead — at year-2000 projects, special synods and papal trips — than reminiscing over his record.

"Today, I see a pope who is continually projected toward the future, mentally and spiritually. I see it in his daily work," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. "Whether he will be able to complete all that he believes is his mission, only God knows," Navarro-Valls added. The papal spokesman, like other top Vatican officials, did not want the 20th anniversary to become an occasion for "closing the book" on this pontificate.

According to Navarro-Valls, "the pot is simmering" in three main areas:

Interreligious and ecumenical relations. Next year, the pope hopes a trip to Romania will break through the curtain of Catholic-Orthodox tension that hangs over much of Eastern Europe and perhaps pave the way for a visit to Moscow. A meeting in Sinai, Egypt, between Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders is still on the pope's wish-list, along with a first visit to Jerusalem to prepare for the jubilee year 2000 with other Christian churches.

Human rights. The pope who stood up to communist and right-wing dictators around the world has, in recent years, been emphasizing that human rights is not just a question for the political order, Navarro-Valls said. The pope has zeroed in on life issues such as abortion, euthanasia and genetic experimentation, and on family issues such as birth control programs.

The culture-faith dialogue. The pope's new encyclical on faith and reason will extend the discussion of his earlier encyclical on moral truth, "Veritatis Splendor." As Navarro-Valls put it, the pope is attempting not just to lay down a moral law, but to analyze our epoch and the roots of modern attitudes toward good and evil, truth and morality.

Pope John Paul has raised the profile of the church in the world and made a personal impression on Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

In reviewing the first 20 years under Pope John Paul, Vatican officials said it was impossible to summarize the impact of a pontificate that has recast the role of the papacy in so many ways.

This pope has traveled to 119 countries on more than 80 foreign trips, using the world as a pulpit to preach the Gospel and denounce injustice. At the Vatican and abroad, he has given more speeches than any predecessor, and in more languages. He has met with more world leaders, appeared more often on television, and given more press conferences. He has beatified more than 800 people and declared 279 saints, a record. He has convened more synods of bishops, using them as extensive think-tank sessions for regional and universal problems in the church. He has changed the face of the Catholic hierarchy, naming most of the active bishops in the world and the vast majority of voting-age cardinals.

He has disciplined dissenting theologians and self-styled "traditionalists," promulgated new norms for Catholic universities and upheld unpopular church teachings like the pronouncement against artificial birth control. He has pushed Catholic social teaching into new areas of bioethics, international economics, racism and ecology. In perhaps his most ambitious project, he has launched a global pastoral program to take the church into the third millennium, including regional synods and a calendar of year-2000 meetings in Rome.

Through all these activities, whether from the altar or on the Internet, Pope John Paul has raised the profile of the church in the world and made a personal impression on Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

"In today's world, the pope has become the supreme moral authority for humanity. There is no doubt about that. Some may not agree with specific teachings, but if they look closely, they discover that these teachings are linked to the pope's deep vision of salvation, and are not just a rigid set of rules," said Cardinal Jozef Tomko, head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and one of the pope's closest advisers.

The pope meets regularly with curial heads, presides over interagency meetings once a month and often invites aides to discuss issues at length over lunch, the spokesman said. As for the pope's health, Navarro-Valls said that "certain physical limits are evident, and the pope doesn't try to hide them. They don't worry him and, thank God, up to this point they don't interfere with his work."

The pontiff, who has always had a special affinity with the sick, presides over audiences these days with a trembling arm, and his speech is not always distinct. His talks are shorter than before, and he hands copies of his speeches to some groups instead of pronouncing them.

Navarro-Valls suggested that these signs of physical suffering sometimes allow the pope to reach people in a new way.

"Maybe this trembling arm performs the same function as his powerful figure did 20 years ago," he said. ▼

To All Churches:

Good day to you from MUSIC & ELECTRONICS, INC. here in Mooresville. We are really excited about our TOTAL SYSTEM SURVEY SERVICE that we are now offering area churches. There is no charge for this in-depth analysis of your instruments, sound system, chimes and other needs...and there is no obligation.

Having had over 30 years experience serving the musical needs of the church community, we know this service will benefit every church. Simply call our toll-free number below.

Sincerely,
Gene Davis, President

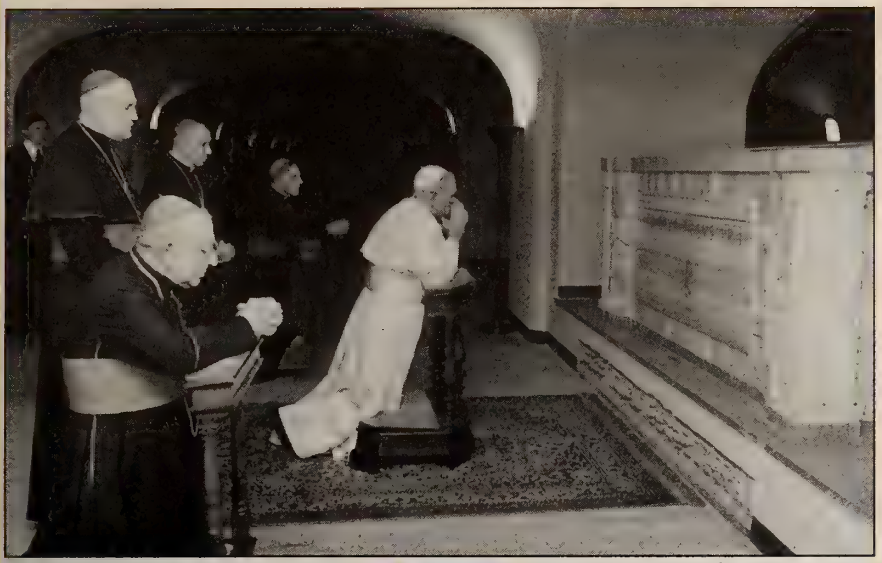
Music & Electronics, Inc.
1-800-331-0768

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

In prayer

In this file photo, newly elected Pope John Paul II kneels in prayer at the tomb of predecessor, Pope John Paul I. The pope will mark the 20th anniversary of his election on Oct. 16. He was installed on Oct. 22, 1978.

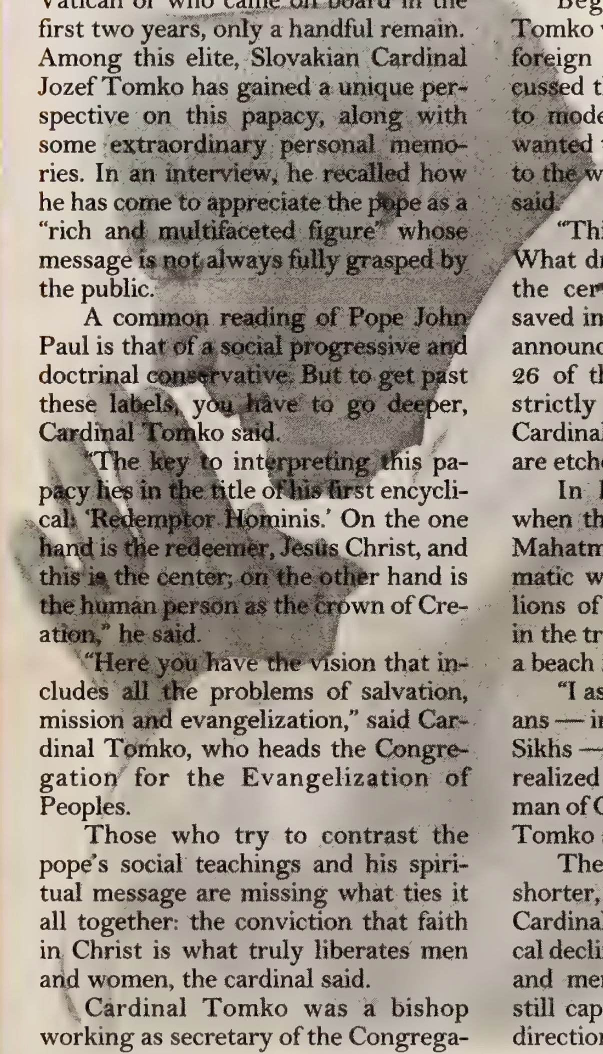
Pope John Paul II has set his stamp on church in 20 years

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here are some highlights of what Pope John Paul II has done in his first 20 years in the papacy:

- Logged nearly 700,000 miles visiting 119 countries in 84 trips outside Italy.
- Issued 12 papal encyclicals, including groundbreaking treatises on fundamental questions of church moral teaching and on Christian unity.
- Canonized 280 saints and beatified 804 people.
- Convened five ordinary assemblies of the Synod of Bishops, one extraordinary synod and seven special synods
- Dutch, Lebanese, European, African, American, Asian and Oceanic.
- Named 160 cardinals, including 101 of the 115 currently eligible to vote for a new pope. The 160 include two named "in pectore," or secretly, and one who died two days before he was to be installed.
- Appointed or promoted about nine-tenths of currently active cardinals, archbishops and bishops around the world. Only 28 of the 284 active members of the U.S. bishops' conference got their current posts from Pope Paul VI.
- Published the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," the first official compendium of teaching for the universal church since the Roman Catechism in 1566.
- Published a new Code of Canon Law in 1983 governing the Latin church, and the new Code of Canons for the Eastern Churches, in 1990.
- Introduced new styles of papal writing, including a text on the dignity of women, issued as a meditation, and a book of personal rather than papal authorship, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope."
- Established diplomatic relations with 61 nations, including the United States, Mexico and Israel, and restored long-suspended formal ties with six former Soviet-bloc nations.
- Advanced Catholic-Jewish relations as no previous pope in history.
- Turned Vatican finances around, from huge annual deficits to modest yearly surpluses since 1993.
- Was the first pope to appear on the Internet. ▼

Cardinal says look past labels to see a complex Pope John Paul

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II observes the 20th anniversary of his election in October, few of the close aides and advisers who began the pontificate with him will be around to celebrate.

Many have retired, some have died and others have moved on to various positions in the church. Of the department officials who were already at the Vatican or who came on board in the first two years, only a handful remain. Among this elite, Slovakian Cardinal Jozef Tomko has gained a unique perspective on this papacy, along with some extraordinary personal memories. In an interview, he recalled how he has come to appreciate the pope as a "rich and multifaceted figure" whose message is not always fully grasped by the public.

A common reading of Pope John Paul is that of a social progressive and doctrinal conservative. But to get past these labels, you have to go deeper, Cardinal Tomko said.

"The key to interpreting this papacy lies in the title of his first encyclical: 'Redemptor Hominis.' On the one hand is the redeemer, Jesus Christ, and this is the center; on the other hand is the human person as the crown of Creation," he said.

"Here you have the vision that includes all the problems of salvation, mission and evangelization," said Cardinal Tomko, who heads the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Those who try to contrast the pope's social teachings and his spiritual message are missing what ties it all together: the conviction that faith in Christ is what truly liberates men and women, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Tomko was a bishop working as secretary of the Congregation for Bishops — an important Vatican position — when Pope John Paul was elected. He knew the new pope, but not well. As he watched the pontiff appear for the first time in St. Peter's Square Oct. 16, 1978, he never imagined that he would become the pope's chief evangelization adviser and his constant traveling companion.

A few days later, at the pope's inaugural Mass, Cardinal Tomko remembers the excitement he felt listening to him speak about the power of Christ to change lives and the "inscrutable design of Providence" in bringing a Pole to the papacy.

"There was truly a sense that a new era was opening," the cardinal recalled.

Beginning in 1985, Cardinal Tomko was at the pope's side on every foreign trip, and the two often discussed the importance of these travels to modern evangelization. The pope wanted to be a pilgrim to his flock and to the world at large, Cardinal Tomko said.

"This pope is a missionary pope. What drives him to visit the world is the certainty that every person is saved in Jesus Christ, and the need to announce it," the cardinal said. Some 26 of the pope's trips have been to strictly "missionary" countries, and Cardinal Tomko said some moments are etched in his memory.

In India in 1986, for example, when the pope prayed at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi, it seemed a dramatic way to open the doors to millions of Indian non-Christians. Later in the trip, some 2 million people filled a beach in Madras for a papal Mass.

"I asked myself why so many Indians — including Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs — had come to this event, and I realized that they saw in the pope a man of God, the 'great guru,'" Cardinal Tomko said.

These days the pope's trips are shorter, and his pace is slower. But Cardinal Tomko said the pope's physical decline has not affected his spiritual and mental dynamism. This pope is still capable of new projects and new directions, he said.

"Pope John Paul is a contemplative in action. As a contemplative he is used to meditating (on) things, and people who meditate always discover new aspects. Let's let him surprise us," the cardinal said. ▼

BACKGROUND: CNS PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Books

September's best sellers

Hardcover

1. *"Twelve Months of Monastery Soups."*
Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette (Liguori)
2. *"Life of the Beloved."*
Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
3. *"Here and Now."*
Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
4. *"Letters to Gabriel."*
Karen Garver Santorum (CCC of America)
5. *"The Tree That Survived the Winter."*
Mary Fahy (Paulist)
6. *"Adam: God's Beloved."*
Henri J.M. Nouwen (Orbis)
7. *"Mornings With Henri Nouwen."*
Evelyn Bence (Servant)
8. *"Mornings With Fulton Sheen."*
Beverly Coney Heirich (Servant)
9. *"After 50."*
Robert J. Wicks (Paulist)
10. *"A Prayer Book for Catholic Families."*
Anderson, Anderson and Neff (Loyola)

Paperback

1. *"At Home With the Word '99."*
Brey & Ward (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. *"Your Baby's Baptism."*
A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
3. *"Handbook for Today's Catholic."* A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
4. *"A Father Who Keeps His Promise."*
Scott Hahn (Servant)
5. *"The Cup of Our Life."*
Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria Press)
6. *"Your Child's First Confession."*
A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
7. *"An Hour With Jesus," Vol. I.*
The Riehle Foundation (Faith Publishing)
8. *"Getting Confirmed."*
A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
9. *"Believing in Jesus."*
Leonard Foley (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
10. *"In the Name of Jesus."*
Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)

Children and Young People

1. *"Children's Daily Prayer '98-'99."*
Elizabeth M. Jeep (Liturgy Training)
2. *"What If the Zebras Lost Their Stripes?"*
John Reitano (Paulist)
3. *"God in Between."*
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
4. *"In God's Name."*
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
5. *"Puppy Love."*
Christine Simpson (Paulist)
6. *"God's Paintbrush."*
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
7. *"The Hurt."*
Teddi Doleski (Paulist)
8. *"Serve God With Gladness: A Manual for Servers."*
David Philippart (Liturgy Training)
9. *"But God Remembered."*
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
10. *"115 Saintly Fun Facts."*
Bernadette McCarver Snyder (Liguori)

Spanish-language

1. *"Manual Para el Catolico de Hoy."*
A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
2. *"El Bautismo de su Bebe."*
A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
3. *"Advent Daybreaks, Cycle A."*
Elsie McGrath (Liguori)
4. *"Palabra de Dios '99."*
Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
5. *"Guia Para la Misa Dominical: Reunanse Fielmente en Asamblea."*
Rogelio Mahony (Liturgy Training)
6. *"El Matrimonio en Perspectiva."*
Pierce & Buckley (ACTA)
7. *"La Vida en Cristo."*
Weber & Killgallon (ACTA)

Word to Life

October. Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C. Readings:
1) Habakkuk 1:2-3;2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14
3) Luke 17:5-10

By JEAN DENTON

For the first year my cousin's daughter was away at college, she was miserable. She begged her dad to let her transfer the following year to attend the university in her hometown. Lovingly, but firmly, he insisted that she return to the college where she began, look for new friends and give it another chance. If, at the end of that year, she was still unhappy, he would gladly pay tuition the next year at the hometown school.

If the guy didn't have such a great sense of "the big picture" I might have been skeptical of his plan. But I wasn't. I've known him all our lives, and ever since we barely reached adulthood I've watched him increasingly tighten his grip on his faith in God's loving vision — through no small number of personal hardships.

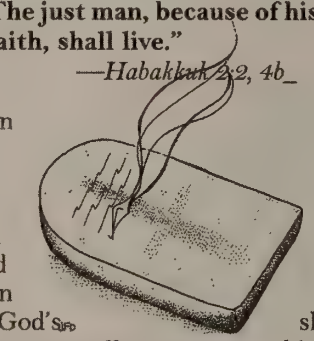
I don't know which came first for him: the faith or that big-picture "vision" that the prophet Habakkuk describes in this week's first reading. That vision is God's view of life. The prophet promises its fulfillment — and my cousin believes it.

My cousin has experienced plenty of "destruction and misery" and "strife and clamorous discord" over the years. An extremely talented accountant, he was unemployed for a long while after he quit a very lucrative job because of a pattern of dishonesty by his firm. Then, by turns, every one of his siblings suffered emotional or mental breakdowns, and he never shied from standing with them in the midst of the turmoil. He was the lone anchor for the family, juggling their needs with his other responsibilities as breadwinner, husband, and father of his own family. I always was impressed by his equanimity. He would see humor in frustrating situations, yet he never failed to act with love and concern and certainly respect. He's had infinite faith in that vision of God's, that it "has its time, presses on to fulfillment." And the longer he trusted, the more he saw that fulfillment, and the stronger the vision became.

Maybe his toughest test was during the several years that he and his wife shepherded his father through the heartwrenching ordeal of Alzheimer's disease. They were unflagging in their attention and care for him, and then extended it to families of others with the disease. All the while he joyfully shared the vision with his family and friends — with everyone who had eyes to see — the vision of assurance that when we are faithful and act justly, God's love "will not disappoint.... It will surely come, it will not be late."

And sure enough, my cousin's daughter went back to school and had a great second year and is flourishing in her third. ▼

"Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets.... The just man, because of his faith, shall live."
—Habakkuk 2:2, 4b



Questions:

Looking back, can you see how God's vision for your life was realized through, or despite, some difficult times? Can you stand back from your immediate hardships or pain to see God's big picture?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 4 — Oct. 10, 1998

Sunday, Hebrews 1:2-3;2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday,** Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday,** Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday,** Galatians 2:1-2,7-14, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday,** Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday,** Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday,** Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28

Do YOU have a story idea for The Catholic News & Herald?

If you have news in your parish, news about a person who truly "lives their faith" or just something to share...

Please forward your ideas in writing to: Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Or e-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

Pro-Life Corner

"Change our lives, shatter our complacency. Make your word flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, and our life's purpose. Take away the quietness of a clear conscience. Press us uncomfortably, for only thus that other peace is made. Your peace.

— Bishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Brazil

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC. 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Video Reviews

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Magnificent Ambersons" (1942)

Sturdy saga of American life circa 1900 from the Booth Tarkington novel about the arrogant son (Tim Holt) of a wealthy Midwestern family who keeps his widowed mother (Delores Costello) from marrying a rising auto maker (Joseph Cotten), then gets his "come-uppance" by failing to adapt to changing circumstances. Director Orson Welles succeeds in a vivid period re-creation with convincing performances from a strong cast, though flawed by the narrative's uneven pace resulting from a studio re-edit of Welles' original version. Serious treatment of a selfish individual's foolish pride and its tragic consequences. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Mercury Rising" (1998)

Lackluster thriller in which a renegade FBI agent (Bruce Willis) goes on the run with a 9-year-old autistic boy (Miko Hughes) who's been targeted for death after inadvertently breaking into a top secret government computer file. Director Harold Becker's glossy action story is elaborately but unconvincingly plotted, resulting in a routine, formula chase film. Recurring violence, intermittent profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III —adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R —restricted.

"Mr. Arkadin" (1955)

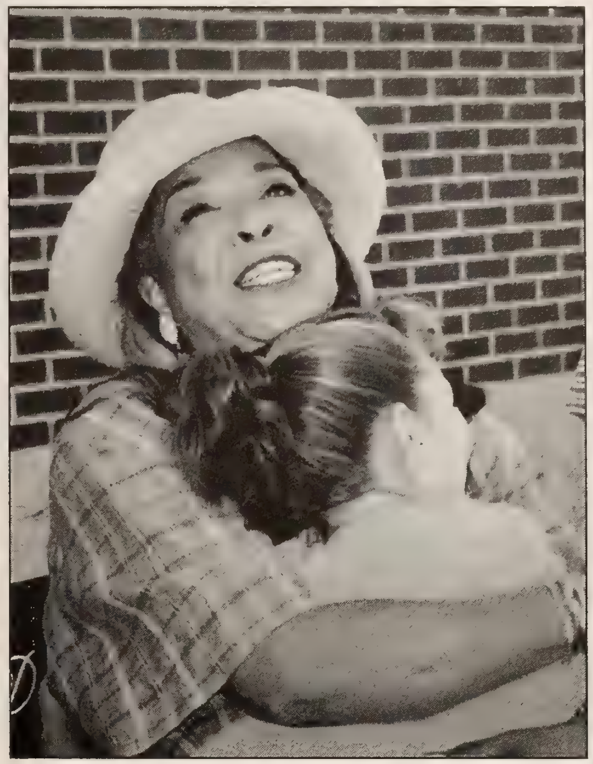
Slapdash thriller in which a mysterious European of enormous wealth (Orson Welles) hires a shady American expatriate (Robert Arden) to investigate his obscure origins but as soon as his old associates are located, they turn up dead. Also written and directed by Welles, the low-budget production is seeped in a cryptic atmosphere which makes the individual sequences interesting, but the pieces don't add up to much in the weak finale. Stylized violence, sinister menace and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"My Giant" (1998)

Sweet-natured but cloying comedy in which a failed talent agent (Billy Crystal) thinks he has found his ticket to the big time when he discovers a nearly 8-foot tall Romanian (Gheorghe Muresan) and lures the gentle giant to America by promising to reunite him with a childhood sweetheart. Directed by Michael Lehmann, the comic proceedings suffer from excessive sentimentality, especially when the manipulative agent suddenly puts his client's needs first. Fleeting violence and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II —adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Spanish Prisoner" (1998)

An invention worth a vast fortune sets in deadly motion an industrial espionage tale in which the inventor (Campbell Scott) is caught between his suspicious boss (Ben Gazzara) and a mysterious acquaintance (Steve Martin) whose helpful advice may get the inventor framed for murder. Writer-director David Mamet unfolds a devilishly serpentine plot too far-fetched to be credible but thoroughly engrossing for its unexpected surprises. Brief violence and fleeting sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.



CNS PHOTO FROM CLARION HERALD

Visiting angel "Touched By An Angel" actress Della Reese hugs Brittany Bilich, a sixth-grade Catholic school student from Louisiana. Bilich and another student, Michelle Lamanette, won a visit to the filming of the show in Utah in August.

TV Review

Documentary marks pontiff's 20th anniversary

By HENRY HERX

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Marking the current pontiff's 20th anniversary on Oct. 16 is the one-hour documentary, "Pope John Paul II: The Conscience of the World," being syndicated by APS for airing by PBS stations during the month of October.

Please check the local listings for the air date in your area or call your local PBS affiliate.

"Pope John Paul II: The Conscience of the World"

Check your local PBS listings

The program is a journalistic tribute to John Paul II's "ethical leadership of the world" and his "role in international politics."

It cites "the Polish pope" as being the leading force behind the rise of the Solidarity trade union and the end of the communist regime in Poland and, indeed, in Eastern Europe.

In an interview, the Soviet Union's last ruler, Mikhail Gorbachev, says, "I consider the pope to be one of today's great humanists and I would support him forever."

In recounting the assassination attempt on the pope's life in 1981, the program suggests it was a Bulgarian plot instigated by Moscow, though there is no proof of this.

Some of the documentary's best sections are devoted to the pope's travels to over 100 nations of the world, bringing the message of peace, reconciliation, human rights and religious freedom. Included is his visit to Cuba in early 1998.

Also covered in the program is John Paul II's repeated condemnation of anti-Semitism and efforts toward reconciliation with Jews.

Written and produced by Peter Ewence, there is nothing particularly new here but pulling it all together is quite impressive and certainly justifies the program's title.

Made for general audiences, rather than addressed to Catholics, the program presents an outsider's view of the pope and the church he leads.

The result is competently done, objective yet entirely sympathetic to the religious leader it calls "one of the most significant figures of the 20th century."

Though it may be a bother tracking the program down in the schedule, it is well worth the effort. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Country Feel near Salisbury
Lots of SPACE - 5BR plus! Architecturally remodeled. Closets, closets! Hardwood floors. ¾ basement, workshop and play space. Fenced yard on greenway. Only $145,952

Century 21
Call Peggy Mangold
Century 21 Towne and Country Realty
(800) 633-2269
or
beeper (704) 647-5263

NEW! Country Manor Estates
Salisbury area - county taxes. Lots from $17,900. Brick homes from $144,900. Come look every Sunday 3-5:00 p.m.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Retired?
Have some free time?
Looking for fun ways to share life's experiences and learn from others at the same time?

We know you have a lot to offer and we need **YOU**...

The **Catholic Conference Center** will be offering educational adventures to seniors through partnerships with area colleges and universities. If you have a special talent you would like to share or just love learning with others... call to become a part of this exciting program. We also need qualified volunteers to teach and facilitate.

Call the Center today for more information.

The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory NC
Phone: (704) 327-7441 or Toll-Free: (888) 536-7441 or E-mail: ccc@twave.net
Visit our website! CatholicConference.org

Life and work of Flannery O'Connor to be portrayed on stage

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

MOCKSVILLE — "To the hard of hearing you shout and to the almost-blind you draw large and startling figures," wrote Flannery O'Connor. For O'Connor, a devout Catholic and esteemed 20th-century Southern writer, the statement spoke to her principle of experiencing the fullness of the human condition.

"Flannery O'Connor: Shouting to the Deaf" premieres Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Brock Performance Arts Center, 622 North Main St., Mocksville.

It is this missive that will be portrayed on stage in an upcoming play about her life, work and beliefs.

"Flannery O'Connor: Shouting to the Deaf" is a dramatic, contemporary telling of the writer's gifts of social observation, unwavering faith and devotion to the sacred. The play is a feature presentation of the Southern Fiction Revival, a weekend of fiction adapted for the stage. Scheduled for Oct. 9-11, the festival is produced by the Davie County Arts Council.

The O'Connor work takes center stage at 8 p.m. on Oct. 10 in the Brock Performance Arts Center, 622 North Main St., Mocksville. A discussion of O'Connor's short stories — hailed by critics as her best work — precedes the play, at 7:30 p.m.

The festival includes a screening of "Wise Blood," a film adaptation of O'Connor's first novel, on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. in the arts center. Also featured at the event are two other plays, writers' workshops, film adaptations and children's theatre.

"The literary arts are rich in the South," said Nancy Norton, executive director of the Davie County Arts Council. "By producing the fiction in a visual art format, using theatre and film, we hope to enlighten our community about this rich art form." Filmmakers and professional actors from the Triad area are included throughout the productions, she said.

"Shouting to the Deaf" is an ensemble piece, rich with rapid-fire excerpts from O'Connor's writings. Through O'Connor's character and a supporting cast that includes the writer's alter-ego in the form a lawn statuary, the audience is offered insights into a person who urged readers to resist complacency.

"She tried to find ways to effect social change through much of the writing," said John Rushton, the play's director, who adapted another writer's earlier work for this presentation. "I wanted to be able to show (in the play) how she was a very simple person. But the images that came out of her mind were incredible."

O'Connor called herself a writer "with Christian concerns," who wrote about and lived what she referred to as the Catholic sacramental view of life. She believed that all of humanity was sacramentally linked to the sacred. In her writings, she used bizarre, contrasting and often humorous characters and images to stimulate readers to experience life's mysteries, especially the divine.

She said that "the meaning of life is centered in our Redemption by Christ," and often dealt with redemptive themes in her writing.

O'Connor grew in faith as her writing continued to flourish, despite being stricken with lupus, the auto-immune disease that killed her father and later took her own life in 1964. She had completed two novels and a collection of short stories by the time she died at age 39. Several collections of stories, essays, letters and book reviews were published posthumously.

While direct references to Catholicism in her work are infrequent, O'Connor is known for treating religion and religious themes specifically and in detail. "There's some religious (perspective) to every one of her stories," Rushton said. "There's a nice quality of how faith can play a part" in every person's life.

Rushton added that statements about her faith life are emphatic in the play: Her character resolves that all she is and all she writes stems from her Catholic beliefs. ▼

"Flannery O'Connor: Shouting to the Deaf" is presented Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Brock Performance Arts Center, 622 North Main St., Mocksville, (336) 751-3112. Repeat performances are Oct. 16 and 17 at 8 p.m., and Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. in the arts center. Tickets are $10 each, and $8 for seniors and students. Purchase two tickets and get the third for half-price. Fax credit card orders to (336) 751-3479. To order by phone, call (877) 512-5272. Tickets may be purchased at the arts center up to an hour before show time.

Church, civil leaders observe anniversary of Assisi quake

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — With memorial services and predictions for an improved future, church and civil authorities observed the first anniversary of the earthquakes that devastated the hilltop town of Assisi.

The tremors Sept. 26, 1997, damaged an estimated 100,000 structures throughout the Umbria and Marche regions of Italy, felling houses, churches and other public buildings, and leaving tens of thousand of people homeless.

The best-known building affected was the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, a magnet for tourism to the region and a popular pilgrimage spot.

In addition to serious structural damage to the upper basilica, frescoes of 10 saints by the artists Giotto and Cimabue fell from the basilica's high-vaulted ceiling and smashed into an estimated 50,000 pieces.

A Sept. 26 Mass outside the partially restored lower basilica commemorated the four lives lost in that incident — two Franciscan friars and two Italian government employees.

Restorers said in early September that progress was being made on the frescoes, but the portraits probably will not all be in place by Christmas 1999, when Italian Culture Minister Walter Veltroni has promised the upper basilica would reopen.

The Culture Ministry held a news conference to brief the media on the restoration effort. Antonio Paolucci, the regional culture official overseeing the project, wrote in a newspaper column that "the pessimism of the first days (after the earthquake) has given way to the first reasonable hypotheses of possible recovery, if only partial recovery." ▼

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Share your day and lunch with friends
Surrounded by God's beauty at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.
Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
Directed by Fr. Anthony Marcaccio
Closing Mass with Fr. Mo West
Wednesday, October 14, 10:30-3:30
(Continental Breakfast 9-10 a.m.)
For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries
To register, send form and $10 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Name ____ Phone ____
Address ____
City ____ Parish ____
$10 fee per person — Make checks payable to Catholic Social Services
Registration deadline: October 5
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Help on way to hurricane victims as storm looms over U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Help was being assembled for Hurricane Georges' first victims in the Caribbean even as the hurricane was threatening added devastation upon its arrival to the U.S. mainland.

Churches in the Archdioceses of Boston and Washington had special collections the weekend of Sept. 26-27 to help Catholic relief efforts.

"We have many persons within the Archdiocese of Boston whose roots are in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti," said a Sept. 25 statement from Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston.

In Washington, collections were made to aid the Diocese of Caguas, Puerto Rico, where Washington Auxiliary Bishop Alvaro Corrada has been apostolic administrator since mid-1997.

Similar appeals were made in the Archdioceses of Newark, N.J., and Philadelphia, among others.

"The most effective way to help people in need is through monetary donations," said Jane Gallagher, disaster response director for Catholic Charities USA. "With these types of donations, people helping on site can best decide what the needs are, whether food, generators, or baby products."

By Sept. 25, Catholic Relief Services, working in conjunction with Catholic Charities on hurricane relief, had committed $100,000 for victims.

In Chicago, the Catholic Church Extension Society, founded in 1905 to serve the dioceses of the United States and its territories, announced it was sending $300,000 in relief to the five dioceses of Puerto Rico and the Diocese of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pope John Paul II offered his prayers and urged international assistance for the victims in telegrams to the archbishops of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The text of the messages was released Sept. 26 at the Vatican.

The telegrams expressed the pope's sadness at hearing of "the devastating hurricane and the serious flooding which have caused numerous deaths and many injuries and have left many families homeless."

Offering prayers for the deceased and promising his "spiritual closeness" to those whose homes were destroyed, the pope called on "public institutions and people of good will to quickly offer effective help with charity and in a spirit of Christian solidarity."

The slow-moving hurricane was responsible for more than 300 deaths in the Caribbean. As it hit the U.S. mainland along the Mississippi coast line in the morning hours of Sept. 28, the storm was still lazily moving northwestward, bringing rainfalls of 20 inches in a day to some U.S. cities.

In the Dominican Republic, at least 250 were confirmed dead. The death toll may reach 1,000, according to Marina Herrera, a Dominican native living in the Washington suburbs.

Anywhere between 100,000 and 250,000 were left homeless and the population of one town is unaccounted for, she said. Total damage was estimated at more than $1.2 billion, with 90 percent of the nation's banana and other plantations destroyed, 70 percent of its bridges damaged, and 60 percent of its utility poles uprooted.

Herrera said the Dominican government has come under fire for not alerting the population to the danger of Hurricane Georges.

Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa, a Dominican native, said he would sell the ball he hit for his 62nd home run this season to help with hurricane relief efforts. Sosa's home town of San Pedro de Marcoris was hit especially hard.

In Haiti, 94 deaths were reported, with 60 missing. Flooding was reported in the capital of Port-au-Prince and in the northern coast around Cap-Haitien. CRS expressed fears that cholera and typhoid outbreaks would result during the slow hurricane cleanup.

Cuba tallied five deaths and flooding of 20,000 homes in one province, with damage to the island nation's coffee, banana and cacao crops.

The damage estimate in Puerto Rico was more than $2 billion, and most power was out up to a week after the hurricane. Three were killed directly by the hurricane, and nine others died from heart attacks or other maladies.

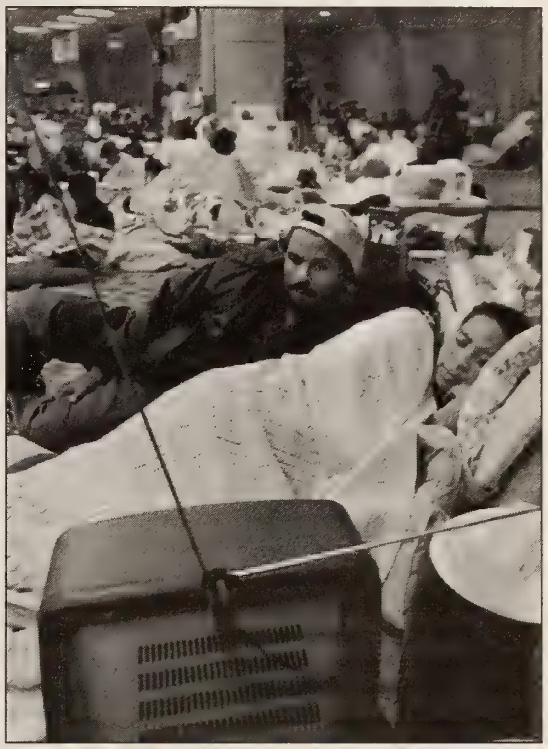
On the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, three were killed and damages were put at $402 million. A quarter of the homes were damaged, as was the airport. About 3,000 were homeless.

"There is no substantial damage on any of the islands and our churches and schools are opened," said a Sept. 24 letter by Bishop Elliot G. Thomas of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and his coadjutor, Bishop George V. Murry, to the U.S. bishops.

Archbishop John C. Favalora of Miami left Sept. 28 to visit all five parishes in the hard-hit Florida Keys that day.

The same day the Miami Archdiocese announced it was establishing a collection center for the hurricane victims. Donations of dry food stuffs, canned foods, plastic utensils, personal hygiene products, cloth baby diapers, canned baby formula, blankets, sheets, cleaning products and implements were being accepted at the center.

Archdiocesan officials said they planned to ship items "with all due dispatch." ▼

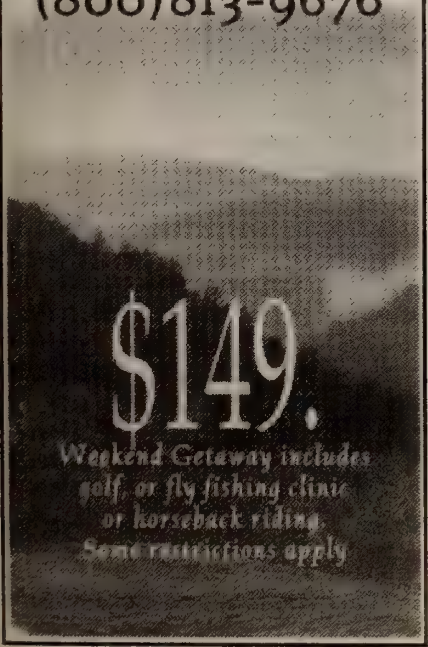


CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

New Orleans residents Preston and Rosalyn Clark take cover from Hurricane Georges inside the Louisiana Superdome Sept. 27. The covered stadium was open to residents seeking emergency shelter from heavy rain and winds.

Hurricane relief aid may be sent to:

- *Hurricane Georges Joint Appeal, Catholic Relief Services/Catholic Charities USA, P.O. Box 17598, Baltimore, MD 21297-1598. Make checks payable to "Hurricane Georges Joint Appeal."*
- *Catholic Charities, c/o Archdiocese of Miami, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores, FL 33138.*
- *Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, for National Council of Churches relief efforts in Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Donations may also be made directly by calling (800) 762-0968.*



SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Steve Hughes
HOUSE PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING
Houses • Driveways • Sidewalks • Window
Custom Painting Interior/Exterior
(704) 821-6542
References Provided • St. Gabriel Parishioner

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Looking for a career change?
Experienced loan originators or we will train. Openings in Conover, Mooresville, Salisbury, Shelby, Charlotte. Fax resume to Gerald or Sandy at (704) 543-9809.
1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

MERCY, from page 1

nize God in their lives."

In 1993, Lisa put her vocational thoughts to the ultimate test. She said, "Okay, I'll see what religious life is all about." Mercy candidate Lisa's life shifted into her novitiate. Two years later, she professed temporary vows.

Still, the unsettled Lisa wasn't quite sure of her gifts. The Mercy Sisters placed her in a variety of different situations to cultivate her natural precocity. Lisa spent time working at the House of Mercy; a residential facility ministry for men and women living in the final stages of AIDS.

The lights clicked. Nursing. Lisa enrolled in The Mercy School of Nursing. Two months prior to her final vows, she graduated: Sister Lisa Atkins, RN. She accepted a nursing position at Mercy Hospital, formerly a Mercy Ministry, sold to Charlotte Medical Center a few years back.

As a novice nurse, she admits there's much to learn. What comes naturally, is the cohesive integration of the two ministries. "It's a beautiful blend."

Faith-filled future

Sister Lisa Atkins looks forward to her new life. "Now I can focus on moving forward ... to be open to God's spirit as a Sister of Mercy, and seeing where that takes me," she says. "Always keeping my heart centered on God." ▼

Perpetual eucharistic adoration

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Theresa Farley, (336) 273-1507.

Faith for a brighter future

Sister Emma, St. Leo School celebrate

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — For Sister of St. Joseph Sister Emma Yondura of St. Leo School, the week of Sept. 6-12 was anything but ordinary.

The sister celebrated her 30th anniversary of religious life with students and faculty at the school. That same week, the first-grade teacher was honored as one of the 1998 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award recipients.

"This is a humbling experience," said Sister Emma, who began her 29th year of teaching this fall. "We're all called to do the best we can. I'm using God's gifts and talents in that manner."

Sister Emma's classroom skills have been recognized before. Last fall she was nominated for the 1997-98 National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Distinguished Teacher Award by her principal, Georgette Schraeder. She was also voted 1997-98 St. Leo School Teacher of the Year.

WE LOVE Y… SR. EMMA
CONGRATULATIONS

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Sister Emma Yondura receives Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award from Wal-Mart representatives.

St. Leo fourth-grade teacher Maureen Patti, one of several people who wrote a letter in support of Sister Emma's nomination for the NCEA award, said: "She (Sister Emma) has the ability to instill in her students an enthusiasm for learning coupled with a strong Catholic foundation. This combination is indeed hard to find. It is quite evident that Sister Emma truly loves working with young children and is able to foster in them a strong sense of pride relating to their classwork."

As an educator, Sister Emma loves her job and her students, added Schraeder, who praised the teacher's tireless efforts. "Sister Emma's school work goes beyond the confines of the four walls of a classroom and the 8 a.m.-3 p.m. school day," Schraeder said. "She helps each child see and know the goodness, gifts and talents they possess. She leads them to the larger picture of school, church, community and world."

Sister Emma felt called to be a religious as a young girl. "We had many sisters teaching us in parochial schools in those days, which inspired me to choose this life," she said. As a junior in high school, Sister Emma said she knew she wanted to become a Sister of Saint Joseph, even though she initially considered a different religious community. "I found the Sisters of Saint Joseph to have a special charism of gentleness and cordiality," she explained. One of her birth sisters is also a Sister of Saint Joseph.

Growing up in Portsmouth, Va., Sister Emma was the oldest of nine children. "My brothers and sisters and I all grew up knowing what was expected of us," she said. Sister Emma knew that one of the things that her parents expected of her was to help out with her younger siblings.

"Sometimes I can be bossy; I believe being the oldest is where this came from," she said.

Sister Emma remembers always having an interest in teaching. She received her B.A. degree from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia and her master's of education from Millersville University in Millersville, Pa. She has taught first grade at St. Leo School for 13 years. She has also taught first grade in schools in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and at St. Ann's in Charlotte. She was a faith formation teacher for many years at several of these school's parishes.

As for her future, Sister Emma plans to teach as long as she is able. "Sharing our faith with the young gives me much pleasure," she said. "The children are like sponges at this age, soaking up so much information. I really stress the Christian values." ▼

[MODULARCORP]
*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Faith on campus

Campus ministers, interns eager to nurture college students on faith journey

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

ROCK HILL, S.C. — To say the least, Sal Inglese is not your typical campus ministry intern.

At 73, the retired South Carolina State University counselor is older than most interns; Inglese has spent the better part of his adult life working with students on a daily basis, and his enthusiasm and eagerness to help young adults on their faith journey comes from years of nurturing pupils. Besides his years at S.C. State, Inglese served as principal of Holy Trinity Catholic School in Orangeburg, S.C., in addition to his teaching overseas in Germany for several years. For Inglese, becoming a campus ministry intern at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory seemed like a way to share his faith in a teaching environment.

"I have always wanted to work for the church," he said during a recent Diocese of Charlotte campus ministers and interns retreat at The Oratory. "I love the academic life, and I love students."

Inglese, who will have an office and live on the Lenoir-Rhyne campus, is one of several new campus ministers or interns serving the Diocese of Charlotte during the 1998-99 academic year. According to Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus ministry, her office has filled or is in the process of filling 12 new positions to guarantee all 30 four-year colleges in the Charlotte Diocese have full or part-time campus ministers, interns or parish contacts serving the schools.

"This is an important time in (college) students' faith development," McDermott said, adding that 80 percent of college-age Catholic students attend non-Catholic colleges or universities. In the Diocese of Charlotte, more than 9,000 Catholics are attending the 30 four-year colleges.

"This is a critical time in a young adult's life. For many, it is the first time they are away from home, and they begin questioning the way they live," McDermott continued. "It is important that the church be present for them.

"It is also important for us to recognize their giftedness and spirituality, and to minister to them," she added.

At Brevard College, campus ministry intern Jennifer Rupp, 25, is continuing a journey that introduced her to ministry as a youth. "My parents are very service and social justice-oriented, so I was in soup kitchens at a young age," said Rupp, who will have an office and live on campus in Brevard. "I was always involved in youth ministry, from retreats to conferences to working on service projects. This is a natural progression for me."

While at Brevard, Rupp hopes to encourage students to help their brothers and sisters in need. "I would like to get the students involved in service-oriented programs, and focus on retreats as well," she said.

Inglese and Rupp are also two of several campus ministry interns taking part in the LIMEX (Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension) program. When completely finished with their courses, students will be awarded master's degrees in religious education or pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans, La.

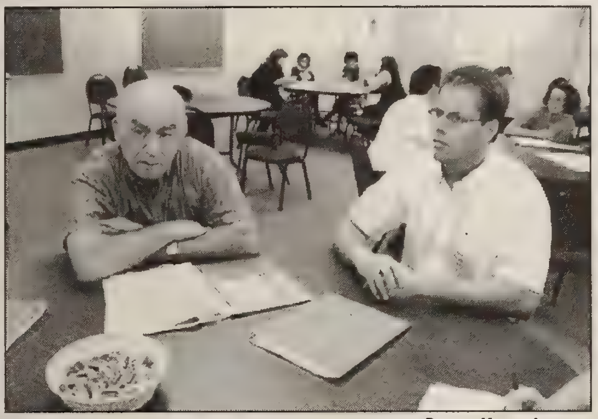


Photo by Michael Alexander

Sal Inglese and Steve Klatte of Columbia, S.C., listen during a workshop held at the recent Southeastern Young Adult Conference in Marietta, Ga. Inglese is a campus ministry intern at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

"In the past, there were no programs (locally) to support people who wanted to pursue ministry as a profession," McDermott said. "With LIMEX, we are able to provide training and education for people in our diocese who are called to ministry."

Other campus ministers, interns or parish representatives currently serving colleges in the Diocese of Charlotte include:

- Ruth Morrisey, the University of North Carolina at Asheville;
- Kati Valponi, Belmont Abbey College;
- Ed Alton, Appalachian State University;
- Barbara Neff Hutchison, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte;
- Arnoldo Gbenyon, Johnson C. Smith University and Livingstone College;
- Kristen O'Brien, Queens College;
- Julie Whichard, Wingate University;
- Gloria Schweizer, Western Carolina University;
- Barbara Bagnall, Davidson College;
- Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father John Kelly and Jerilyn Bush (intern), the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro College, and Guilford College;
- Alberta Hairston, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University and Bennett College;
- Richard Wolfe, Mars Hills College;
- Conventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo and Andrea Logan (intern), Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University, N.C. School of the Arts, and Salem College ▼

For more information on campus ministry opportunities in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Colleen McDermott, (704) 370-3212.

Sister Helen Prejean to speak at Wingate

MONROE — Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking" — an eyewitness account of the death penalty in the United States — will speak on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Wingate University's Austin Auditorium.

"Dead Man Walking" was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and was listed by The American Library Association as one of its Notable Books in 1994. A film based on the book, starring Susan Sarandon as Sister Helen and Sean Penn as Matt Poncelet, received as much acclaim.

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Sister Helen joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille in 1957. Her involvement with poor inner-city residents in the St. Thomas Housing Project in New Orleans in 1981 led her to prison ministry where she counseled death row inmates in the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

She has accompanied three men to the electric chair and witnessed their deaths. Since then, Sister Helen has devoted her energies to educating people about the death penalty. She has also befriended murder victims' families and helped found "Survive," a victims' advocacy group.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call (704) 233-8038. ▼

BMHS graduates honored

WINSTON-SALEM — Two Bishop McGuinness High School graduates have been named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations. June 1998 graduates Katherine Bailey and David Pubantz were among the students recognized.

Approximately 23 percent of America's graduating seniors have taken one or more AP examinations. Only about 13 percent of the more than 635,000 students who took AP examinations in May performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams. At Bishop McGuinness, Bailey and Pubantz qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

AP examinations, which students take in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high school, are graded on a 5-point scale (5 being the highest). Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement or both for grades of 3 or higher. ▼

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Construction/Project Manager: National insurance restoration company located in Charlotte seeks highly motivated, commission oriented, self-confident individual. A construction and sales background beneficial. Must be articulate, people oriented and extremely organized. Extensive training provided. Fax resume to Kathleen at (704) 399-0787.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com

RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Bilingual (Vietnamese-English) Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include translation/interpretation; coordinating refugee services; transporting clients. Must be fluent in Vietnamese and English; also prefer Rhade and/or Koho. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Donation Coordinator Case Aide: Full- or Part-time position needed immediately. Duties include scheduling donations, agency vehicle and inventory maintenance. Some heavy lifting required. High school degree or equivalent. Valid driver's license, good driving record and ability to drive standard 5-speed vehicle required. Resume and 3 references to Refugee Resettlement Office, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Part-time Nanny: Three days a week. Must have own transportation. Call (704) 814-0377.

Guidance Counselor: Charlotte Catholic High School needs Guidance Counselor beginning January 1999. Must have NC School Counselor Certification and experience with the college admissions process. For and application, please call (704) 543-1127.

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Charlotte Catholic High School has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Call (704) 543-1127 for an application.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Beach Condo: Rent 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath oceanside condo at Myrtle Beach. Available during October. Call (336) 924-2842.

Part 4 of 4: Poverty in South America

CRS works to free unjustly imprisoned women in Peru

Editor's Note: In June, Joanne Kennedy Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Charlotte, was one of four U.S. directors who accompanied two national Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff members to visit CRS sites in Ecuador and Peru. Lenten Operation Rice Bowl donations fund CRS programs. The names of the inmates mentioned in this story have been changed to protect their identity.

By JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
Director of Office of Justice and Peace

Peru is still struggling with the consequences of the widespread political and social violence of the 1980s and early 1990's caused by the terrorist activities of several groups. One of the results of the government's tough anti-terrorism policies has been the arbitrary and continued incarceration of persons unjustly accused of terrorism. CRS/Peru, through its Civil Society and Human Rights project, provides support for the legal defense of persons whose legal or civil rights have been violated. They work closely with the Peruvian Catholic Church's Episcopal Commission for Social Action (CEAS) and other groups. Legal defense has been provided to over 2,000 persons unjustly accused of terrorism. Of those, 916 have been released.

> **"I am 24 years and I have been in prison for four years. I was a church worker in social ministry in a poor rural parish. Someone said I was a terrorist — I do not know who."**
> *"Ana"*

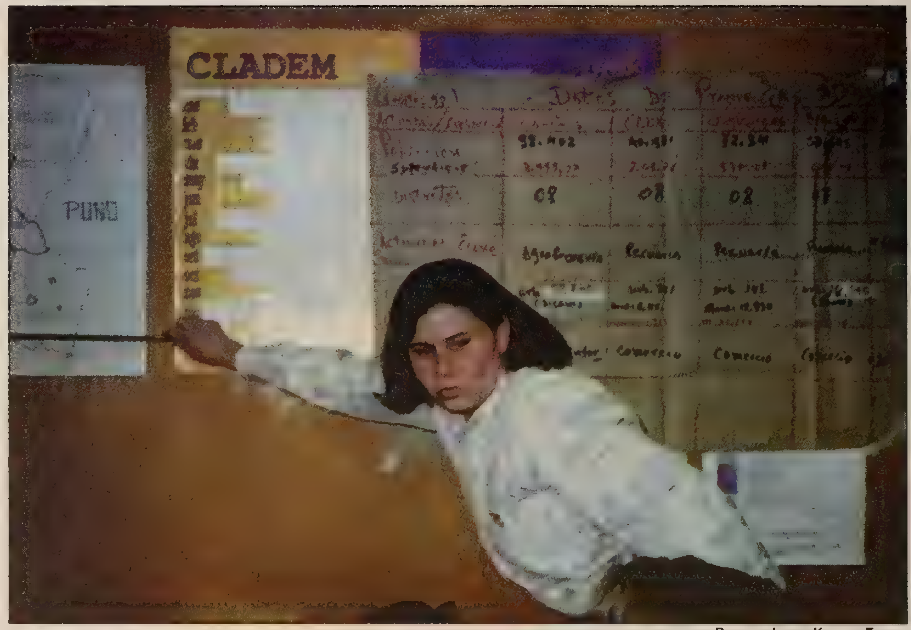


PHOTO BY JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER

Julia is a teacher of conflict resolution in the rural communities of Peru. This program is part of the CRS Civil Society and Human Rights project.

On our second day in Peru, we went to a women's prison with a CRS staffer. She'd given us a presentation that morning about the human rights work of CRS and CEAS, and I must admit that I wasn't feeling at all certain that we needed firsthand exposure to the situation. I'd heard a lot about conditions in third-world jails. What happened next did not allay my fears.

We were turned away from the first door we tried to enter — you must go the maximum security wing, we were told; that's where the terrorists are. When we arrived at the correct entrance, the guard instructed us to surrender our passports. He left us standing outside for several minutes as he retreated behind his door. Speaking quietly, we agreed among ourselves that being separated from our passports in this manner was extremely disconcerting. Eventually we were welcomed by the warden, who told us that this visit was a courtesy, and he hoped we would do nothing that could bring harm to him or the prisoners.

We were taken to a concrete yard, gate locked behind us, where we were greeted with a kiss and a thank you by each of the 30 women prisoners. It was a warm day, and they gave us the only shade in the yard, which at first we thought was part of the gracious hospitality to which we had become accustomed. We soon realized that they craved the light and warmth, so different from their cells.

We introduced ourselves as representatives of U.S. dioceses and Catholic Relief Services who had come to hear their stories. There was some understandable reluctance, but two young women agreed to talk—quietly, away from the others.

Ana began weeping quietly as she told us her story. "I am 24 years and I have been in prison for four years," she said. "I was a church worker in social ministry in a poor rural parish. Someone said I was a terrorist — I do not know who." When she was arrested, her jailers tried to get Ana to accuse others. This was a common practice which carried an implied possibility of leniency, but it invariably resulted in innocent people being identified.

> **"I was arrested when I was 19. They wouldn't let me see or talk to anyone for four months."**
> *"Gisella"*

Gisella spoke haltingly, not sure if she should trust us. "I was arrested when I was 19," she said. "They wouldn't let me see or talk to anyone for four months—finally they let me make a phone call." She received no medical attention for a serious condition. As with Ana, we agreed that we would not repeat parts of Gisella's story. She was sentenced when she was 22 years old to 12 years in prison, a term which would have been half that if she had been sentenced before turning 21.

After investigating their situations, CEAS and CRS believe both are innocent and are appealing their cases.

I was deeply affected by the vulnerability and honesty of these two young women, and it didn't take me long to realize why. I saw in them the faces of two of my daughters, who are close in age to Ana and Gisella. My children, except for an accident of birth, could have been sitting where they were, but they had the good fortune not to be born into a rural Peruvian family during a time when one is assumed guilty until she can prove her innocence. For me, the term "injustice" didn't begin to capture the horror of what Ana and Gisella are living. I carried away from that place the responsibility to work for the rights of these women, just as surely as if they *had* been members of my own family. I had certainly learned much more than any lecture could impart.

Later, we met with two women who had been released from prison as a result of the work of CEAS and CRS. "We are all children of God and we have to watch out for each other," they said. "We need the expression of love you are demonstrating (CRS funding for legal defense and personal visits)." ▾

Catholic
Heritage
Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

A Day with
Father Michael Joncas —
A Liturgical Gathering
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 1998
St. Anne's Church
1694 Bird St., Rock Hill, SC

Father Michael Joncas is a national liturgical treasure in the Catholic community and for all who worship. He is coming to Rock Hill to renew our understanding of liturgy, introduce creative ways to celebrate our faith and renew our tradition. This annual event is co-sponsored by St. Anne's Parish and the Oratory Center for Spirituality.

Cost: $20

For more information and registration contact: Sarah Morgan, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586 (803) 327-2097

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.378%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958
We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

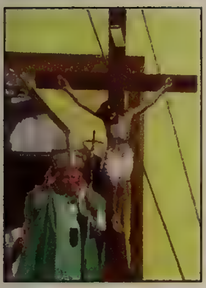
*****************3-DIGIT 275
S298 P1
42,083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 9, 1998
Volume 8 ▼ Number 6

Inside



A visit to Croatia
The pope beatifies Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac.
...PAGE 3

Hurricane Georges relief ...PAGE 13

World Mission Sunday ...PAGE 8-9

Catholic Campaign for Human Development ...PAGE 15

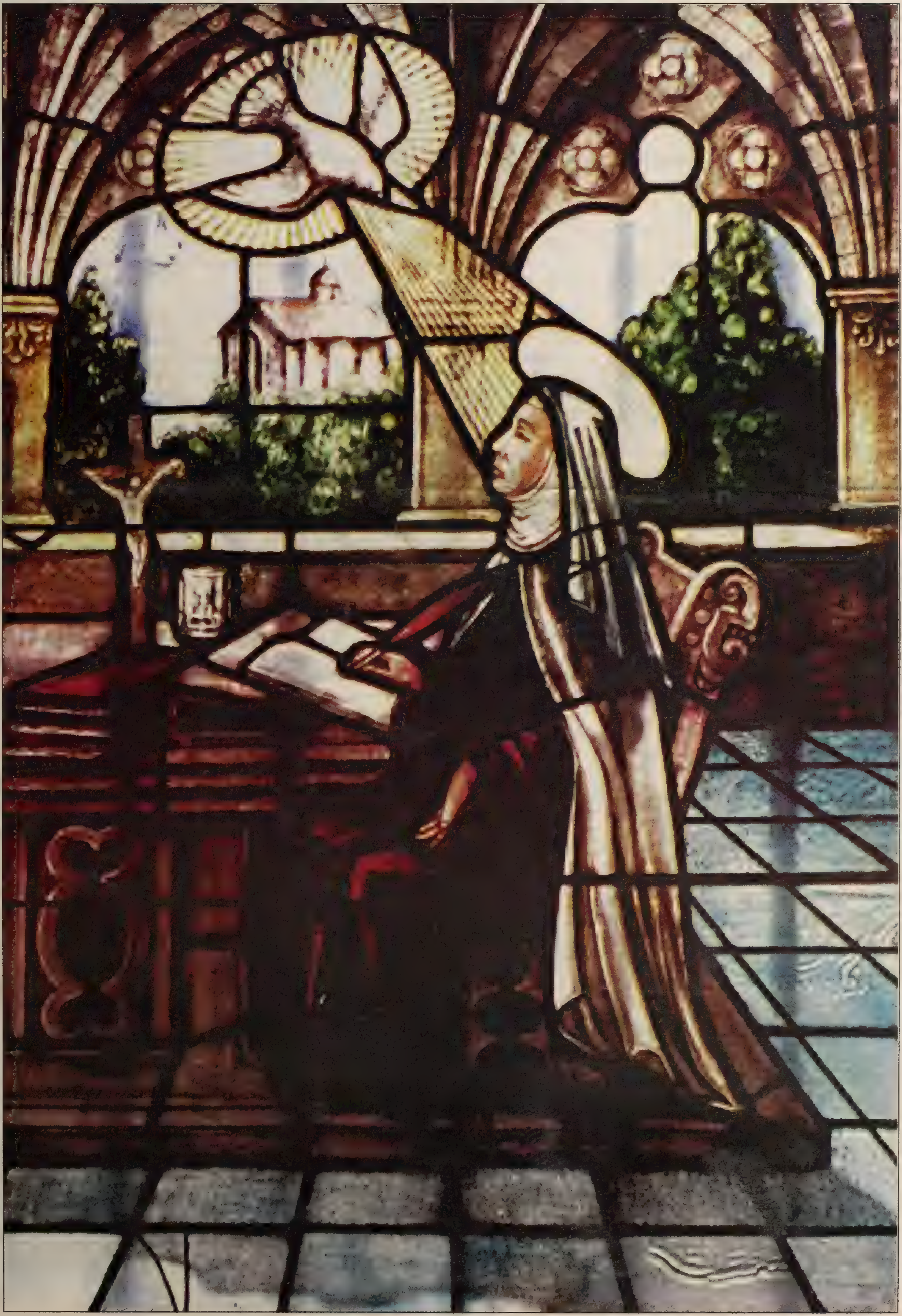
Local News

STOP
ABORTION
NOW

Praying for the unborn
7th annual Life Chain marks Respect Life Sunday
...PAGE 14

A blessing of the animals ...PAGE 16

Deacons' retreat in Hickory ...PAGE 14



On the Cover

Saint Teresa of Avila
Depicted in this stained glass window inside her hometown in Spain, Saint Teresa of Avila — feast day Oct. 15 — was the first woman declared a Doctor of the Church for her writing and teaching on prayer. Founder of the Discalced Carmelites, the Spanish nun brought women's gifts to the reform of the church. Beatified in 1614 and canonized in 1622, St. Teresa was elevated to doctoral status in 1970.

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

India to consider death penalty for rapists of nuns

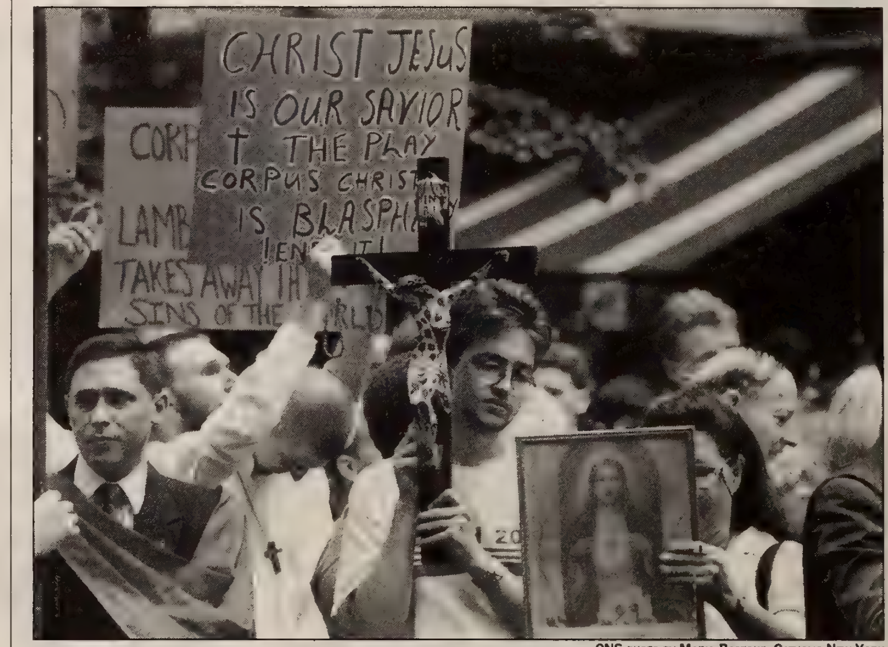
NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The government of India is considering legalizing the death penalty for rapists following the gang-rape of four Foreign Missionary Sisters, said India's home minister. Under current Indian law, the death sentence can be handed down only in cases of murder and drug trafficking. Home Secretary B.P. Singh told the Associated Press, "There is a feeling of public outrage whenever a woman is raped, and the minister is articulating his views to gauge public opinion. ... The rape of the nuns was such an outrageous and heinous incident — it has given further support to the idea that rapists should die."

Jail terms begin, end for protesters working to close SOA

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Catholic activists prepared to enter federal prisons in Kentucky and Oregon for their roles in protests against the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., others were leaving jail. Twenty-two SOA protesters were released from federal prisons across the country Sept. 18 after serving six-month sentences stemming from a November 1997 protest at the school, which trains Latin American military leaders. But in a sign of the continuing nature of the struggle to close the school, 10 days later Jesuit Father Bill Bichsel of Tacoma, Wash., and Sister Marge Eilerman of Booneville, Ky., began serving sentences of 18 months and 14 months, respectively, at federal prison camps.

New Internet site offers information on Catholic archives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic archivists have launched a new project to give researchers and the average person access to the oldest pieces of archival information through the latest technology. The U.S. Catholic Documentary Archive debuted on the World Wide Web in late September at www.uschs.com. It is the work of the U.S. Catholic Historical Society, with technical assistance from Catholic Online and partial funding from the Catholic Communication Campaign. In its initial stage, the Internet site contains information on 203 Catholic archives — dioceses and archdioceses, religious institutes, and colleges and universities.


CHRIST JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR NOT THE PLAY CORPUS CHRISTI
CORPUS CHRISTI IS BLASPH
LAMB
TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD

CNS photo by Maria Bastone, Catholic New York

Protesting "Corpus Christi" play

Demonstrators protest the preview run of the controversial play "Corpus Christi" in New York Sept. 26. The play by Terrence McNally presents a variation of the Gospel story with homosexual characters. The protest rally drew about 700 people.

Mexican workers deported after making wage complaints

NEW YORK (CNS) — Immigrant advocates are crying foul after the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services raided a Staten Island laundry service five days after workers there filed a complaint against the owner for $159,747 in back wages. One of the 10 Mexican immigrants arrested in the Sept. 15 raid of Launderall, a 17-year-old girl, was immediately deported. Three women and six men signed voluntary deportation agreements and were deported to Mexico Sept. 22. Workers alleged that Launderall's owner, Vincent Friscia, has not paid overtime in nearly eight years. The Latino Workers Center, which assists undocumented immigrants in labor disputes, presented Friscia with a complaint Sept. 10 on the workers' behalf.

Thousands of Arabs strike to protest expropriation of land

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Thousands of Arab citizens of Israel took part in a countrywide general strike to protest Israeli attempts to expropriate Arab land belonging to four villages in northern Israel. The Sept. 29 strike was organized after more than 100 Arabs were injured in two days of violent rioting that began Sept. 27. Sporadic incidents of violence were reported during the protest strike, but no arrests were reported. In Nazareth, Deputy Mayor Suhiel Diab said some 500 protesters marched down the main road of the city, and the demonstration culminated in speeches by Mayor Ramzi Jerassi and other leaders.

Faith critical to stewardship, priest tells convention

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — If you know anything about stewardship, you know about the three T's — time, talent and treasure. But when Father Daniel Danielson, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Pleasanton, Calif., spoke at the National Catholic Stewardship Council's 1998 conference in Orlando Sept. 23, he gave the three T's an F. That's F as in faith. "Faith is absolutely critical to stewardship," said Father Danielson. "Conversion is accomplished by the Spirit of God, not human beings. We have a role to play, but the work of conversion is the work of the Spirit. It is not our role."

Michigan assisted suicide measure starts a battle for votes

FLINT, Mich. (CNS) — A ballot measure to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Michigan could likely pass, according to one survey of focus groups and likely voters. The survey, conducted in July for Citizens for Compassionate Care, found 47 percent of the people in eight focus groups and 500 likely voters supported a measure to legalize physician-assisted suicide. Forty-two percent opposed the initiative and 11 percent were undecided. The polling company, Public Opinion Strategies, noted that ballot language had not been settled by the time of the survey, so the likely voters were responding to the concept of the measure instead of the actual question.

Holy See pavilion at Expo '98 drew nearly 1 million visitors

LISBON, Portugal (CNS) — The Holy See pavilion at Expo '98 attracted nearly 1 million visitors to its collection of religious art showing the relationship between water and Christianity. With its theme, "Fons Vitae," or "Fount of Life," the Holy See pavilion featured 150 mostly unpublished works of art — including paintings, sculptures, textiles and gold — from the dioceses of Portugal, private collections, the Vatican museums and from Israel. "People are saying our pavilion is good, and I think they have been telling their family and friends," said Maria Natalia Correia Guedes, coordinator of the Holy See's pavilion at Expo '98, the last world's fair of the century. "Word of mouth is the best promotion for an art exhibition."

The Catholic News & Herald

October 9, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 6
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 11-21
Personal pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From The Bishop

See page 5 for his October column

Where moral principles are in question

Diocesan planner

October

11 BOONVILLE — Father John Hoover hosts an open house with a celebration of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in various arts forms from 3-5 p.m today and Oct. 18 at New Creation Monastery. Midday prayer is at 2:45 p.m., and vespers is at 5 p.m. each day. For more information and directions, call (336) 699-4005.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

12 CLEMMONS — A charismatic healing Mass is celebrated at 7:15 p.m. today at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For information or directions, call (336) 778-0600 or (336) 998-9842.

HIGH POINT — Induction into the Scapular Society is at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., today at 4 p.m. for youth. Monthly meetings for the Little Flowers and Little Carpenters groups are each first Tuesday.

14 CHARLOTTE — A representative from Sharon Luggage gives a packing demonstration at the monthly meeting of the 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church today. Sandwiches, dessert and coffee will be served. The second payment for the Myrtle Beach trip is due at this meeting. For more information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

CONCORD — St. James Church, 251 Union St. N., hosts its 45th annual barbecue today from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Takeout is available in the church hall. Dine-in service is offered in the new parish center behind the church, down Elm Street. Parking is across the street from the church. Cost is $6 per dinner or three sandwiches. Dinners include barbecue, potatoes, slaw, bread, dessert and bever-

Pope beatifies Croatian cardinal, lauds democratic development

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

SPLIT, Croatia (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified a cardinal he said summed up the tragedies of Croatia and Europe this century and applauded the country for its democratic development.

"My stay among you has enabled me to experience at first hand the recovery achieved in the past few years," the pope noted in his Oct. 4 farewell address at the airport of Split, Croatia. "I have seen a society which desires to build its present and future on solid democratic foundations, in complete fidelity to its own history, which is permeated by Christianity, in order to take its rightful place in the assembly of the other European nations."

During his Oct. 2-4 visit, Pope John Paul repeatedly took note of the violent and sometimes ambiguous episodes in Croatia's past, from collaboration with Nazi Germany in World War II to the war for independence from Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. More often, he referred to the country's Christian roots and urged its people to rely on religious values to strengthen their society.

The two main focal points of the pope's visit were the beatification of Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac and the celebration of Split's 1,700th anniversary. Pope John Paul referred to the national significance of the beatification after the Oct. 3 Mass at the national shrine outside Zagreb.

"The cardinal archbishop of Zagreb, one of the outstanding figures of the Catholic Church, having endured in his own body and his own spirit the atrocities of the communist system, is now entrusted to the memory of his fellow countrymen with the radiant badge of martyrdom," the pontiff said.

Blessed Stepinac, he added, "sums up, so to speak, the whole tragedy which befell the Croatian people and Europe in the course of this century marked by the three great evils of fascism, national socialism and communism."

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II passes by boats in Split harbor as he rides in his popemobile Oct. 4 prior to his final Mass in Croatia. Security was unusually tight during the three-day papal visit.

Of Croatia's 4.8 million people, 3.7 million are Catholic. The majority of the remainder are Orthodox. The recent war reinforced historical animosity between them.

Gazing out over the harbor at Split, a working port and resort area on Croatia's Dalmation coast, the pope reminded the 500,000 faithful — standing on land and in a flotilla of about 50 fishing boats and pleasure craft — that the coastline had been the site of "wonderful architectural masterpieces, which inspired awe in countless people in every age."

"Tragically, as a result of war, many of these treasures have been destroyed or damaged," he said at the Oct. 4 morning Mass. "The eye of man can no longer rejoice in them. How can we not feel regret for this?"

That afternoon, his main message to tens of thousands of boisterous young people on a massive lawn at Croatia's oldest Marian shrine, the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Island, was that they were their country's best hope. Therefore, he said, they should prepare themselves with the help of their families and the church.

"Never forget that anything in your lives which is not in tune with God's plan for the human person is doomed sooner or later to failure," the pope warned.

Pope John Paul told catechists and religion teachers also present at the gathering that "to invest in the formation of the younger generation is to invest in the future of the church and the nation.

Without a sound formation of the younger generation, there can be no reassuring prospects for the future of either the local church or the nation."

Elementary school religion instructor Darija Visic, 27, said she thought Croatia was about to enter "a good time" after emerging from 44 years of communist rule.

"Right now is not a good time," Visic said. Then with one hand, she indicated the youthful throng, shouting the pope's name in Croatian and singing hymns. "But the church will help us to be strong, and we will help Croatia. We must face our problems ourselves."

The pope told Croatians at his Oct. 2 arrival in the capital, Zagreb, that he had come "to confirm my brothers and sisters in the faith ... to encourage their hope and to strengthen their love."

In the months leading up to the papal visit, debate intensified over the nature of Blessed Stepinac's World War II allegiances, for years a galvanizing issue among the country's Catholic, Serbian Orthodox and Jewish populations.

While still the archbishop of Zagreb, Blessed Stepinac welcomed the April 1941 arrival of the pro-Nazi puppet regime, the Ustasha, established by Germany, which had declared Croatia an independent state within Yugoslavia.

Only as the regime's racist and eventually genocidal policies against Serbs, Gypsies and Jews became evident did Blessed Stepinac speak out. A year after seeing "God's hand at work" in the Ustasha's arrival, he met their leader, Ante Pavelic, on the steps of the Zagreb cathedral with the words, "Thou shalt not kill." Pavelic refused to enter the cathedral and stormed off.

In later public writings and messages to priests in his archdiocese, Blessed Stepinac said deprivation of human rights was against the wishes of God. He is also credited with saving 400-500 of the 39,000 Jews in wartime Croatia by placing them under church care.

Slavko Goldstein, a leader of the council overseeing the affairs of Croatia's current Jewish population of 2,000, said Oct. 2 that Blessed Stepinac could not be faulted for his actions.

"It took him a lot of time to realize what was happening," Goldstein said. "Maybe it took him more time than it took others. Of course he could have done more if he had protested earlier. But maybe he had other things on his mind."

Goldstein added that Blessed Stepinac "was really a brave man and a symbol of resistance against communism."

---

age. Hot dogs will also be available.

15 CHARLOTTE — A four-week bereavement ministry training seminar begins today from 7-9:30 p.m. in rooms B and C of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Other sessions are Oct. 22 and 29 and Nov. 5. Cost is $15. Registration is required and can be made by calling (704) 362-5047, ext. 201.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

16 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets today at 6:30 p.m. in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica, 97 Haywood St., for a family potluck dinner. For details, call Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336.

CARY — Parishioners in the Charlotte Diocese are invited to the 35th anniversary celebration of Cursillo in North Carolina today at St. Michael the Archangel Church's parish center, 804 High House Rd., (919) 468-6100. Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh celebrates Mass at 6:30 p.m.; dinner and dancing follow. Cost is $15 per person. Call Beth Adams at (919) 469-9521 or Xiomara Boyce at (919) 383-2000 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins Oct. 16. For further information, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

All Charlotte Catholic High School alumni are invited to the annual homecoming tailgate party and football game today starting at 6:30 p.m. Game time is 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the CCHS Alumni Association. Call (704) 543-9118 for details.

17 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, hosts a flea market today from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor tables are available for $25 each. For details, call Juanita Terenzi at (704) 821-9895.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Catholic Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., hosts its annual "Ye Olde Village Shoppes" today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Featured are handcrafted holiday items, baked goods, religious articles, children's items, raffles and auctions. For details, call (336) 766-8133, ext. 200.

FRANKLIN — A craft fair is today at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 150 Maple St., from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds support New Beginnings, a support group for foster and at-risk children. For more information, call Bernadette Zimmerman, (336) 246-4518.

18 SYLVA — The Franciscan Friars' Ministry of the Word conducts a parish mission at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., starting today at 7 p.m. with a mission talk. The mission continues through Oct. 21 with a 9 a.m. Mass and mission talk, and a 7 p.m. mission talk each day. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered Oct. 19, and the anointing of the sick takes place Oct. 20. A youth Mass ends the mission Oct. 21. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

20 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts an estate planning seminar today. The focus is on the importance of the will. For details, call (704) 549-1607.

21 CHARLOTTE — Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychologist and former diocesan Respect Life Committee member, speaks about the problems women encounter after having abortions today at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Research finds and practical suggestions for individuals and parishes are included. For details, call (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges more preparation for confirmation

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics need to make greater efforts to prepare young people for confirmation and to help those already confirmed understand the gift they have been given, Pope John Paul II said.

As Catholics reflect on the person and power of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the jubilee year 2000, he said, they must give fuller attention to the sacrament by which Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

At his weekly general audience, the pope said a special emphasis should be placed on the effectiveness of the sacrament in bringing people "to full maturation in the Christian life."

The pope said there is a deep connection between the sacrament of baptism, which introduces a person into the Christian life, and the sacrament of confirmation, in which the Holy Spirit gives all the gifts necessary to live the Christian life.

The bond was emphasized in the practice of the early church — and continues today in the Eastern churches — by celebrating the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist together.

The different practices today within the Catholic Church arose out of a variety of pastoral concerns, he said, but the differences emphasize the importance of confirmation.

The practice of the Eastern churches, in which the priest administers baptism and Eucharist together, he said, "gives greater emphasis to the unity of Christian initiation."

The practice of the Western church, in which the bishop usually administers the sacrament of confirmation, "more clearly expresses the communion of the new Christian with the bishop as guarantor and servant of the unity, catholicity and apostolicity of his church," the pope said.

Eastern rites can serve as Catholic-Orthodox bridge, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Eastern-rite churches can serve as bridges between the Catholic and Orthodox churches, Pope John Paul II said. In a Sept. 29 meeting with Eastern-rite patriarchs from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Iraq, the pope said their churches "represent in the bosom of the Catholic Church the Christian Orient, toward which we do not cease to stretch out our arms for the fraternal meeting of full communion."

Eastern-rite Catholics need courage to reform churches, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The same strength and courage Eastern-rite Catholics showed in preserving their churches when threatened with annihilation must be used to reform and renew their churches today, Pope John Paul II said. Meeting Oct. 1 with participants in the plenary assembly of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, the pope said priority must be given to the pastoral care of Eastern-rite Catholics living outside their traditional homelands and to the renewal of Eastern liturgies.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

Making a crowd into a community

The evangelist Luke records that when Jesus fed the 5,000, he instructed the disciples to rearrange the crowd into small groups of about 50. Then he blessed the loaves and fishes and distributed them to the small clusters of followers.

Even for the Lord it was apparently unwieldy to minister to the whole crowd.

Beginning this fall, our parish, like many others, is following the example of the Lord in ministering to people in smaller clusters. We are participating in RENEW 2000, a nationwide program to spiritually prepare American Catholics for the new millennium. The heart of RENEW is small groups. Not the clusters of 50 people that Luke mentioned, but living-room-sized groups of six to 10. But the idea is the same.

It is simply impossible to minister to the whole "crowd" of the parish in any meaningful way. But when we are broken up into small groups we not only can get to know each other, but we can "minister" to each other.

Like the theme song from "Cheers" said, we all want to go where "everybody knows your name." In many American Catholic parishes that just can't happen because we are too big.

For example, my parish, with 620 families and 2,000 souls, is only considered "medium-sized." But there is no way I could meaningfully know everyone. Compared with many Protestant churches, our parishes are huge. For example, we are engaged in RENEW together with a neighboring Episcopal church which has about one-third as many people.

If we operate on the "filling station" model of ministry, just distributing the sacraments to crowds of people, perhaps we can function for a while. But we cannot really come to know one another. We remain alone in a crowd. Our joys and sorrows, hurts and triumphs, needs and gifts also remain unknown. Sometimes nobody even knows our name.

It is impossible for any one person, including the priest, to know everyone. Even the Lord could not personally come to know each of the 5,000 people who followed him to the hillside in Galilee. But it is possible for small groups to come to know each other.

This is where the small groups of RENEW come in. For six weeks each fall and spring we divide up into small discussion groups of six to 10 people. The groups meet in someone's home once a week at a time convenient to the participants. We will do this for five seasons, each time rotating groups a little. Gradually we will come to know each other better.

People seem to like this idea. In our parish about 280 people signed up for RENEW discussion groups. We have over 30 groups of all types: young adults and seniors, Spanish- and English-speaking, mornings and evenings.

The great thing about these groups is that they turn a "crowd" into a "community." We will come to know each other and minister to each other. By praying together, we are organized around the real work of parish life, prayer. By studying the Scriptures together, we are doing what the multitude in the Gospel did, listening to Jesus.

Great things can come from small groups. After all, the Lord started with 12.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Resisting friends who could get you in trouble

Her dad didn't know the whole story. He wasn't there, and all he could tell me was what his daughter told him. I've changed some details for the sake of privacy, but everything else is true.

She had been with her friends — the friends were engaged in some illegal stuff involving marijuana. She told her dad she wasn't part of that, but he wasn't sure what he believed.

Anyway, there was trouble with some "suppliers," and the daughter's friends decided to "scare them." They would go over with guns and make some threats, but nobody would get hurt. She thought it was a bad idea, but they were her friends and she let them talk her into driving the car.

She'd stay out on the street and she'd be OK. They promised her that she was safe. They really meant it. They were her friends. She was worried, but she drove them over anyway.

Something went wrong. Two guys got shot, and one of them died. The district attorney tried her as an adult. She knew it was about drugs. She knew her friends had guns. She sat in on the planning, and she drove the car. A murder took place, and the law said she'd helped commit the crime. Her dad wept as he told me that she's serving nine years in the penitentiary.

We can be thankful that our choices are rarely this serious. A situation involving guns, for example, is a special topic that would need to be discussed all by itself in another article.

But here I want to say that every teen faces important decisions involving friends. Your friends have an idea. They think it would be fun, and you think it sounds risky. They try talking you out of your fears.

Maybe they're proposing a big deal like using drugs or something little by comparison like going shopping when your parents think you're at home.

At times like that, you need a plan for keeping out of trouble and you may feel you need to plan against losing your friends. That requires communicating two things: first, that you won't participate in this activity, and second, that you still want their friendship.

Tell your friends that you don't want to do what they propose, and say why. The real message is simply that you aren't going along on this one. This is not the time for a long moral lecture. Just state your reasons.

"I don't want to go because if my dad comes home and I'm not here, he'll kill me." Or, "I don't want to because I think we'll get suspended." Or, "I don't want to — beer makes me puke."

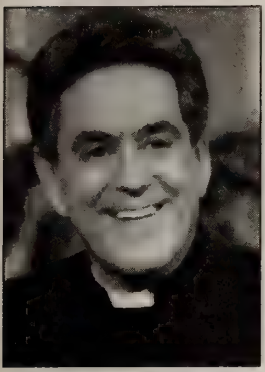
Next, suggest an alternative. "Look, let's rent some videos and go to my house," or, "My mom's going to be home at four. I bet she'll take us to the mall." You just need an alternative proposal.

If that doesn't work, if your friends are going ahead with their risky plan, start talking with your feet. You can suggest something for tomorrow. You can say, "OK, well, let's get together after English tomorrow, but I gotta go now."

Then go. Don't look back. Don't get involved in any more conversation. Just get out of there.

If you do it this way, tomorrow you're still friends. If this was a one-time bad decision on their part, it will blow over.

You stuck up for yourself, and if your friends are worthwhile, they'll respect your courage. And if they don't respect your courage, maybe you need some different friends.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Whose kids!?

In an old Chinese story, a wise teacher asks his listeners to identify the "Most Satisfying Thing in Life." "A happy marriage," some replied. Others insisted, "Good health!" There were many answers, but after everyone had spoken up, the teacher announced that all had failed to give the correct answer. "The most satisfying thing in life," he said, "is to see a child confidently walk down the road on his own or her own after you have shown the way."

Being a good parent can be hard. So much sacrifice, patience and work that goes into it in those early years of a child's life. As children grown older, they can disappoint, they can be selfish, they can make unreasonable demands. And when youngsters do something wrong, people today will say to the parents, in effect, "They're your kids, they're your problem."

In the Scriptures, we get a beautiful picture of parents tenderly and compassionately loving their children and teaching them about life. The prophets Isaiah and Hosea describe the feelings of joy and wholeness that come to parents and to members of the community in their "extended" religious family, as they pass on life, not only of the body, but of the mind and the spirit. Consequently, we are not surprised, when we come to Jesus welcoming children and speaking about them lovingly and protectively.

Someone has estimated that in a middle-class family, it takes about $200,000 to raise a child to adulthood today. It strikes me that the only way most parents manage is by realizing that it is not merely an expense, but as the greatest investment they can ever make.

You might recall the parable of the "Prodigal Son" — a young man caused his good, hard-working, self-sacrificing father much anxiety, grief and loneliness. But the father never forgot his responsibility to and for his son. When the wayward son returned to his father's house seeking forgiveness, the father received him with joy. In Jesus' words, "While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20)

We cannot do otherwise for our young people. This is true for all of us, not just those who are parents. The children of our communities are all *our* children and we, as a family, have been given the joyful responsibility of passing a full life on to them — a life of love and mercy, integrity and self-discipline.

Relatives, neighbors and church members have the opportunity to be role models that will make a difference. Motivation, encouragement, time and attention matter to young people.

Adults are also responsible for the institutions in our society — religious, educational, political, and economic — that affect the next generation. We have the duty to raise questions: "What are these institutions doing for children? Are they for or against young people?"

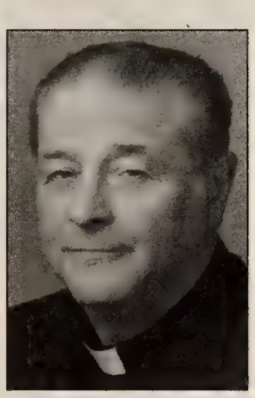
The prominent American educator and philosopher John Dewey once observed, "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children."

And what we should want for our children is really what we want for ourselves: an opportunity to be happy, a challenge to do good, a future to fill with hope.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Why does the world need missionaries at all?

Q. My question regards your answer about the salvation of people in other religions, not just Catholics or other Christians.

You quote the Catholic catechism saying those who do not know the Gospel of Christ may be saved, and you quote the pope's statement that God "wants to save all humankind," and that he "has his own ways of reaching them" ("Crossing the Threshold of Hope").

I suggest that the church simply recall all missionaries. If that is what the church teaches, why have them at all? Why even bother preaching the Gospel?

A. Perhaps we should first note the Catholic teaching to which you refer. It may be found in many places. The one you mention is a main one, of course. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, echoing the documents of Vatican Council II among others, teaches: "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church," but who seek God sincerely and, with God's grace, try to do his will as they know it through their consciences, "may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847).

Then why the big deal about being a Christian, you ask. Why do we think that is so important? Many responses to that question are possible.

For me, however, and I believe for most Christians today, the basic answer is that knowledge of the Gospel of Christ is essential if we are to know and love our heavenly Father as Jesus wants us to.

The essence of the good news of Christ is that the infinite reality "out there" is a gracious and benevolent presence to us; that we, all human beings, are loved totally and unconditionally by the Father who created us, who holds us in existence and who has made us to be with him eternally.

That is all true whether we are aware of it or not. But being loved that way is one thing. Knowing we are loved that way is quite something else, because only when we know about that love can we respond to it with our own hearts and lives.

That response of love and praise and trust is, incidentally, what the sacraments and the eucharistic sacrifice are first of all about.

Not to come to a knowledge of that central reality of human existence, not to have the opportunity to frame one's life as a return of the heavenly Father's love because we don't know of that love, is a terrible deprivation.

If we are at all appreciative and grateful for our Christian faith, if we honor this loving God as we say we do, it becomes our obvious duty to acquaint our brothers and sisters in the human family with those truths and help them learn to respond.

That is what authentic missionaries — the official ones and the unofficial ones, the rest of us — are sent and obliged to do.

One further point. Some have said to me: If we believing Christians are to be judged by a higher standard, aren't "they" better off than we are when we die?

We don't know much about the hidden ways and judgments of God. God is fair.

For ourselves, however, once we know the truths I've described, we can never again pretend we don't know them, whatever others may do.

Unfair? Perhaps. But committed love of God, of Christ, is what a baptized Christian has promised. And committed love has its price, its responsibilities, with God as with anyone else.

From The Bishop

THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Where moral principles are in question

In the 1940s the Catholic bishops of the United States warned of a false philosophy that would become popular in the closing years of this century: "Go to church, but leave God in church." Their words were prophetic, for recent scandals prove that moral principles are "up for grabs." "Might makes right"is a popular slogan. Recent news reports suggest that financial stability has replaced a moral conscience.

Catholics should be especially embarrassed to know that 10 Catholic senators have voted against a bill, passed by the House of Representatives, to ban the partial birth abortion procedure. It is incomprehensible that anyone would favor a procedure that allows a baby to be partially removed from the mother's womb, its head stabbed with scissors, and its brain sucked out until the tiny body falls limp in death. This is a barbarism unparalleled in history! Catholic support of the partial birth procedure is a scandal!

> What can we do to stem this tide of moral insanity and restore respect for the sanctity of human life? First, we can join with all who believe in the power of prayer and sacrifice; for Jesus promised that these would bring miracles that this world judges impossible.

What can we do to stem this tide of moral insanity and restore respect for the sanctity of human life? First, we can join with all who believe in the power of prayer and sacrifice; for Jesus promised that these would bring miracles that this world judges impossible.

Second, we must use every opportunity to champion the sanctity of human life. Peaceful demonstration is a public witness to our defense of life. Today's violent attacks against the sanctity of human life do not permit silence by the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Finally, this is the season when elected public officials are seeking our votes. Before casting our ballots we should carefully study the "voting records" of our political leaders. Do they represent our beliefs? Do politicians play the "game" of claiming personal abhorrence of abortion while publicly voting pro-choice for political reasons?

We should not be deceived by those who claim their support of "other" social issues excuses their voting pro-abortion. No one deserves our vote who fails to exhibit a defense of those fundamental rights and freedoms on which true democracy is based.

Our votes must reflect our personal faith in Jesus and his teaching concerning the sanctity of human life. Good and evil are not equal!

Cardinal Mahony, at Vatican, discusses EWTN

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles said he discussed the recent controversy with Mother Angelica and her Eternal Word Television Network during his "ad limina" visit at the Vatican. Cardinal Mahony said he had met with Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, head of the Vatican congregation that deals with religious orders, to discuss follow-up action on the controversy with Mother Angelica and EWTN. In a program last year, Mother Angelica criticized Cardinal Mahony's pastoral letter on the Eucharist and invited listeners in his archdiocese to give him "zero" obedience. She later apologized but continued to question the cardinal's teaching and did not respond to his demand for a retraction. At that point, the cardinal turned to the Vatican for help.

Mexican bishop calls for further probe into 1968 student massacre

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — As Mexicans prepared to mark the 30th anniversary of a massacre of more than 200 students, the president of the bishops' conference added his voice to calls for further investigation and release of secret documents. "Truth will always give health and freedom to a people," said Bishop Luis Morales Reyes, president of the Mexican bishops' conference. He spoke to reporters Sept. 28 at the conclusion of a daylong meeting of the conference's permanent council. On Oct. 2, 1968, a week before the opening of the Olympic Games in Mexico City, soldiers opened fire on a student demonstration in Tlatelolco Plaza. At the time, the government said 27 students were killed. Contemporary estimates put the toll at between 200 and 300 deaths.

Michael Douglas joins group seeking ban on nuclear weapons

OTTAWA (CNS) — Academy award-winning actor Michael Douglas lent his celebrity status to an international delegation urging the Canadian government to support a global ban on nuclear weapons. "I personally feel nuclear weapons are the greatest danger for the future of our planet, of our life, of our civilization," Douglas said at a news conference following the Sept. 29 meeting between Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and religious and nongovernmental organizations from Canada and the United States. "I am committed that in my lifetime we will be able to abolish nuclear weapons," Douglas said. "So I say, 'No more nukes!'"

British, Irish bishops issue statement on Eucharist, sharing

LONDON (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Great Britain and Ireland, in a joint statement on the Eucharist, continued to prohibit Catholics from receiving Communion in the Anglican Church and at churches that originated in the Reformation. Catholic leaders have been working together for two years to produce the document, "One Bread, One Body," which establishes norms on sacramental sharing for Britain and Ireland, as recommended in the Vatican's 1993 Ecumenical Directory. The document was released simultaneously Sept. 30 in London, in Dublin, Ireland, and in Glasgow, Scotland.

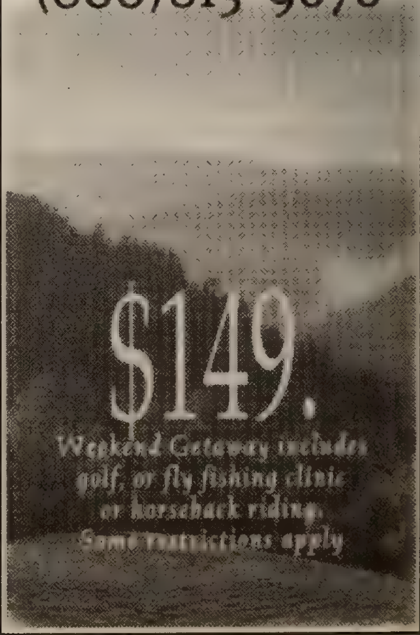
CNS PHOTO BY JACQUELINE SROUJI, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

Charities meeting

Catholic Charities USA president Jesuit Father Fred Kammer talks with Julie Platek during the national meeting of the organization in Houston Sept. 26-28. Father Kammer told those gathered that Catholic Charities will work to shape welfare law to respond to individual and family needs.

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097
A Day with the "Common Ground Initiative"
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1998
Father Richard Sparks, C.S.P.
The vision of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in his final months was reconciliation in the American Church via the "Common Ground Initiative." Father Richard Sparks will lead study and reflection on the initiative as well as offer an update on current progress and future possibilities.
Cost: $25
Pre-register by November 6

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT
Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations.
Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.
Only 90 minutes from Charlotte
(800)813-9676

$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee Year of 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with articles from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

When the third millennium begins prompts debate by timekeepers

60
5
10
50
20
45
25
40
35
30

By **PHIL NERO**

Whether the third millennium begins in the year 2000 or 2001 is debated by historians and timekeepers. Yet it seems that any expert worth his hourglass knows the correct answer. So which is it?

(A) Midnight, Jan. 1, 2001 — because a full 2,000 years must pass before you can start counting the next 1,000.

(B) Midnight, Jan. 1, 2000 — for all the reasons the '60s didn't start in 1961.

(C) Neither — because we've miscalculated Christ's birth so badly that the debate shouldn't start until about 2005.

(D) All the above.

Based on the modern western calendar, Father Kevin Laughery casts his vote for 2001. A diocesan priest and pastor of two small parishes in southern Illinois, Father Laughery has made the study of calendars and the marking of time a hobby for about 10 years.

"We started counting the first 1,000 years in the year 1 A.D. Therefore we must begin counting the third thousand years with the year 2001," he says.

Ronald Zupko, an expert metrologist and a Marquette University history professor, concurs, to a degree. "It's really 2001, but it's all a moot question, because if Christ were born in 7 B.C., it would be at least 2005 anyway," Zupko says.

Father Laughery agrees we're probably years off on the birth of Christ.

"The monk Dionysius Exiguus devised the common era chronology and set it up so that the year we designate as 1 B.C., before Christ, is followed by the year A.D. 1," Laughery says. We place Dionysius in the 6th century. The system he devised was adopted sometime after his death.

To make a long explanation short, we got better at measuring time as time went on.

"It's as if we began counting (time) one, two, many," Zupko says. "As we got modern, we got more accurate."

Thanks to advances like the mechanical clock, around the 13th century, we began to get a handle on time measurement. Uniformity, however, was another issue.

"In England, the year didn't start on January 1 until 1742," Zupko says. "During the Middle Ages you could travel three miles into three different towns and be in three different years."

As time passed, times changed in more than one way.

"Christ's birth, based on modern scientific findings of a supernova, which was believed to be the star of Bethlehem, took place in 6 or 7 B.C.," Zupko says.

Jesuit Father Dennis Hamm, a Creighton University theology professor and Scripture expert, thinks 2000 is as good a year as any to start the new millennium.

"These days we know that the story of the universe is about 15 billion years old. The story of life on earth is some 4.5 billion; and the story of Homo sapiens is about 40,000 years. A mere 2,000 years, though it seems like a long stretch from one perspective, is really a very brief period. We may be at the relative beginning of Christianity," Father Hamm says. "The church has always taken centennials as times of jubilee.

"Whatever may be the flaws in our dating of the actual birth of Christ, this major marker of 2000 years can begin a time of implementation of covenant relationships in order to further advance the vision of peace and justice sketched by our U.S. bishops in the pastoral letters 'The Challenge of Peace' (1983) and 'Economic Justice for All' (1986)."

Father Laughery agrees we needn't wait until 2000 to take a global approach to doing the right thing.

"Time is precious. We want to commit to doing with our human energies things that will make a difference for a more peaceful and just world," Father Laughery says. "Economics rules our world, and we're becoming one world economy. Are we letting that economy serve people or people serve the economy? Obviously justice is served when we remember that economic systems exist for the well-being of people. People are not to be sacrificed for the economy."

Adds Father Laughery: "We cannot waste our time on religious hatred and other kinds of hatred. We have to begin improving human relationships by emphasizing what people have in common, not what divides us."

So, when does the new millennium begin? The best answer may be:

(E) There's no time like the present.

Finding the Pulse of the Spirit in the World Today

Sponsored by **The Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Evangelization** *and* **Congregation of the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) USA - Eastern Province**

Mark your calendar!
October 23-25, 1998
Charlotte, NC
Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel
A conference to celebrate "The Year of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Christian third millennium

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Parish

Diocesan cost: $85.00 ($75.00 conference, $10.00 registration fee)
Please return form with payment to: **Office of Evangelization, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203**

JUBILEE 2000 CHRIST YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER ™

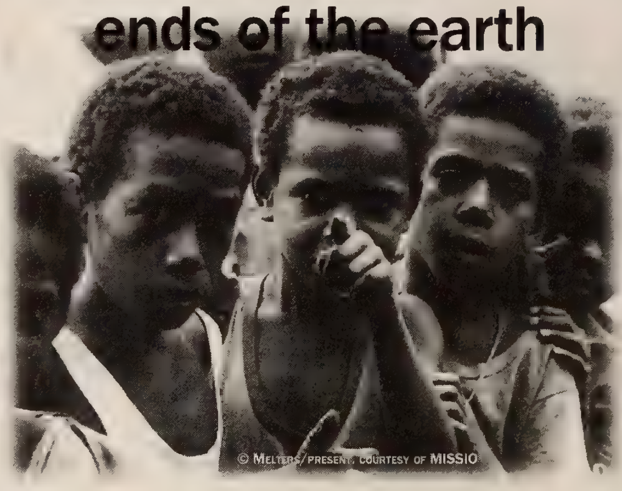
The urgent question of our souls...
Where in our world is the Holy Spirit?

"The church wishes to prepare for the jubilee in the Holy Spirit, just as the Virgin of Nazareth in whom the Word was made flesh was prepared by the Holy Spirit."
– Pope John Paul II,
The Lord and Giver of Life, 1986

Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel: Phone (704) 392-1200 for room reservations. Ask for discounted room - conference rate.

To request a brochure: Office of Evangelization, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3214 or (704) 289-2773

World Mission Sunday: that Christ may be known and loved to the ends of the earth



© Melters/present, courtesy of MISSIO

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus said to Simon Peter: "You are Peter — the rock — and on you I will build my Church."

Twenty years ago, on Oct. 22, 1978, John Paul II, the newly elected successor to Peter, celebrated Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On this occasion — which was World Mission Sunday as well as the day on which Pope John Paul began his ministry and the mission of St. Peter — he recalled before the world Peter's confession to Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And the pope said: "In those words is the faith of the church."

Further on in his homily, Pope John Paul described what the church does on World Mission Sunday. The church, he said, "is praying, meditating, and acting in order that Christ's words of life may reach all people and be received by them as a message of hope, salvation and total liberation."

Each World Mission Sunday, the church does the same. At the Eucharist on World Mission Sunday, Catholics in dioceses of the United States and throughout the world offer prayers and financial offerings so that other people — all people — might have the opportunity to know Christ and to love him as we do, we who have been blessed with the faith of the church.

Over the 20 years of his pontificate, Pope John Paul has traveled the world again and again to bring the Light of Christ in person. He has been seen by millions, heard by millions; he has celebrated the Eucharist with millions. (How many of all those millions ever imagined, ever dreamed, that the pope himself would come to visit them and encourage them in their faith?)

Think of what Pope John Paul reminded the people of Ghana, West Africa, on his 1980 visit to them: "Dare not forget that the greatest treasure entrusted to you is the gift of faith."

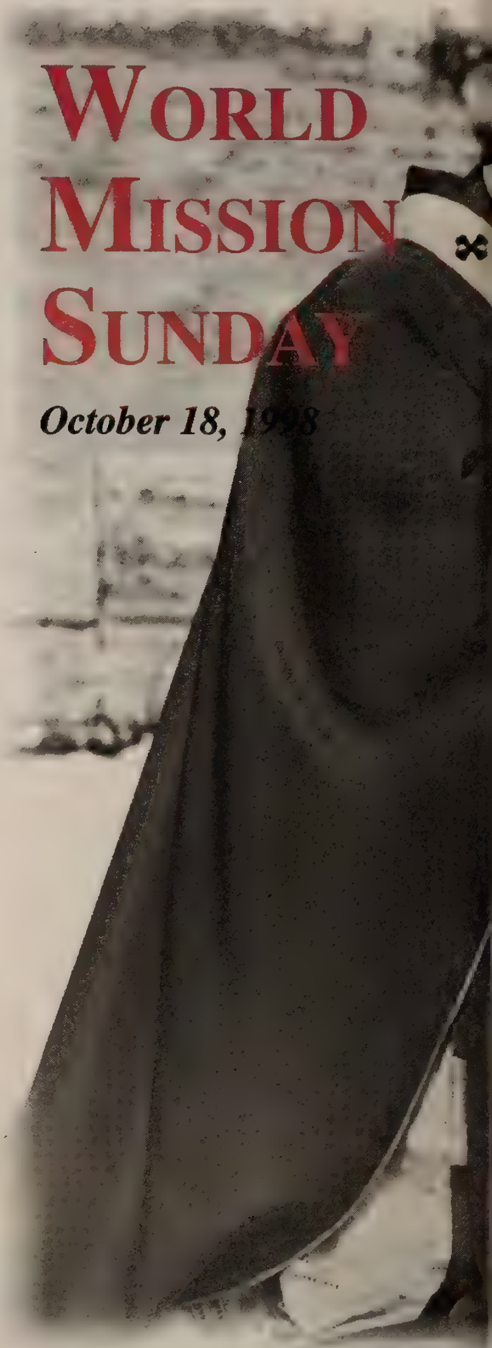
This time last year, a letter came to the Propagation of the Faith from Ghana, from Bishop Lucas Abadamloora of Navrongo-Bolgatanga where the church is blessed with growth. "Everywhere the churches and chapels are full," he wrote. "There is no community that has a big enough church or chapel." The diocese wants to deepen the faith of the people even further, as well as to promote the integration of their faith and their culture.

The people of Navrongo-Bolgatanga celebrate World Mission Sunday in every church or chapel. Bishop Lucas knows that not much money can be offered because of poverty. "Yet," he said, "we are determined to add our widow's mite to the offerings for evangelization."

In a recent world Mission Sunday message, Pope John Paul spoke of the many people who have not yet been reached by the Good News of salvation in Christ. And he said to the Catholics of the world — of Ghana and Italy, of India and the Philippines, of the United States and Bolivia — "To a certain degree, in fact, each of us is personally responsible, before God, for those millions of people who are 'without faith.'"

Calling others to share the faith cherished by the parishioners of Navrongo-Bolgatanga is very much of Bishop Lucas' mind. "Our light must shine," he said.

Before God, intimately united with Christ at the Eucharist on World Mission Sunday, prompted by the Holy Spirit, we are called to let our light shine so that Christ may be known and loved to the ends of the earth.



October 9, 1998

My dear Friends in Christ:

On World Mission Sunday, October 18, we are called in a special way — through prayer, personal sacrifice and participation in the Eucharist — to share our faith, to be missionaries, and to fulfill our baptismal responsibility for the worldwide missionary task of the church. Today, we who have "received" are challenged to "give."

In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope John Paul II tells us that this celebration comes to "direct our attention to the marvelous undertakings of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be strengthened in our faith and that there may be, precisely due to the power of the Spirit, a great missionary reawakening in the church."

We know that today more than two-thirds of the world's people have yet to hear of the salvation offered only through Jesus Christ. On this World Mission Sunday I urge you to open yourself to the gifts of the Spirit so that through you, Jesus, the one Savior of the world, may be known and loved by all.

> *"We know that today more than two-thirds of the world's people have yet to hear of the salvation offered only through Jesus Christ."*

On this World Mission Sunday, I ask that each one of you please renew your very generous support of the work of the church in the missions through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

With gratitude for all you will do this World Mission Sunday to share the gift of faith you have received from the Spirit, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin

Men and women shed blood in service of the missionary task

During 1997, 68 missionaries were killed in the service of the Gospel; among them was Cleveland-born Father Thomas Gafney, SJ, who served among the poor in Nepal for more than 30 years.

Also on the list of missionary martyrs last year: 40 young seminarians in Burundi as well as eight parish priests and three Sisters from Rwanda who were killed in ethnic violence in the Democratic Repulbic of Congo (formerly Zaire). More than 300 missionaries have been killed since the mid-1980s.

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope John Paul II notes the persecution and martyrdom of today in the church "born from the cross of Christ," and calls it a powerful sign of hope for mission: "How can we fail to recall, in this regard, that missionaries and ordinary believers continue to give their life for the name of Jesus? Also the history of recent years demonstrates that persecution gives rise to new Christians and that suffering, endured for Christ and his Gospel, is indispensable for the spreading of the kingdom of God."

© H. Theyssen/MISSIO

In Sudan, Africa, a catechist shares the Good News in the shade of a tree. In mission dioceses around the world, as a catechist teaches about Jesus, he or she knows the dialect of the people, knows their dreams and hopes and fears.

As we come closer to the third millennium...

The church in Africa

- In 1900, there were two million Catholics in Africa; in 1995, that number had increased to 107 million.
- In 1930, there was just one African bishop. According to 1995 figures, 90 percent of the 513 bishops now in Africa, are, themselves, African.

Vocations increase throughout the mission world

- During 1997, the Propagation of the Faith/St. Peter Apostle (for the support of mission vocations) provided help for 28,782 major seminarians, an increase of more than 8,700 over nine years ago.
- Major seminaries in the missions last year numbered 360; nine years ago there were 221. Of these seminarians, 157 are in Africa where vocations to the priesthood are particularly numerous.
- Last year, there were 1,716 ordinations to the priesthood in the missions, an increase of 462 over nine years ago. Of the ordinations, 742 were in Africa and 730 in Asia.
- Last year, 6,729 sisters/novices in the missions received support as did 2,914 brothers/novices.

Last Mission World Sunday in China

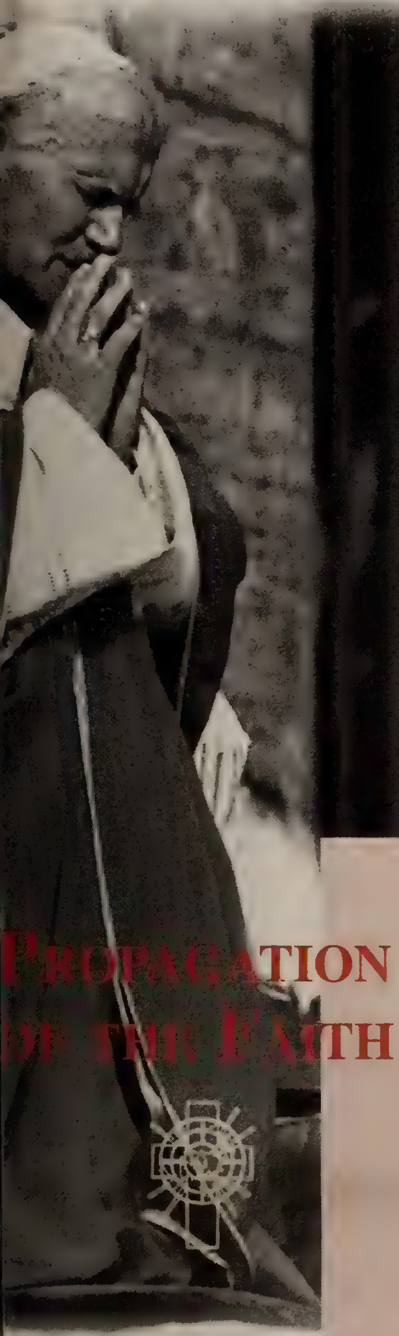
- At a gathering of Catholics last World Mission Sunday, lay people in southwestern China were encouraged to take on an evangelizing role. One person said that since religious activities in China are restricted to religious premises, it is the lay people who must reach out and evangelize in environments such as the family and workplace, so that the Gospel message can reach more people. (UCA News)

Mother Teresa, eucharist and mission

Pope John Paul II said of Mother Teresa, "Her mission began every day before dawn in the presence of the Eucharist. In the silence of contemplation, Mother Teresa of Calcutta heard the echo of Jesus' cry on the Cross: 'I thirst.' This cry, received in the depths of her heart, spurred her to seek out Jesus in the poor, the abandoned and the dying on the streets of Calcutta and to the ends of the earth."

Here and there

- Here, a summer six-day package from New York to Hawaii can cost $729. There, $700 is a year's support for a mission seminarian.
- Here, $90 dollars can buy two tickets to a professional hockey game. There, $100 is a blessing for a village mission with chapel, primary school and health services.
- Here, $24.95 can buy a 10-channel cordless phone. There, $25 can help a catechist for a month.



> *"World Mission Sunday, which seeks to heighten awareness of the missions as well as to collect funds for them, is an important date in the life of the church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God in the eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world."*
>
> *— Pope John Paul II*
> *"The Mission of the Redeemer"*

The Word spreads

A Sister of Charity in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, teaches in a little school. Not long ago, a group of men came to the local mission to ask that Sisters be sent to their village, saying "We want to know about Jesus and to do something good to others for his love."

To bring the good news...

to heal the brokenhearted

When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Isaiah, the prophet knew he was sent; sent to bring Good News to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted ... to comfort all who mourn.

When we think of healing, we think often of medicine. But healing can also come in the form of sharing and love. It can even come in the form of a big fish!

Xaverian Father Rinaldo Nava, writing to the Propagation of the Faith from the Diocese of Khulna, told about a young woman who was abandoned by her husband shortly before the birth of her fifth child. She has no job, he said, but makes a little money by helping with chores in different houses of her neighborhood.

One day, as Father Nava was fishing in a pond on the mission compound, the mother and a daughter watched from a little distance. "The reason for their presence," he says, "was carved on their faces: hunger." The mother was shivering, obviously ill. "I promised them my best catch," he recalls, "and in a few minutes I was lucky enough to keep my promise!"

Beaming, the young girl took the large fish, although she was so weak she was hardly able to hold it; but her mother, thanking him, still showed distress.

"Father, I can't take it!" she said. "How can I fry it for my children without oil and firewood?" How? Father Nava gave her the money she needed to prepare the meal, with a little something extra to buy medicine. Perhaps she received much more, on a much deeper level; the early symbol for Christians, after all, was a fish.

The church, sent by the Spirit to the ends of the earth, continues doing what Jesus himself did day in and day out: bringing the Good News, forgiving sins, healing hearts of loneliness and fear; healing bodies.

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday on Oct. 18, we are in the second year of preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, a year dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

Pope John Paul says in his message for World Mission Sunday that the celebration comes "opportunely to direct our attention to the marvelous undertakings of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be strengthened in our faith and there may be, precisely through the power of the Spirit, a great missionary awakening in the church."

And how that "missionary reawakening" is needed!

Here we are, getting ready to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Christ, and two-thirds of our sisters and brothers live without knowing the spiritual peace that only Christ can give.

It is a mighty undertaking to tell the Good News among hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people. Every one who has received the gift of faith — each one of us — is needed. Everyone: older, younger, single people, families, those who are in top form and those who are ill or suffering in any way. Needed not, necessarily, to get on a plane for Bangladesh or Papua New Guinea, but to incorporate into daily prayer such intentions as:

Lord, give strength to your missionaries today. Lord, let the people who hear about you respond to you with the same love as I do. Lord, today, to those who are mourning or grieving, send your peace through a missionary's care. Lord, help me to be your missionary here, today, right where I am.

World Mission Sunday is a great "reminder" of the fact that all of us, by our baptism into Christ, are called to be his missionaries.

Pope John Paul reminds us that the offerings collected on World Mission Sunday "are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, among the missions and missionaries of the entire world." (Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday Message, 1995).

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, in prayer and sacrifice on World Mission Sunday, we will help to bring the Good News to the poor ... to heal the brokenhearted ... to comfort those who mourn.

Book Review

"The Red Hat," by Ralph McInery

Reviewed by JULIE ASHER
Catholic News Service

I don't think it would be possible for author Ralph McInery to pack much more into this 581-page tome.

The novel's prologue is a grabber. A filmmaker — a young man who longs to be a priest but was rejected by the seminary, he feels, for being too orthodox — quietly murders a middle-aged woman who years earlier was a friend of Tom Lannan, now Archbishop Lannan and head of the Washington Archdiocese. The significance of this killing unfolds much later.

The book is set early in the new millennium. The Southern-born U.S. president has just been elected to another term. And despite the U.S. Catholic Church's objections, most of the country is behind the Death Bill, allowing assisted suicide under a right to privacy.

"The Red Hat," by Ralph McInery, Ignatius (San Francisco, 1998). 581 pp., $24.95.

Archbishop Lannan, a wishwashy sort, longs for the red hat and can't understand why the pope won't elevate him.

But then he gets a chance to propose a nominee to be U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. He picks his old friend, professor Jim Morrow, a historian, a conservative and author of the popular history "The Decline and Fall of the American Catholic Church." Morrow is confirmed. Lannan hopes the Vatican will see his heart is in the right place and deem him worthy of the red hat.

At the Vatican the aging Polish-born pope is still in charge. He does name Lannan a cardinal but alas, he dies before the Washington prelate and the other nominees are elevated at a consistory. A conclave is called minus the cardinal-designates — and a successor pope is elected.

This causes many in the church to call the papal election into doubt. With another Lannan seminary buddy, radical theologian Father Frank Bailey, and the American church leading the charge, a parallel church — complete with an anti-pope — is set up at Avignon.

Lannan must decide where his loyalties rest. Once he decides he's on board with Rome and has another shot at the College of Cardinals, the murderer from the prologue comes forward with some damning accusations. How that is resolved leads to some interesting twists and turns.

Fans of McInery won't be surprised by the criticism the author has many of his characters launch against the U.S. church. The book has many such passages, which slow down the action.

He doesn't think too highly of the Catholic press either. One of his lesser characters, Nate Patch, is a real loser who works for Catholic News Service, and his somewhat estranged wife, a "real" journalist, is always on his case to enter "the real world" of journalism.

Aside from that annoying characterization of Catholic journalists and long passages that sacrifice some action, the drama in the prologue draws on McInery's flair for mystery, giving the reader a reason to hang in there.

There is enough in the book to recommend it.

Some of the characters actually are pretty likable, particularly Jim Morrow and Maureen Bailey, sister of the renegade Father Bailey, who also lives in Rome. Both Jim and Maureen are widowed with grown children. Actually, Maureen is twice widowed — her second husband was the Irish ambassador to the Vatican and died in a car bombing. Their budding relationship adds some romance to this tale of the church in the new millennium.

Asher is national editor of Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

October 11. Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C. Readings:

1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm 98:1-4
2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
3) Luke 17:11-19

By JEFF HENSLEY

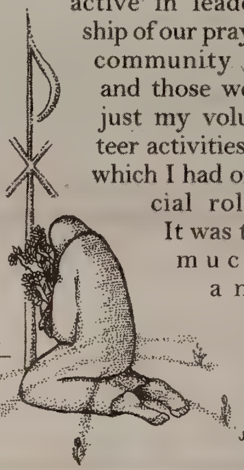
Naaman in the story in today's reading from 2 Kings and I have something in common. We're both stubborn.

In the reading in Kings, Naaman has just bathed in the Jordan and is healed of his skin affliction, full of gratitude to the prophet Elisha and pledging his worship to the God of Israel. But in the prior verses we see his refusal to "take the cure" the prophet has prescribed. Finally he does as Elisha commands — and it works.

Several years back, I was at a point anyone active in parish work for any length of time is familiar with. I was overcommitted and burned out. Chair of the liturgy committee, leader of the prayer group, active in leadership of our prayer community — and those were just my volunteer activities in which I had official roles. It was too much, and I'd been doing it too long.

"Was there no one to return and give thanks to God except this foreigner?"

—Luke 17:18



Finally, I sensed God telling me to resign the liturgy post. For quite some time I heard that still small voice telling me that now was the time. But like Naaman, I ignored it.

Finally one evening I went up to the office of the priest who was adviser to our liturgy committee to resign. By this time I was nearly at the point of a nervous breakdown. But at least I finally was being obedient to my inner sense of what God was telling me to do. There in his office, offering his time to the parish, sat the guy who replaced me as chair of the committee..

I'm convinced that Paul would have been there, sitting with Father Dave two or three months earlier, if I had just been more obedient, saving me a lot of grief and stress.

It's interesting that the Luke reading features a foreigner who like Naaman was obedient and received healing. It's even more interesting that the foreigner, the Samaritan, the only one of the 10 to return to Jesus to offer him his thanks for his healing from leprosy, was also filled with gratitude to God, like Naaman.

These two stories remind me of Jesus' response to the question about his brothers and sisters being outside the house where he is, to which he responds that his brothers and sisters are those who do the will of God. Perhaps God is telling us that the true Israelites, those who are truly ruled by God, are those who do his will. And it is they, whether foreigner or those already of the faith, who will receive the healing, approval, and salvation of God.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 11 — Oct. 17, 1998

Sunday, 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday,** Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31—5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday,** Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday,** Galatians 5:18-25, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday,** Ephesians 1:3-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday,** Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday,** Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12

Looking for a career change?
Experienced loan originators or we will train. Openings in Conover, Mooresville, Salisbury, Shelby, Charlotte. Fax resume to Gerald or Sandy at **(704) 543-9809.**
1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm
A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

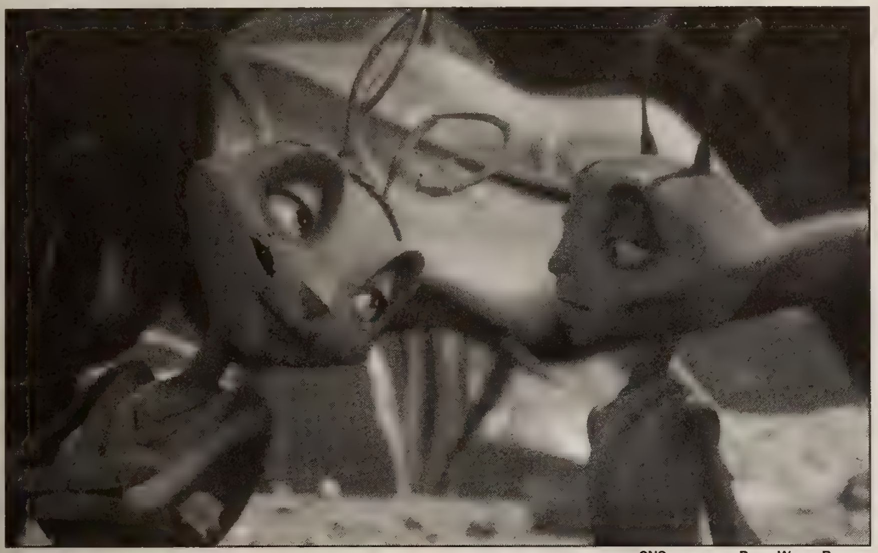
You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Joseph P. O'Rourke
Certified Public Accountant
4921 Albemarle Road, Suite 116
Charlotte, NC 28205
Tax consultation, planning and preparation for individuals and small businesses. Accounting services available.
704-568-7886

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday



CNS photo from DreamWorks Pictures

New at the box office — "Antz"

Princess Bala, voice of Sharon Stone, demands that Z, voice of Woody Allen, return her to the ant colony in the computer animated film "Antz." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Catholic Internet TV, radio network debuts

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Catholic Internet Television and Radio Network debuted Sept. 29 at www.citrn.org with a wide variety of programs on the World Wide Web.

The new network is a project of the National Catholic Conference for Total Stewardship, based in Chicago, which also developed the first interactive "global school of evangelization" in 1997 along with Sunlite Productions.

Real Audio and Real Video software, available at no cost from Real Networks of Seattle, will enable computer users around the world to see and hear the programs.

"Internet broadcasting and other uses of computer technology have been encouraged for a long time by our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who believes the church should maximize its use of new media," said Redemptorist Father Francis A. Novak, president of the National Catholic Conference for Total Stewardship.

southern fiction revival

Flannery O'Connor:
Shouting to the Deaf

Directed by John Rushton

Dramatic play on the life of Irish-Catholic southern fiction author. Written by John Killinger and John Rushton, this play reveals O'Connor's powers of social observation and unrelenting wit which allowed her to represent the divine in the midst of the everyday.

"To the hard of hearing you shout and to the almost blind you draw large and startling figures."

— Flannery O'Connor

Oct. 16 & 17 at 8 p.m.
Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.

Brock Performing Arts Center
622 N. Main St., Mocksville
For tickets or information, phone toll-free (877)512-5272
Adults: $10.00 Seniors/Students: $8.00
Group discounts

Presented by the Davie County Arts Council — Nancy Norton, Executive Director
Sponsored by Margaret Woodson Foundation, Central Carolina Bank, and NC Arts Council

TV Review

Coming to PBS: "Africans in America"

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How the land of the free became the home of an enslaved class of people is examined in the four-part series, "Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery," airing Monday-Thursday, Oct. 19-22, 8-9:30 p.m. EDT each night on PBS.

The initial installment, "The Terrible Transformation," shows that the first English settlers in the New World used indentured servants rather than slaves to amplify their own labor.

It wasn't until 1641 that Massachusetts became the first colony to legalize slavery, with Virginia following soon after.

"Africans in America," Oct. 19-22, PBS
Check your local cable listing

But slaves were relatively scarce in the American colonies until the British entered the African slave trade in the 1670s, principally to supply the labor needed for the tropical plantations of their Caribbean possessions.

It was the enormous profits made by these plantations that caused the big planters in the American colonies to begin importing African slaves, though it wasn't until 1750 that Georgia legalized slavery.

This first episode shows the inhumanity of the slave trade, especially the horrors of the "middle passage" as the slave ships crossed the Atlantic.

Tuesday's program, "Revolution," recounts the British offer of freedom to slaves who joined their forces which was countered by the same offer from the Colonial Army.

Though some slaves gained freedom as a result, the question of slavery was fought out by the framers of the Constitution and resulted in a compromise between free states and slave states.

Wednesday's episode, "Brotherly Love," looks at the growth of a free black community in Northern cities and the emergence of black churches as the community's center of leadership.

The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 brought a new prosperity to the slave plantations of the South and propelled slavery into the new territories of the West.

The success of the slave revolt in 1804 Haiti resulted in fears of similar revolts in the American slave states and, indeed, there were some which were mercilessly put down.

The final episode, "Judgment Day," looks at the last years before the Civil War, as the abolitionist movement grew in the North — and the South began serious consideration of seceding from the Union.

The series looks at one of the darkest chapters in American history and tries to make some sense of its political contradictions and its moral hypocrisy.

It is a story of economic greed based on the rationalization that Africans were an inferior race — a view which did not disappear with the end of slavery but continues to trouble American society in our own day.

Narrated by actress Angela Bassett, the series features the commentary of a variety of American historians, and the visuals alternate between period illustrations and shadowy re-creations.

Giving a personal dimension to this tragic history are readings from the diaries and letters of those involved in events, especially free blacks and accounts written by escaped slaves.

Produced for PBS affiliate WGBH in Boston by Orlando Bagwell and Susan Bellows, the series is a thoughtful presentation of how the conflict over slavery almost destroyed the Republic and the racial tensions which became its legacy.

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC
(800) 331-0768

Every

Act Of Mercy

Is Backed By The

Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

Charlotte Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient / Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System
In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org

Florida charity launches relief drive for Dominican Republic

By TOM TRACY
Catholic News Service

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — A Florida charity with direct ties to the Dominican Republic is launching a long-term emergency relief drive for the island nation which may have suffered the greatest damage from Hurricane Georges.

Marc Coppack, spokesman for the West Palm Beach-based New Hope Charities, said the agency is calling for emergency food and medical supplies for immediate shipment to the La Romana district, which lies east of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. The agency has already shipped an estimated 20,000 pounds of medical supplies to the area. New Hope has set up drop-off centers in West Palm Beach and Miami.

"Mainly what we need now is food and over-the-counter medical supplies such as aspirin, Band-Aids, sanitary items, diapers, soap, shampoo and bleach as well as nonperishable foods such as rice, beans and powdered milk," Coppack told The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Palm Beach Diocese.

New Hope is coordinating its relief efforts with the International Red Cross, he added. "Later, we can start a campaign on building materials and clothing. We will be doing this for the next several months."

In the Dominican Republic, New Hope Charities has a counterpart called the Mission International Rescue Foundation, which supports a Catholic-sponsored outreach to prostitutes, a vocational/technical school and a residential substance abuse facility in the La Romana region.

CNS photo from Reuters

The aftermath of George in the States

Dena Hastor sits on the front porch rail of her flooded home in Pascagoula, Miss., Sept. 29. Heavy rains and winds from Hurricane Georges caused extensive damage throughout Mississippi and Alabama.

According to the Red Cross, Hurricane Georges caused 201 deaths in the Dominican Republic, though some reports put the death toll at about 250. Nearly 300,000 people have been living in emergency shelters.

The damage is estimated at $1.2 billion. Ninety percent of the nation's banana and other plantations were destroyed, 70 percent of the its bridges damaged, and 60 percent of its utility poles uprooted.

The Red Cross report noted that a common sight is a shelter with 2,000 residents sharing four toilets. The lack of clean drinking water has relief workers worried that babies may die as their mothers are too dehydrated to produce breast milk.

"There are 250,000 people that we will have to take care of in La Romana province," Coppack said, pointing out that in the United States victims of storms would be helped by insurance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other disaster relief.

"But they have none of this in the Dominican Republic," he added. "There are quite a few smaller organizations taking on the bulk of the work and bringing in the supplies and medical treatment."

Coppack added that his agency hoped to have "a freighter go every week with relief flights on a regular basis."

Other areas hit hard by Hurricane Georges included Puerto Rico, where the damage estimate was more than $2 billion; 12 people there died. In Haiti, 94 deaths were reported, and in Cuba the death toll was five. On the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis, three were killed and damages were put at $402 million. In the United States, several counties in the South were declared disaster areas.

Several U.S. Catholic agencies, dioceses and parishes also reported efforts to assist victims of Hurricane Georges.

The national office of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, based in St. Louis, has established local distribution centers.

"Details of present emergency needs in the disaster are far from complete at this point," said Joseph Mueller, the organization's president. "Our society disaster volunteers are working with other national disaster agencies to determine priority needs of the victims."

To date, Catholic Charities USA has sent $60,000 to help hurricane victims. Local agencies, such as Catholic Charities of Miami, received $25,000 to help operate relief centers in the Florida Keys, where residents could obtain food, clothing and shelter. Local Catholic Charities agencies in Puerto Rico received $35,000.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Life Chain draws more than 600 from various faith traditions

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — The timing could not have been more perfect.

At precisely 2 p.m. on Oct. 4, the sun burst through patchy gray clouds as if to affirm the start of the 7th annual Life Chain in the Unifour area, bringing the light of hope upon those who gathered in peaceful opposition to abortion.

On this Respect Life Sunday, more than 1 million participants nationwide peacefully prayed for babies threatened or killed by abortion.

This year's Unifour Life Chain drew more than 600 participants from 55 area churches in Hickory, Lenoir, Newton, Conover and neighboring cities. Lining Highway 70 were representatives from the Catholic communities of Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville; St. Aloysius Parish, Hickory; St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir; and St. Joseph Parish, Newton.

Parishes from throughout the Charlotte Diocese participated in local links as well.

ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN
JESUS Forgives & Heals
ADOPTION: The Loving Option
CIRCUIT CITY SUPERSTORE
TJ·MAXX
OFFICE DEPOT

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Joe Dunbeck, Father Ed Sheridan and Kathy Kohrs at the Oct. 4 Life Chain.

"I am thankful for the churches that joined hands to make a firm statement for unborn babies in a gentle and prayerful manner," said Jean Marie Hirsch, St. Aloysius parishioner and one of the Life Chain area coordinators.

Hirsch reported a record number of participants from St. Aloysius. Some parishioners attributed the large turnout to a powerful sermon delivered that morning by Father Ed Sheridan, pastor. After his homily, 25 additional people signed on to be a part of the peaceful and prayerful support of the unborn.

Holding up Spencer Ramseur, the four-week-old son of Patrick and Carolyn Ramseur, during the 11 a.m. Mass, Father Sheridan said, "Spencer is one of the fortunate ones that made it through nine months in his mother's womb."

"We are called to speak out and not be ashamed. Sometimes we must stand up for what we believe," even if that conviction changes just one person's mind, Father Sheridan continued.

Becky and Denny Schell, respect life coordinators at St. Joseph Church in Newton, have been faithful participants in the Life Chain since its inception. "We come to pray for the protection of all children," Becky said. "We have our own (kids), and we want to encourage others to trust God."

Permanent deacons receive educational, spiritual opportunities at retreat

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — Since Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate in June 1967, the ministry blossomed in the U.S. to a fleet of over 11,000 men by the mid-1990s and continues to grow.

Sixty-four permanent deacons serve the Diocese of Charlotte, and nine interns are expected to be ordained in 2001. Their diverse work in parishes ranges from baptisms and prayer services to hospital visits and administrative work, depending on the needs of the parish they serve.

Each deacon, as part of an annual commitment, must attend at least one retreat. The diocesan Office of the Permanent Diaconate provides such an opportunity each year for the deacons and their wives. This year's retreat was Oct. 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center, and included fellowship, prayer, mini-conferences, eucharistic adoration and Mass.

Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning is administrator for the permanent diaconate program, a deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and an airport chaplain. "The retreat provides an opportunity for continued education and spiritual growth," he said.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, diocesan vice chancellor and director of the diocese's African American Affairs Ministry, assisted with the retreat. He said the gathering was not only a means for spiritual renewal but also a social opportunity.

Rev. Mr. Todd was responsible for selecting this year's speaker, Father Joel LaBauve. Father LaBauve, whom Rev. Mr. Todd introduced as a man who "talks softly but speaks loudly," is a full-time prison chaplain at a maximum security prison in Baton Rouge, La.

Rev. Mr. Pat Vallandingham of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury said that he "got more out" of this retreat than any he had ever attended. "He (Father LaBauve) cracked open a shell for some deep reflection and gave me a different perspective on some common themes. It was looking at a different facet of the same jewel."

Rev. Mr. Vince Shaw of St. Mary Church in Greensboro was struck by Father LaBauve's spiritual awareness. "He said things that caused some stirring deep inside," Rev. Mr. Shaw said.

Bobbie May, wife of Rev. Mr. Hugo May of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, found one talk particularly beneficial. "Father LaBauve said that we all carry extra baggage in life," she said. "It weighs us down, and we don't even realize it until we develop a relationship with God. Then we will learn what to take and what to leave behind for the journey."

Father LaBauve had a central theme in all his presentations: "walking and talking with the Lord." He gave examples, starting with the Old Testament to present day, of people who had a close relationship with God.

"You must ask yourself, 'Am I walking and talking with the Lord our just talking to myself?," he said, emphasizing how developing a relationship with God leads to self-discovery and improvement.

"Although we will experience the human emotion, we will not be overwhelmed because God will lift us up, provided that we empty our lives in God's hands as his son did on the cross," he said. He also explained that people should go out into the "real world" and share the experience of God "until all of humanity had made their way home."

Bishop William G. Curlin, who directed the first class of permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., gave the homily at the Saturday Mass. He encouraged participants to develop a deeper faith fortified through prayer, devotions and Scripture reading.

"Find a prayerful way to identify with Jesus so that you will never lose sight of him," Bishop Curlin said, urging those in attendance to focus on the spirituality of their ministry "so that you can live for Christ."

Pro-Life Corner

Despite its hardships, its hidden mysteries, its suffering and its inevitable frailty, this mortal life is a most beautiful thing, a marvel ever new and moving, and event worthy of being exalted in joy and glory.

— Paul VI, *Pensiero alla Morte,*
quoted in *Evangelium Vitae, 84*

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.378%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

CCHD aids Good Food program

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty program. The 1998 CCHD collection will be held Nov. 21-22. Earlier this year, the Diocese of Charlotte's CCHD committee, with approval from Bishop William G. Curlin, distributed $19,800 in grant monies to eight self-help groups.

By MARY COYNE WESSLING
Correspondent

MORGANTON — "Good Food for Good Health." In Spanish that translates to, "Buena Comida Para La Buena Salud."

In Burke County the phrase, both in Spanish and English, carries with it a health education program on good nutrition for Spanish-speaking immigrants.

The program, operated by Good Samaritan Clinic in Morganton, was awarded a $3,500 grant by the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Campaign for Human Development committee. This is the second consecutive year the program has received CCHD funding.

With the grant monies, Good Food will reach even more immigrants in the county. The program teaches people to balance good nutrition from traditional cultural diets with American fast food.

"Over the past year we have developed a conversion diet which integrates customary Latino foods to a standard American Diabetic Association exchange program," explained DeRae Shuffler, Good Samaritan's executive director.

The dietary information is distributed to area hospitals and agencies serving this population. In addition, interpreters recruit Spanish-speaking patients to attend the clinic's education programs.

"Our work is making a difference," said Shuffler. "Cholesterol levels are going down and for some patients, diabetes is under control for the first time since it was diagnosed in them. Perhaps more importantly, many of our patients report a sense of being in control of their own health."

The expanded Good Food program will reach more patients in the clinic's new site in Valdese in eastern Burke County.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Working to End Poverty and Injustice in the United States

The Good Samaritan Clinic opened in May 1996, providing free medical care, medications and pastoral support to county residents who are without government assistance or insurance.

Opened three nights per week, the clinic served an average of 30 people each evening in 1997. It is staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, clergy and interpreters.

In announcing these grants earlier in the year, Bishop William Curlin reminded Catholics of the significance of such outreach. "For 28 years, CCHD has given renewed hope," he said, "and elevated the lives and the dignity of people left out and left behind in the life of our society and country."

For more information on CCHD, call Dr. Barney Offerman, CCHD director, at (704) 370-3234.

CCHD joins CHA for welfare-to-work initiative

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States have announced a five-year joint program to help welfare recipients go from public assistance to employment.

According to an Oct. 2 announcement, the goal of the Job Creation Initiative, as it is called, is to create new, sustainable jobs for low-income people in home health and day-care industries.

At the same time, the announcement said, the program aims to provide better wages and benefits than are typical in those fields and offer opportunities for worker ownership of the business.

For Dr. Barney Offerman, CCHD director for the Charlotte Diocese, the key words in the announcement are "sustainable jobs" — that is, entry-level jobs with both career potential and permanence in the nation's job economy.

"It means better wages and benefits ... moving in the direction of a living wage, the standard of economic justice stated by Bishops William G. Curlin of Charlotte and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh in last year's joint pastoral, 'Of One Heart and One Mind,'" Offerman said.

Over a five-year period, the initiative will raise and allocate $2.5 million to establish eight new employee-owned day care and home health care businesses employing more than 500 people.

Catholic Charities USA will work closely on the project with CCHD, which is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, and CHA, a St. Louis-based organization whose members are Catholic hospitals and long-term care facilities and their sponsors and systems.

Catholic Charities is the nation's largest private network of people helping people. The 1,400 local agencies and institutions provide social services across the country to millions of people in need, regardless of religious, ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds.

"Our three groups already share a common foundation in the faith, social mission and teaching of the Catholic church," said Father Robert J. Vitillo, CCHD executive director.

Father Michael D. Place, CHA president and CEO, said his organization was looking forward "to using the expertise and community relationships established by our 1,200 member facilities and organizations to help replicate successful CCHD job creation projects on a larger scale."

"We at CCHD have substantial experience in developing job-creation enterprises for the poor, while the CHA members have unparalleled expertise in the delivery of health care services."

An initial $500,000 grant for the initiative is being provided by CCHD's Msgr. Geno Baroni Fund. The grant will be used for technical assistance and start-up costs for local projects and the initiative's coordination activities.

In addition, a separate grant of $50,000 has been made anonymously by a private Catholic foundation.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families
in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With affordable
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus
Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Carolina
Catholic
BookShoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com
RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)
Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound
Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities
Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Part-time Nanny: Three days a week. Must have own transportation. Call (704) 814-0377.

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Charlotte Catholic High School has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Call (704) 543-1127 for an application.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Beach Condo: Rent 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath oceanside condo at Myrtle Beach. Available during October. Call (336) 924-2842.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you St. Jude for hearing my prayers. D.L.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi recognized

Blessing of animals draws community together

BY MIKE KROKOS
Editor

Photo by Charlie Bowling

Capuchin Father Bob Yurgel prepares to bless Madison as owner Kristen Leggiere comforts her pooch. The blessing at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 4 drew approximately 200 people.

LEXINGTON — Chipper Jones spent the better part of a recent Saturday morning fidgeting while others learned about the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

No, this isn't the Atlanta Braves' all-star third baseman who is gearing up for the National League championship series and the pressures that come with playing for baseball's top franchise in the 1990s. This Chipper Jones is 1 and 1/2 years old, weighs approximately 40 pounds, and is a black labrador retriever mix.

While his trusty sidekicks, owners Mark and Seth Solesbee, listened to a homily about St. Francis, this Chipper Jones lounged in the grass and scratched himself incessantly as fleas and other critters invaded his shiny coat. The dog was among the group of creatures (and people) who attended the blessing of animals at Holt-Moffitt Field in Lexington on Oct. 3, in honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi the following day. The ecumenical gathering, hosted by Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church and Trinity United Methodist Church, was attended by people of several faith traditions. Other blessings were held at churches throughout the diocese last weekend.

Photo by Mike Krokos

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek blesses Chipper Jones as owner Mark Solesbee looks on.

"This is the first time since I've been here that we've (area churches) attempted to do something together," said the Rev. E.R. Haire, Jr., pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church.

According to Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, the idea was discussed at a recent ministerial association meeting in Lexington. Father Gondek and the Rev. Haire picked up the ball and decided to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, with an ecumenical blessing of the animals.

"St. Francis had a great love and devotion to Jesus Christ," said the Rev. Haire, who talked of Francis' practice of evangelical poverty and his love for all God's creatures in a brief homily.

"God has created a wonderful communication (with animals) that really blesses us," the Rev. Haire added. "Like St. Francis, we must always love our animals."

For Gretchen Weiser, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, the service was a chance to spread a spirit of ecumenism throughout town.

"I told everyone I know that they were invited, and I know a lot of people," she laughed.

Her daughter Abby was especially grateful to have Chloé, the family's yellow labrador, blessed. "She has cysts on her tail," Abby said.

Father Gondek, who arrived in Lexington in early July, said the gathering lended an opportunity to bring people of all faiths together. "It is part of our evangelization (as Catholics), reaching out to others in a social way," he said.

So, it indeed turned out to be just another Saturday at the ballpark for Chipper Jones — the Chipper Jones who enjoys fetching frisbees, not fly balls; who yearns for Gaines burgers, not cheeseburgers; and who'd rather snooze through a baseball game than star in one.

In brief ...

Belmont Abbey College to announce campaign goal

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College will enter into the public phase of its millennium campaign Oct. 10, when the campaign goal is announced during a campaign kickoff that coincides with the college's homecoming weekend.

The capital campaign has been conducted privately since 1996.

Campaign activities were to begin Oct. 10 on campus with an explanation of the goals of the campaign for alumni and other guests.

St. Francis play draws 1,000-plus

GREENSBORO — More than 1,100 people from 40 parishes in North Carolina and Virginia flocked to see Franciscan playwright Father Louis Canino's "Francis — The Saint from Assisi" at the Carolina Theater in Greensboro Sept. 26-27. An additional 800 grammar school students had been treated to special segments of the musical drama a few days earlier.

The production has been performed more than 40 times in seven cities. Father Canino, who is director of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro, collaborated with musician-composer Nancy Snee on the project.

Cassettes and compact discs are available at the Franciscan Center. Call (336) 273-2554 for more information.

Vocation director attends convention

CINCINNATI — Father Eric Houseknecht, vocation director for the Diocese of Charlotte, was among some 200 in attendance for the 35th Annual Convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) Sept. 26-Oct. 1 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Participants included diocesan vocation directors, and others involved in vocation ministry in the United States, Canada and Australia. The conference's theme was "Trusting the Spirit's Wisdom" and subjects addressed included ecclesiology, clergy tension, seminary candidates, discernment and technology.

Looking for a work ethic?

pro labor power
(704) 566-9088
We place *all* nationalities.
Need general laborers with a work ethic? We place them.
Need professionals with a second language skill? We place them.
Temp, temp-perm, direct — We do it!
Competitors identify the culture of their client.
We also promote the culture of the applicant.

Bob Janda, Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S300 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 16, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 7

Inside

St. Thomas Aquinas hosts speaker
Mary Beth Bonnacci visits Charlotte ...PAGE 10

Youth gathering in Chile ...PAGE 12

U.S. Catholic bishops speak on women's roles ...PAGE 3

Local News

New Augustinian community in Maggie Valley ...PAGE 11

Post-abortion counseling workshop in Winston-Salem ...PAGE 10

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 8-9

Spanish supplement in this issue!
Comuniquémonos
Ministerio Hispano

Reaching out to the dead man walking

Nun visits with message of compassion

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

WINGATE — Lloyd LeBlanc dropped to his knees in a Louisiana field beside the lifeless body of his 17-year-old son, David.

The boy was face down, his head pierced with three bullet holes. Nearby lay his girlfriend, Loretta Bourque, 18, also face down. She had been raped before being shot three times as well.

It was November 1977. The teens died homecoming night following the football game at their Catholic high school.

Lloyd LeBlanc was filled with rage, grief and pain. Yet kneeling in that field, he uttered the words that came into his heart and mind: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.... "

Several years later, Lloyd LeBlanc met Sister Helen Prejean. She was in the same room with him as Patrick Sonnier, one of the men convicted in the murders, was executed. She watched, listened and prayed as LeBlanc and his family struggled to mend.

More than 20 years after the murders of the teen-agers, Sister Helen still tells the story. It's part of a ministry devoted to healing in the wake of life-ending violence — and, more specifically, a plea for the elimination of the death penalty in this country.

You see, Sister Helen reached out to Patrick Sonnier, too. She was his spiritual adviser.

"The Gospel of Jesus comes to people who have done terrible crime," Sister Helen said during a speaking engagement at Wingate University Oct. 6. "Our big challenge is not to be pro-life for the innocent — we need to be that, too. But what does 'pro-life' mean for the guilty?"

Hers is a question explored in her Pulitzer-nominated book, "Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States," in the Oscar-winning film adaptation, and in her reflection on how many members of American society are "deeply ambivalent" about capital punishment.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Sister Helen Prejean, seated, signs copies of her Pulitzer Prize-nominated "Dead Man Walking" Oct. 6 at Wingate University. Sister Helen, a writer, lecturer and community organizer, spoke to audiences in Wingate and High Point about her ministry to death row inmates.

Her answer is rooted in "firm, moral bedrock," she said. "Do we deserve to be involved in the killing of a fellow human being who's been sentenced to death?"

Helping the poor

"For a long time, I didn't understand the connection between the Gospel of Jesus and justice," Sister Helen said. A native of Baton Rouge, La., she grew up as a child of privilege in a loving, well-educated family.

She never had real contact with the poor until she moved into a poverty-stricken housing project in New Orleans in the summer of 1981. Her religious community, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille, sought more active ways to work for social justice. The nuns took a hard look at poverty and the scriptural call to eradicate it.

"There was an awakening in me in terms of understanding the Gospel of Jesus and that to follow Jesus, I needed to be in touch with the poorest, most struggling people in society," she said.

That led her to death row. A friend from the Prison Coalition office asked Sister Helen if she'd be interested in writing to a death row inmate, Patrick Sonnier.

Sister Helen agreed. She had no idea that by assenting to be a pen pal, she would be doing much more.

She didn't know that in two years' time, she would get to know a person "who was worth more than the worst thing they've ever done in their life." She'd place her hand on the shoulder of this death row inmate as he is led to the electric chair. She would tell him to look at her, that she will be the face of Christ for him. She would watch him be put to death.

And a new mission would be born in her life to connect faith in Jesus with human rights and abolition of the death penalty.

A transformative effect

Sister Helen has accompanied four men to their executions. She has ministered to numbers of inmates awaiting their deaths, and to victims' families whose loved ones were ripped away. She is horrified by unspeakable crimes and is pained by the agony of those who survive them. She has been scorned by other victims' families and death penalty proponents for reaching out to the condemned.

And while she does not see death row inmates as heroes — and feels outrage over what they have done — she remains steadfast in her conviction that it is wrong for anyone, both the Patrick Sonniers of the world and the governments who convict them, to take the life of another hu-

SEE SISTER HELEN PREJEAN, PAGE 7

Year 2000 liturgies in Rome to reflect Vatican II reforms

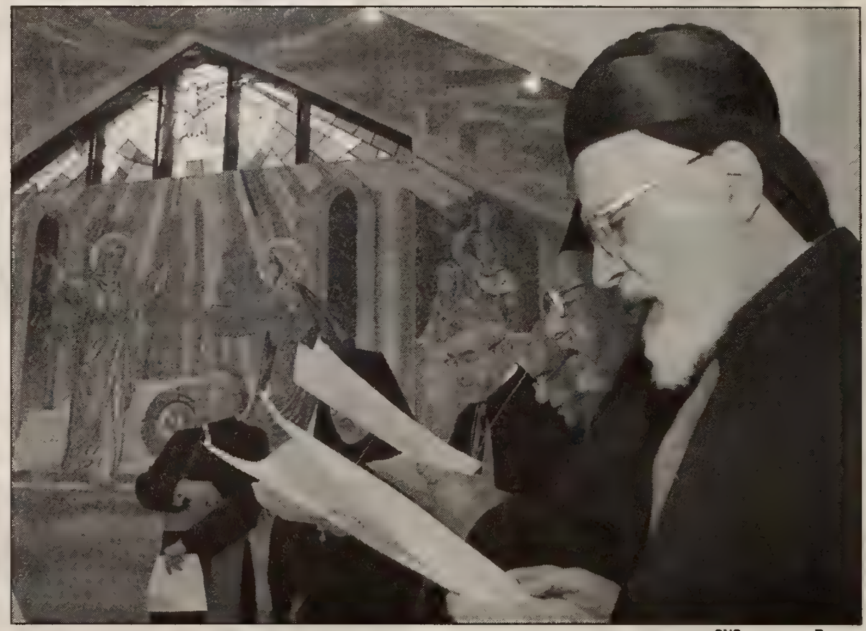
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Liturgies for the mega-gatherings in Rome during the year 2000 will reflect above all the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, a Vatican official said. Bishop Piero Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, said the Masses during the jubilee year would have a "spectacle" element, but that this would be secondary. "We want the celebrations to be, first of all, in line with the liturgical reform desired by Vatican II. The important thing is to celebrate the mystery," he told Vatican Radio Oct. 8.

Priest completes sentence, returns to ministry

NEW YORK (CNS) — Melkite Father Patrick M.J. Moloney, sent to prison on charges related to a 1993 Brinks robbery in Rochester, has returned to take up his former ministries in New York, still insisting that he was innocent. In a telephone interview Oct. 8, he told Catholic News Service that he was again living at his former residence on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Bonitas House, and trying to re-establish his program of assisting people in need. He said he formerly used Bonitas, a five-story townhouse, as a residence for displaced youths. But many of them were on some form of parole or probation, and would not be allowed to associate with him now that he has a record as a convicted felon.

Housing advocates see victory in increased HUD funding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Legislation funding public housing programs that had been promoted by the U.S. Catholic Conference was approved by the House Oct. 6 in a 409-14 vote. What one USCC official called the "best housing bill in over 10 years" includes an increase of about $2.7 billion for rental assistance programs, including creating 50,000 new housing vouchers for families that are moving from welfare to work and rental assistance for 90,000 more low- and moderate-income families. The legislation is supported by President Clinton, who said it "will transform public housing and will increase home ownership opportunities."


CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Patriarchs in Jordan

Patriarchs of Eastern-rite Catholic congregations pray for Jordan's King Hussein at the opening of a five-day conference on relations between Muslims and Christians in the Middle East. The meeting was being held in Amman, Jordan.

Vatican official sees more social concern on part of economists

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican official attending October's annual World Bank-International Monetary Fund meetings said world economists have begun to pay more attention to the social and human dimensions of economic policy. Msgr. Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, represented the Holy See as a guest at the fall meetings and was a panelist at a pre-meetings seminar on approaches to debt. In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service as the meetings were drawing to a close, he attributed the new awareness of social and human concerns partly to "a change in the way everybody looks at the economy nowadays" because of changes in the structure of economics.

Probe points away from priest, dog in Gerardi murder

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A pair of U.S. investigators contend that their examination of evidence surrounding the murder of Guatemalan Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera points away from the priest who lived with him and the priest's dog, both of whom have been held by police since July. The evidence, they said, did not jibe with a crime of passion, as Guatemalan authorities have theorized, or a robbery, but of a political murder. Bishop Gerardi had, two days before his April 26 murder, released a four-volume report of human rights abuses during Guatemala's 35-year civil war.

Catholic women urged to embrace global solidarity

DEARBORN, Mich. (CNS) — More than 500 Catholic women from across the United States heard an appeal to global solidarity when they attended the Oct. 1-4 biennial general assembly of the National Council of Catholic Women in Dearborn. Bishop John J. Snyder of St. Augustine, Fla., urged the women to carry back to their own parishes the message of the U.S. bishops' November 1997 statement on the international obligations of Catholics, "Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes." Kenneth F. Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services, spoke of the 52-year relationship between CRS and the NCCW, and urged the assembly to be willing to help people whose nations are counted as our country's friends and to reach out to people who have been numbered among America's enemies.

Nebraska bishops call for education vouchers, tax relief

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Nebraska's Catholic bishops have called on lawmakers to provide financial help to the parents of children in Catholic and other church-run schools through vouchers or tax relief. "It is time for Nebraska and all the states of our union to support the rights of parents to educate their children in schools of their choice. It is time to provide tax relief for parents who choose church private schools, and to admit that such tax relief is not an establishment of religion," the bishops said.

Wal-Mart target in group's anti-sweatshop campaign

ROSS TOWNSHIP, Pa. (CNS) — The religious community is the key to a campaign by the National Labor Committee to raise public awareness of sweatshop conditions around the world, said Charles Kernaghan, its executive director. The organization is targeting Wal-Mart this year to spotlight what it called sweatshop conditions at Wal-Mart's overseas factories. "Where the company propaganda breaks down is when religious people are involved because they can't turn and say to the people of faith they're a special interest group," Kernaghan said. Betsy Reitmeyer, Wal-Mart's spokeswoman on labor issues, said Wal-Mart suppliers are required to comply with their nation's wage and labor laws, and has severed ties with at least 100 factories over noncompliance or lack of monitors' access.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

October 16, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 7
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events.

October 11-21
Personal pilgrimage
to the Holy Land

October 24 — 1 p.m.
HIV/AIDS Ecumenical Healing Service
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

5 p.m.
Mass
St. Joan of Arc Church, Asheville

October 25 — 2 p.m.
Dedication of new altar
Chapel of the Redeemer, Hot Springs

October 26
Continuing education day for clergy
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

October

17 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, hosts a flea market today from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor tables are available for $25 each. For details, call Juanita Terenzi at (704) 821-9895.

18 CHARLOTTE — The families of all Charlotte Catholic High School freshmen are invited to the freshman class Mass today at 5 p.m. in the gymnasium of the school, 7702 Pineville Matthews Rd.

SYLVA — The Franciscan Friars' Ministry of the Word conducts a parish mission at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., starting today at 7 p.m. with a mission talk. The mission continues through Oct. 21 with a 9 a.m. Mass and mission talk, and a 7 p.m. mission talk each day. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered Oct. 19, and the anointing of the sick takes place Oct. 20. A youth Mass ends the mission Oct. 21. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

20 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts an estate planning seminar today. The focus is on the importance of the will. For details, call (704) 549-1607.

21 CHARLOTTE — Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychologist and former diocesan Respect Life Committee member, speaks about the problems women encounter after having abortions today at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Research finds and practical suggestions for individuals and parishes are included. For details, call (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

22 GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, today and each fourth Thursday by Father Peter E.Q. Pham, the parish's parochial vicar. For time and other details, call (704) 867-6212.

GREENSBORO — The 51st

New statements urge women's advancement but not ordination

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two separate documents released Oct. 13, committees of the U.S. Catholic bishops called for advancing the role of women in the church but explained why that does not include admission to ordained priesthood.

The longer text, "From Words to Deeds: Continuing Reflections on the Role of Women in the Church," comes from the bishops' Committee on Women in Society and the Church, chaired by Auxiliary Bishop John C. Dunne of Rockville Centre, N.Y.

It addresses what has been done and remains to be done in three areas:

- Appreciating and incorporating the gifts of women in the church.
- Appointing women to church leadership positions.
- Promoting collaboration between men and women in the church.

The other document, titled "Ten Frequently Asked Questions About the Reservation of Priestly Ordination to Men," comes from the Committee on Doctrine, chaired by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati.

Starting with the question of what the church teaches, it says the church "has no authority to confer priestly ordination on women" and this is a teaching "to be held definitively by all the faithful as belonging to the deposit of faith."

The eight-page document also lays out reasons for the teaching and the scriptural authority for it, and it responds to some of the most frequent arguments against the teaching.

At its September meeting the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops reviewed both documents and approved their publication. They were released jointly in Washington.

"From Words to Deeds," issued as a 26-page booklet, builds on the bishops' 1994 pastoral reflection on women in church and society, "Strengthening the Bonds of Peace."

While it focuses on women's roles in church communities and institutions, it notes by way of perspective the "critical value (for all lay Christians) of being church in one's family, workplace and society." Within the family, it adds, "we call attention to and reaffirm the tremendously important role of women as wives and mothers."

It says each of the three goals it addresses — incorporating women's gifts in the church, appointing women to leadership and promoting collaboration with women — arises from "a deep concern for the effectiveness of the church's mission" and "finds its rationale in the light of mission."

It says that since Jesus' day

"women have graced church history with their holiness, courage, intellectual gifts and works of justice and mercy. ... Too often, however, women's contributions have gone unnoticed and undervalued."

It says that since Jesus' day "women have graced church history with their holiness, courage, intellectual gifts and works of justice and mercy. ... Too often, however, women's contributions have gone unnoticed and undervalued."

It suggests that church education and formation — especially in seminaries and other programs forming pastoral leaders — include church teaching "regarding women's gifts, women's equality with men and the implications of that teaching."

It calls for parish and diocesan policies and programs to affirm women's gifts and equality and "ensure cultural and gender awareness and sensitivity."

Meanwhile, the doctrine committee's separate statement on women's ordination says, "The purpose of these questions and answers is not to 'prove' the truth of the church's teaching, which must be accepted in faith, but to offer some background to assist the faithful in their acceptance of what the church teaches."

It explains that when a teaching belongs to the deposit of faith, that means "it belongs to, or is necessarily connected with, what the church has received from Christ."

It cites "fidelity to Christ's example and to apostolic practice" and the church's "constant and universal tradition" as basic reasons for the teaching that only men can be ordained. It says following Christ's example in this is not arbitrary and cites as a parallel the church's practice with the Eucharist: The church is bound to use bread and wine because that is what Christ used.

It also cites Christ's example of choosing only men for the Twelve and the following of his example in the apostolic community as the fundamental scriptural warrant for the teaching.

Against the argument that Christ was acting in the framework of his own time and culture, it says Christ "often demonstrated freedom from the cultural and religious conventions of the day, and when he did observe them, it was by way of bringing them to fulfillment, not by way of accommodation."

Addressing the theological debate leading up to the recent affirmation of the teaching, it says, "It is misleading to suggest that this is an entirely new topic." It says the question was first raised in the second century.

To the argument that excluding women is unjust, it says, "No one has a right by baptism to ordination, for this sacrament is not essential for any person in his response to the call to holiness."

Acknowledging that some women feel called to ordination, it says the church must test and validate any claim to such a calling, but "the church must follow the example of Christ who called women to discipleship but not to membership in the Twelve."

To a final question — the ecumenical issue raised by the ordination of women by some other Christian churches — the document says those differences "are derived from different understandings of the church's authority with regard to the sacraments." It says the church's ecumenical hope "is grounded in the very strength of the things which unite us in spite of our differences."

The other document, on advancing the role of women in the church, says on the topic of women in church leadership that church law reserves "only a few offices or ecclesiastical roles to the ordained."

"In the past," it says, "we have encouraged church leaders to identify the church roles, especially leadership roles, that are open to women. We now need to shift our thinking. We assume that all roles in the church are open to women unless stated otherwise in canon law. The roles are open; we need to continue to identify, invite and educate the women who can fill them." ▼

Women's Cursillo weekend is today through Oct. 25 at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. Cursillistas are needed for various support and participation. For details, contact Helen Drozd, 1634 Watkins Court, Morganton, N.C. 28655, (828) 584-7141.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., hosts an estate planning seminar today. The focus is on the importance of the will. For details, call the parish office at (336) 724-0561.

23 MAGGIE VALLEY — A diocesan-wide retreat for gay and lesbian Catholics is today through Oct. 25 at Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd. Cost is $95 per person. For details and registration, contact David Ferguson, P.O. Box 12451, Charlotte, N.C. 28220-2451, (704) 521-8911, or send e-mail to ncmtnpadre@aol.com.

24 HICKORY — Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, directs a training session for Hickory-area parish implementation of the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 902 E. Second St. N.E. Parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, businesspeople and all interested person are invited. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. There is no cost, but registration is required by calling (704) 370-3231.

TAYLORSVILLE — The Franciscan Friars' Ministry of the Word sponsors a parish mission focusing on renewal and conversion today through Oct. 28 at Holy Trinity Church, 665 W. Main St. Mission events include a covered dish supper at 6 p.m. Oct. 24, an evening youth session Oct. 25, daily Masses at 9 a.m., and liturgical services each evening at 7 p.m. For more information, call (828) 632-8009.

25 ASHEVILLE — Respect life programs for mothers and daughters (ages 9-12) and fathers and sons (ages 11-14) on the parish grounds of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., are today from 1-3 p.m. Both programs focus on life's sanctity, the virtue of chastity and the functions of the human body as it prepares for parenthood. The program is developed and presented by instructors of natural family planning. For registration or more information, call (828) 252-8816 by Oct. 23.

30 MAGGIE VALLEY — Father Ray Berg is spiritual advisor of "An Encounter with Jesus," a men's Emmaus retreat, today at 7 p.m. through Nov. 1 at 2:30 p.m. at Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd. Cost is $95. For more information or to register, call Mark Mukosiej at (828) 665-2722 or Tom Sparacino at (828) 255-9940. Registration deadline is Oct. 23.

November

7 CHARLOTTE — A harvest dance is today from 8 p.m.-midnight in St. Matthew Church parish hall, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, with live music from The Atlanta Polka Band. Snacks and set-ups will be provided. Admission is $12 per person; reservations for groups of eight or more are being accepted. For details, call Walter Swol at (704) 568-3238, or Frank Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

14 GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Lutheran Synod and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte sponsor "One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism," an event for adults who work with youth, today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 2210 North Elm St. Keynote presenter is Frank Mercadante, author and executive director of Cultivation Ministries. The seminar also includes prayer and a variety of workshops. Cost is $15. Send registration and check payable to NC Synod to Tammy Jones West, 200 Meadowridge Dr., Taylorsville, N.C. 28681.

Please submit events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, appeals to Croatians to overcome hatreds

By LYNNE WEIL

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In connection with his pastoral visit to their country, Pope John Paul II appealed once more to Croatians to overcome historical hatreds and to strengthen their society's values.

The pope summarized his Oct. 2-4 Croatia trip at his weekly general audience Oct. 7 in St. Peter's Square. He told pilgrims that beatifying Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, the archbishop of Zagreb during World War II, was the high point of the visit, his second to Croatia in four years.

The beatification offered "a chance to meditate on the true Catholic response to the horror which engulfed much of the world" in the cardinal's lifetime, Pope John Paul said.

"His was a response shaped by faith in God, respect for man, a love shown in forgiveness, and a determination to defend the unity of the church guided by the Successor of Peter," the pope said.

"The same response is required of Croatian Catholics now as they seek to heal the wounds of war, to build a just and lasting peace and to strengthen moral values undermined by the long years of totalitarian rule."

The pope said Blessed Stepinac synthesized the triple tragedy of fascism, national socialism and communism which had consumed Europe for much of this century.

Blessed Stepinac had already established a national following for his works for the church and was Zagreb archbishop when Nazi Germany installed a puppet regime in Croatia.

Although he first welcomed the regime for its dedication to a sovereign Croatia, after the first year Blessed Stepinac began to speak out against its genocidal policies against Serbs, Jews and Gypsies.

Nevertheless, he was prosecuted as a Nazi collaborator after the war under the newly installed communist regime, whose requests to create a national church independent of papal authority Blessed Stepinac refused. He died under house arrest in 1960.

"In his beatification," Pope John Paul said, "we recognize the victory of the Gospel of Christ over totalitarian ideologies, the victory of the rights of God and conscience over violence and the abuse of power, the victory of pardon over hate and vengeance."

The pope noted that he chose the site of Croatia's oldest Marian shrine for a meeting with young people and catechists because he wanted to speak with them "near the memories of (Croatia's) Christian roots," where "we prayed for the future of the church and evangelization."

"The cleansing of the wounds of war, the construction of a just and stable peace, and above all the restoration of moral values undermined by totalitarianism require long and patient work, in which it is necessary to renew continuously the spiritual patrimony inherited from the fathers," Pope John Paul said.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO

CNS Columnist

Legacy of a great musician

Some people may never have heard of Fritz Kreisler, an astounding violinist, a composer and a convert to the Catholic faith. He died in 1962 at the age of 87. In his lifetime, he was a remarkable celebrity, a beloved musician. When he died, the New York Times called him "a rare human being who spread a beam of light wherever he passed."

Now Fritz Kreisler is being presented to the public again, this time in a magnificent book, "Fritz Kreisler — Love's Sorrow, Love's Joy" (Amadeus Press), by the talented and dedicated writer Amy Biancolli. I have known Biancolli for 16 years, ever since the day she came to my office when I was the executive editor of a slick Connecticut weekly and timidly asked to be a summer intern.

I could see that this beautiful young woman was serious, willing to work hard and very talented. I was right on all counts. Biancolli worked with me for four summers and later graduated from the Columbia School of Journalism.

It was after that first meeting that I met her mother, the violinist Jeanne Mitchell Biancolli. Her name was known to me from my younger years when music reviewers called her "a bright new star in the galaxy."

At that stage of my life, I was into classical music with a passion. I especially loved the violin and musicians like Yehudi Menuhin, Mischa Elman and, of course, Fritz Kreisler.

I think Jeanne Mitchell Biancolli, who also was a convert to the Catholic faith and died suddenly a few years ago, must be looking down from heaven, applauding her daughter for writing about this violinist.

Amy Biancolli says she wrote this book about Kreisler "because I fear he is in danger of being forgotten." A very spiritual man, who had "a mystical relationship with the instrument," his impact on music was profound, the author says.

She has helped splendidly to see that he is remembered.

Biancolli hasn't glossed over some of the more controversial aspects of Kreisler's life, specifically those raised because the Vienna-born violinist never publicly revealed his Jewishness. In 1947, then living in America, he and his wife Harriet became friends with Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. It wasn't long before they began instruction in the Catholic faith.

Bishop Sheen delivered Kreisler's eulogy. Bishop Sheen said, "I went to visit him to prepare him for the afterlife. I was to cleanse his mouth, eyes, ears, hands. But when it came to cleansing his hands, I didn't want to erase the magic and the beauty of what those hands had given us." There were no dry eyes in the church.

This violinist, so filled with grace, once said: "How can one be a real musician and not be a mystic? Music will be forever a matter of mysticism.... I want to share my thoughts of God and truth.... I do not believe that there is any great or lasting comfort in the possession of things. They become burdens to us. I want to give of myself, all of my music and of my possessions, to others. That is the supreme happiness."

Biancolli has taken the mosaic pieces of a great man's life and assembled a penetrating portrait of a very spiritual artist whose gift was to communicate joy through music even in the midst of turbulent decades. Kreisler lives again in her pages, and we are the beneficiaries.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE

Guest Columnists

"If you have some, give some; if you need some, take some."

Several years ago we visited a parish in an economically poor area of Chicago's Southside. In the vestibule of the church was a cup-like container filled with coins attached to the wall. Over it was a sign that said, "If you have some, give some; if you need some, take some." It struck us how trusting the people there must be. How often do people abuse such open hospitality? How willing are those to continue giving, even when there is abuse? What an opportunity to share in Christ's mission of love.

We think about this example of Christian hospitality when considering our hospitality at home. Andrew's parents have been role models for this kind of selfless giving. Their home has been a home for many people who have needed temporary shelter or a chance to get back on their feet after personal setbacks. There certainly have been many who have abused Mom and Dad's generosity. There have been those who haven't demonstrated the kind of gratitude worthy of such hospitality. Yet, their home has always been a place of refuge for many.

In our efforts to keep a Christian home, we struggle with the fear of abuse by those who don't fully appreciate the source of our hospitality. Too often we contend with the attitudes of others that suggest that we have it so much easier. Therefore, it's okay to lean on our generosity. They don't recognize how much we sacrifice for the sake of our successful living. Actually we are offended by their attitudes of entitlement to our resources.

Then we look at how Mom and Dad opened their home and their hearts to so many over the years. There we see the joy of giving and the real value of hospitality. And the sign above the cup on the wall in the church comes to life for us. It's so simple. It says nothing about assessing the worthiness of others, understanding the generosity of the givers, or guarding the door against those who would abuse this magnanimous arrangement. It just says, "If you have some, give some; if you need some, take some."

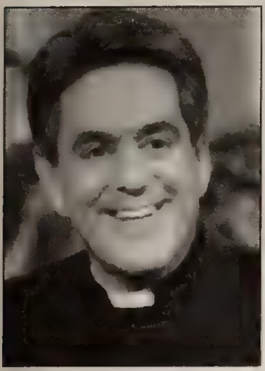
To be so hospitable is to live by faith — faith in a goodness that is not always evident, faith in the power of love that feeds itself as it gives itself away.

> To be so hospitable is to live by faith – faith in a goodness that is not always evident, faith in the power of love that feeds itself as it gives itself away.

To be so hospitable is to live in God. For God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them (John 4:16).

Though it is sometimes difficult, and we may not always understand this kind of generosity, we are empowered to live with such hospitality. For it is God's way with us. We are invited to participate in this hospitality, to give of what we have, and when we feel depleted, physically, emotionally, spiritually, to go to God and take some. And God never fails us.

Thanks, Mom and Dad, for showing us The Way!



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

That's the Spirit!

Visiting Youngstown, Ohio, is always a special event for me. My mom and dad grew up and got married there before moving to Erie, Pa. They took their vows in the rectory at St. Dominic's Church. It's across town from where I have been asked to give a "mission" at Immaculate Heart of Mary's and St. Brendan's churches.

My parents would have been wowed by my topic, "Fired and Fueled by the Holy Spirit." According to the descriptive brochure Father Tom McSweeney will answer two questions: Who Is the Holy Spirit? And How Can the Spirit Transform Our Lives? Wow!

But, I was afraid I would get caught in the same folly that attended the seminary student's *first* sermon, where he began by saying, "The title of my sermon is "Man, God, The Universe and Related Subjects." So I was grateful for the suggestion that event organizer Father Steve Popovich gave me. "Tom, keep your focus on a practical and pastoral understanding of the Holy Spirit. Please use plenty of your stories and examples that you use in your newspaper columns."

So, I offer this story about a little fish in a river. On the riverbank, a teacher had assembled his class for an instruction on "water." As the fish swam by, it heard the teacher speak: "Water is absolutely necessary to life. Without water we would all perish within a week's time."

"Golly," said the fish, "If what that man said is true, I'd better find some of that precious substance called 'water' or I shall die in a few days." It asked every other little fish it saw where water could be found, but none of them knew.

Then it put the question to some older, larger fish, but they were more interested in their food for the day. Some thought the little fish was crazy: "Go away and get a life!" From stream to stream the frightened fish carried its quest, but in vain, until finally he came upon a fish who seemed bigger and older and wiser than the rest.

"Please, where can I find the substance called water that will give me life?" "Water?" replied the wise old fish. "You are in water this very minute. You were conceived and born in water. Water surrounds you and is part of you. Water supports your very life. Draw on it and you will live."

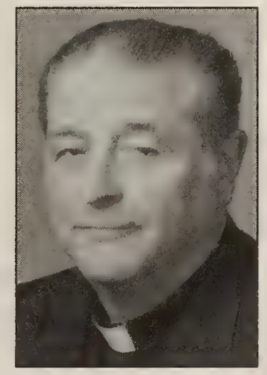
We too are immersed in a precious substance on which our life depends. Like that fish, we are born and conceived in it — we are immersed in it. Like that little fish that couldn't see the water for the river, we sometimes fail to recognize it. People of faith call this precious, life-giving substance the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of God. In plain language, the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need for our life's fulfillment — whether we know it or not, whether we appreciate it or not, whether we are worthy of it or not, whether we recognize it or not.

Draw on this Spirit and you will find life.

If I have any message for the people of Youngstown, or your town, it's that the only way to "find" the Spirit in action is through people who carry the very breath, the very Spirit of God into a troubled world. They — we — all God's people — dwell in the living water of God's loving, eternal Spirit.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Jesus' brothers and sisters

Q. I am a college student, assigned to read part of the New Testament. We came across texts that indicate James and others were "brothers" of Jesus.

In some research, we found one explanation indicating they were from the lineage of Joseph. Could Joseph have had a child with someone else?

A. The Gospels of Matthew (13:55-56) and Mark (6:3) mention the names of four brothers of Jesus: James, Joses (Joseph), Judas (Jude) and Simon — and some unnamed sisters. Other references to brothers of the Lord occur elsewhere in the New Testament.

Various explanations have been offered about who these brothers and sisters might be. Many Christians, particularly Roman Catholics, of course, but including such Protestant leaders as Luther, Zwingli and Calvin, have held the belief that Mary was always a virgin, thus ruling out the possibility of them being her children.

After careful study of other tentative explanations, the predominant theory, I believe, is that those brothers and sisters of Jesus were children of Joseph by a previous marriage. As unfamiliar as this may sound to us, it is by no means a new theory, nor does anything in the Gospels or in official Catholic teaching conflict with this possibility.

Early Christian documents, among them the second-century Gospel of Peter and the Protoevangelium of James, identify the "brothers" of Jesus as children of a union before his marriage to Mary.

While these "Gospels" are not in our canon of Scripture, they are valuable windows to the thoughts and beliefs of the first 100 to 200 years of Christianity. And their view of the matter still seems most probable.

If the theory is true, and Joseph was deceased before Jesus began his public life, it helps explain also why Mary would have accompanied these brothers and sisters, and perhaps even raised them.

As most of us are aware, there has been a long-standing assumption in Christian devotion that Joseph was somewhat older than Mary. If that is true, an earlier marriage could be one of the reasons. As I indicated, this explanation in no way reflects negatively on the church's doctrine concerning the perpetual virginity of the mother of Jesus and that she had no other children.

Obviously, I am speaking here about official Catholic doctrine. Some later private revelations, from the Middle Ages up to modern times, began to stress the opinion that Joseph, like Mary, lived a virginal life before and after Christ's birth.

Perhaps this led to the decline of the old "previous marriage" theory. Whatever the case, private revelations to saints or other visionaries about details of Joseph's life may be fascinating. They are not, however, a necessary part of Catholic belief.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

A letter to Mom and Dad

A friend of mine is employed as dorm mother at a small college. At the moment she's in charge of about 90 young women just out of high school and ready to learn, grow and startle the world with their talent and intelligence.

Something strange has happened over the last couple of weeks, however. Over that time, about 15 of those girls have come to my friend with similar physical discomfort and symptoms. All symptoms associated, she finally figured out, with initial use of the birth-control pill. So she started being a little more systematic in her questions, and she discovered a startling pattern. All of these girls had started on the pill, most at their parents' insistence, right before they went away to school.

Can you imagine?

"Here you go honey — your computer, your clothes, your notebooks. Oh, and don't forget your birth control."

Before I go on, let me add that this isn't some big bad secular university we're talking about. It's a small college associated with a religious denomination (not Catholic) where students still are required to take two religion courses as a graduation requirement.

Wouldn't it be great if a young woman, faced with parents ever-so-helpfully handing her a pack of pills or a year's supply of condoms, would turn around and say something like this:

"Well, I guess I should say thanks, Mom and Dad, but I'm finding it a little difficult to do so right now. After all, when you hand me those pills, you're telling me that you don't think very highly of me.

"You're telling me that you think I don't have self-control, that I'm little more than an animal.

"I know sexual activity is a big part of college life — right up there with drinking. But does that mean I'll participate? No it doesn't. Because I know that there are a lot of risks associated with irresponsible sexual activity that the pill can't do anything about. I know there are a ton of sexual diseases out there — from syphilis to chlamydia — that can affect my health in lots of ways, including my future ability to have babies, and even put me at a higher risk for cancer.

"And, of course, there's AIDS, which isn't just a disease afflicting gays or intravenous drug users. It strikes heterosexual college kids, too.

"When you insist or even suggest that I go on the pill before I go to college, you're telling me that it doesn't matter to you if I throw the gift of myself away indiscriminately or promiscuously; that you don't care if I sleep with a guy I meet soon after I meet him, offering the gift of myself in a moment that's transitory with someone — as long as I don't get pregnant.

"Well, no thanks. I'm rational enough to know what's best for me. I'm committed enough not to risk what I'm really about. And I think highly enough of myself as God's child not to throw myself away.

"It would make it easier to stick to those values, Mom and Dad, if I knew you believed in me that way, too."

Retired Nebraska bishop turns 103

WEST POINT, Neb. (CNS) - Retired Bishop John L. Paschang of Grand Island, who just turned 103, takes his latest birthday in stride. "It's a gift of God and I'm grateful for him every day," he said. The bishop, who may be the world's oldest Catholic bishop, has a sharp mind, but he cannot walk or hear well and his eyesight is failing. However, the slight man with a gentle warmth refuses to complain. "I'm in rather good health, thank the Lord," he told the West Nebraska Register, Grand Island's diocesan newspaper.

Mark jubilee with amnesty for illegal immigrants, pope recommends

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called on nations to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants within their borders as a concrete gesture of justice and forgiveness during the year 2000. "It would certainly be a significant gesture if the jubilee's dimension of reconciliation found expression in a form of regularization for a large group of immigrants who, more than others, suffer the drama of precariousness and uncertainty — the illegals," the pope said.

Hugh Finn dies eight days after removal of feeding tube

MANASSAS, Va. (CNS) — Hugh Finn died at Annaburg Manor nursing home in Manassas Oct. 9, eight days after his wife had his feeding tube removed. Legal and moral controversy had swirled for weeks around the case of the 44-year-old Catholic, a former television news anchor from Louisville, Ky., who was in a persistent vegetative state as a result of a traffic accident more than three years ago. When his wife, Michele, sought a court ruling earlier this year to permit removal of the tube providing nutrition and hydration, she obtained it despite objections of several members of her husband's family.

Cardinal Puljic receives 1998 Notre Dame Award

SOUTH BEND, Ind.(CNS) — Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, was in South Bend to receive the 1998 Notre Dame Award and he urged his Fighting Irish audience to keep fighting for justice and peace. Cardinal Puljic, who at age 53 is the youngest cardinal in the Catholic Church, was presented the award for his ecumenical efforts to oppose ethnic and religious division in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Vatican's U.N. nuncio honored for service to refugees

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, received the James J. Norris Medal Oct. 5 for his service to refugees. He accepted the honor at a fund-raising reception held at the U.N. headquarters in New York by the Norris Foundation for Migrants and Refugees, an organization established in Washington in 1995. The foundation is named for a layman who played a leading role in Catholic efforts on behalf of refugees and other needy people. Norris, who worked for Catholic Relief Services from 1946 until his death in 1976, helped organize the International Catholic Migration Commission established by Pope Pius XII in 1951, and was its first president.

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

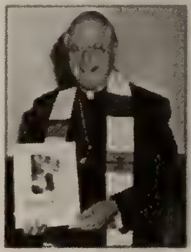
Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. *You can literally change a life!*

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!



"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."

Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
414

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ______________ Exp. Date ______
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ______________
(please print)
Address ______________
City/State/Zip ______________
Phone (____) ______________

CNH10/98

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

16 de octubre de 1998

Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

Después de 20 años de papado, Juan Pablo mira aún al futuro

Foto CNS por Michael Okoniewski

El Papa Juan Pablo II inciensa las ofrendas de pan y vino durante una misa celebrada recientemente. El Papa celebra sus 20 años como pontífice este mes de octubre.

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II cumplirá 20 años en su plaza en este otoño, un hito importante en un pontificado que ha ejercido influencia sobre los acontecimientos mundiales, ha dejado un sello distintivo sobre la Iglesia y ha tocado a millones de personas alrededor del mundo.

El aniversario estaba esbozándose como un tributo a un papado que ya es histórico. Pero los funcionarios del Vaticano, diciendo que este Papa es capaz todavía de sorprender a las personas, hicieron énfasis también sobre sus objetivos para los años venideros.

El Papa de hoy ha cambiado dramáticamente desde el hombre juvenil y vigoroso que habló desde el balcón de la Plaza de San Pedro hace 20 años. A los 78 años de edad, su andar es lento y su habla se interrumpe. A menudo, sus ojos reflejan una mirada difícil — quizás un síntoma de la enfermedad de Parkinson, o quizás sencillamente la expresión de un hombre que tiene mucho en su mente y en su alma.

"Hoy, veo a un Papa que se proyecta continuamente hacia el futuro, mental y espiritualmente. Lo veo en su trabajo diario", dijo el portavoz del Vaticano, Joaquín Navarro Valls.

Según Navarro-Valls, "el caldero está hirviendo a fuego lento" en tres campos principales:

• Las relaciones inter-religiosas y ecuménicas. El año próximo, el Papa espera que un viaje a Rumanía desgarre la cortina de tensión entre católicos y ortodoxos que se cierne sobre gran parte de la Europa Oriental y quizás allane el camino para una visita a Moscú.

El Papa habla también con insistencia de su deseo de viajar al antiguo lugar de nacimiento de Abraham, en la actual Iraq, y a otras tierras bíblicas. Una reunión en el Sinaí, Egipto, entre dirigentes cristianos, judíos y musulmanes se halla todavía en la lista de deseos del Papa, junto con una primera visita a Jerusalén a fin de prepararse para el Año Jubilar 2,000 con otras iglesias cristianas.

• Los derechos humanos. El Papa que se enfrentó a los dictadores comunistas y derechistas de todo el mundo ha venido enfatizando en los años recientes que los derechos humanos no son únicamente una cuestión para el orden político, dijo Navarro-Valls. El Papa se ha enfocado sobre los asuntos de la vida, tales como el aborto, la eutanasia y la experimentación genética, y sobre los asuntos familiares tales como los programas de control de la natalidad y el reconocimiento legal de las uniones irregulares, tales como las leyes de sociedad doméstica. El foro para estas batallas éticas es a menudo las Naciones Unidas o las conferencias internacionales.

• El diálogo entre la cultura y la fe. La nueva encíclica del Papa sobre la fe y la razón extenderá el debate de su encíclica anterior sobre la verdad moral, "Veritatis Splendor" (El Esplendor de la Verdad). Como lo dijo Navarro-Valls, el Papa está tratando no solamente de sentar una ley moral, sino de analizar a nuestra época y las raíces de las actitudes modernas hacia el bien y el mal, la verdad y la moralidad. ▾

Obispos ecuatorianos apoyan plan gubernamental para los pobres

QUITO, Ecuador (CNS) — El Consejo Permanente de la Conferencia Episcopal del Ecuador votó para cooperar con el gobierno en la distribución de un estipendio controvertido a ser pagado mensualmente a los pobres.

Sin embargo, la Iglesia ha rehusado la oferta del gobierno de $1 por cada familia que inscriba para recibir los 1,000 Sucres ($18 dólares de los EE.UU.)

El gobierno del Presidente Jamil Mahuad anunció el nuevo estipendio a mediados de septiembre para compensar las medidas súbitas de austeridad económica grave que incluyen al aumento de los precios de los combustibles, el gas y la electricidad.

Inicialmente, Monseñor José Mario Ruiz Navas, Arzobispo de Portoviejo, presidente de la conferencia episcopal ecuatoriana, estuvo de acuerdo en que las diócesis inscribirían a quienes desearan recibir el pago. Pero el anuncio de Monseñor Ruíz encontró una oposición fuerte de parte de Monseñor Luis Alberto Luna Tobar, Arzobispo de Cuenca, y de 17 sacerdotes de aquella arquidiócesis, quienes calificaron al plan de un insulto y un "golpe en la cara para los pobres".

Las organizaciones campesinas y populares también protestaron contra las nuevas medidas y dijeron que la Iglesia no debería involucrarse y así aprobar tácitamente al plan del gobierno.

En la Arquidiócesis de Cuenca, los sacerdotes se han negado a participar en el plan. ▾

Mensaje del Padre

REV. VINCENTE H. FINNERTY, C.M.

Queridos amigos y amigas:

En estos días de septiembre y octubre la Iglesia ha celebrado las fiestas de varios hombres y mujeres que son muy queridos por nuestro pueblo: San Vicente de Paul, Santa Teresa del Niño Jesús, San Francisco de Asís, San Martín de Porres para nombrar algunos. Esto me hace reflexionar hoy unos versículos del evangelio de San Juan con ustedes. La Palabra de Dios dice:

A pesar de todo, muchos creyeron en él, aun entre los jefes; pero no se atrevían a profesar en público su fe por miedo a que los fariseos los echaran fuera. Prefirieron ser considerados por los hombres antes que glorificados por Dios (Juan 12, 42-43).

Según los científicos que estudian las mariposas, existe una familia de mariposas que puede realizar un acto de desaparición increíble, debido a que la parte superior de sus alas es de colores brillantes, pero por debajo tiene la misma apariencia que una hoja seca.

Al volar, estas mariposas producen un destello de colores fácil de detectar tanto para sus amigos como para sus enemigos. Sin embargo, cuando se posan, los colores desaparecen y se transforman instantáneamente en "hojas secas". Se vuelvan casi invisibles por las marcas que imitan las hojas secas. Hasta se mecen en la brisa como las hojas.

Algunos cristianos realizan un acto de desaparición similar para evitar que los reconozcan cuando salen al mundo. Eso precisamente es lo que muchas personas hacían en los días de Jesús como San Juan nos hace ver. Creían en Jesús, pero no dejaban que nadie lo supiera. Realizaban un acto de desaparición por temor a perder sus privilegios y su reputación.

¿Cuantos de nosotros hacemos lo mismo cuando nos vemos en una situación que podría ponernos en ridículo o provocar la oposición de los demás, o quizás hacer que no nos respeten tanto como a otros por saber que somos "religiosos"?

Los seguidores de Cristo debemos ser consecuentes. Debemos mostrarnos tal y como somos en toda ocasión y no sólo cuando nos reunimos con otros creyentes y nos sentimos seguros. Debemos resistir la tentación de no mostrarnos como realmente somos cuando nos sentimos amenazados o excluidos.

Es cierto que podemos evitar que nos ridiculicen en el lugar donde vivimos o trabajamos si escondemos nuestra identidad, pero al hacerlo demostramos que amamos más la gloria de los hombres que la de Dios.

Mantengamos nuestro testimonio en todo lugar y circunstancia. Ese es el testimonio de los santos. No desaparezcamos, o nuestro testimonio será tan eficaz como el de una hoja seca.

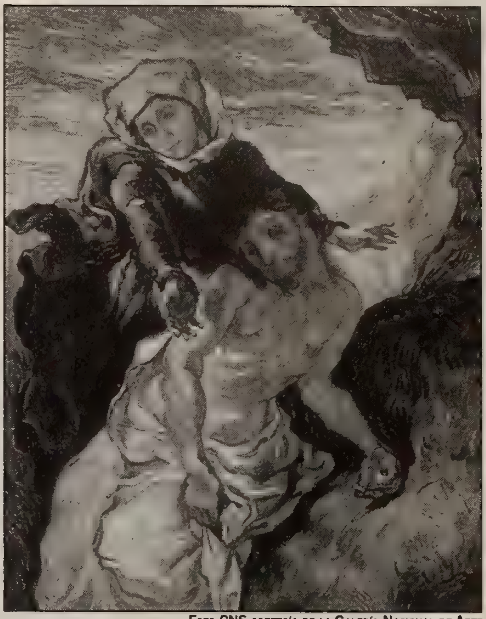


FOTO CNS CORTESÍA DE LA GALERÍA NACIONAL DE ARTE

La 'Pieta' de Van Gogh

La "Pieta" de Vincent Van Gogh es una de 72 pinturas del renombrado artista que se exhiben en la Galería Nacional de Arte en Washington, hasta el 3 de enero de 1999. La exhibición, que estará también en Los Angeles en 1999, es la mayor de las obras de Van Gogh fuera de Holanda en más de un cuarto de siglo.

La fe de la Iglesia

POR LUIS A. WOLF

Cada vez que acudimos a la Misa, y si la liturgia del día lo requiere, recitamos el Credo o profesión de fe. En unos pocos párrafos resumimos las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y decimos que creemos en ellas.

Es imposible explicar en una pocas líneas todo lo relacionado con nuestra fe. La primera parte del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica habla de "La profesión de la fe" y consta de 1040 artículos descritos en 220 páginas.

¿Qué es la fe? De acuerdo con el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica:

La fe es una adhesión personal del hombre entero a Dios que se revela. Comprende una adhesión de la inteligencia y de la voluntad a la Revelación que Dios ha hecho de sí mismo mediante sus obras y sus palabras (176).

La fe es un don sobrenatural de Dios. Para creer, el hombre necesita los auxilios interiores del Espíritu Santo (179).

La fe es necesaria para la salvación. El Señor mismo lo afirma: "El que crea y sea bautizado, se salvará; el que no crea, se condenará" (Mc 16, 16) (183)

"La fe es un gusto anticipado del conocimiento que nos hará bienaventurados en la vida futura"(S. Tomás de Aquino, comp. 1, 2) (184).

Esto es una versión extractada de lo que es la fe. Si tenemos fe verdadera creeremos en todas las enseñanzas y doctrinas de la Iglesia. No debemos creer en ningún otro que no sea Dios Padre, Jesucristo su único Hijo y el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida.

Pidámosle al Señor que nos ilumine y nos abra el corazón para tener más fe, para ser más crédulos, para entender mejor y creer los postulados del Credo y en esa forma ir creciendo en el conocimiento de Dios y de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. ▼

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 6 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Saint Benedict the Moor,1625 E. 12th St.
(336) 725-9200
todos los domingos 5:30 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

Caridades Católicas se propone dar forma a ley de asistencia futura

HOUSTON (CNS) — El presidente de Caridades Católicas USA, Padre Fred Kammer, dijo que la organización trabajará para dar forma a la ley futura sobre asistencia económica pública a fin de que ésta beneficie a los pobres.

"Pueden estar seguros de que estas actividades continuarán a los niveles federal y estatal", dijo el Padre Kammer, S.J., durante la conferencia anual de Caridades Católicas en Houston, del 26 al 28 de septiembre.

"Nuestra intención es la de dar forma a la reforma de la asistencia económica pública durante estos años primarios críticos, de modos que sea más responsiva a las necesidades individuales y familiares, y menos a los caprichos políticos, a las rebajas no equitativas del presupuesto y a las ideas sociales que no han sido comprobadas".

El Padre Kammer se refirió a un nuevo proyecto estatal de reforma de la asistencia económica pública lanzado por Caridades Católicas en mayo último, del cual él dijo que está diseñado para ayudar a las dependencias locales de Caridades Católicas a observar, poner en práctica y ejercer influencia sobre los cambios en la asistencia económica pública a los niveles estatal y local.

"La defensa continua que ustedes hacen al nivel estatal es lo que está ayudando a dar forma a muchos programas estatales de asistencia económica pública para servir mejor a las necesidades de las familias pobres", dijo él a las 600 personas asistentes.

Al nivel nacional, el Padre Kammer dijo que Caridades Católicas "fue una de las principales organizaciones que dirigieron la gestión para restablecer los beneficios a más de medio millón de inmigrantes legales pobres" con la reanudación de los beneficios del Ingreso Complementario de Seguridad y el Medicaid.

El Padre Kammer señaló también al trabajo de Caridades Católicas a fin de restablecer los cupones para alimentos para las personas desempleadas cuyos beneficios fueron eliminados por la ley de la asistencia económica pública de 1996. ▼

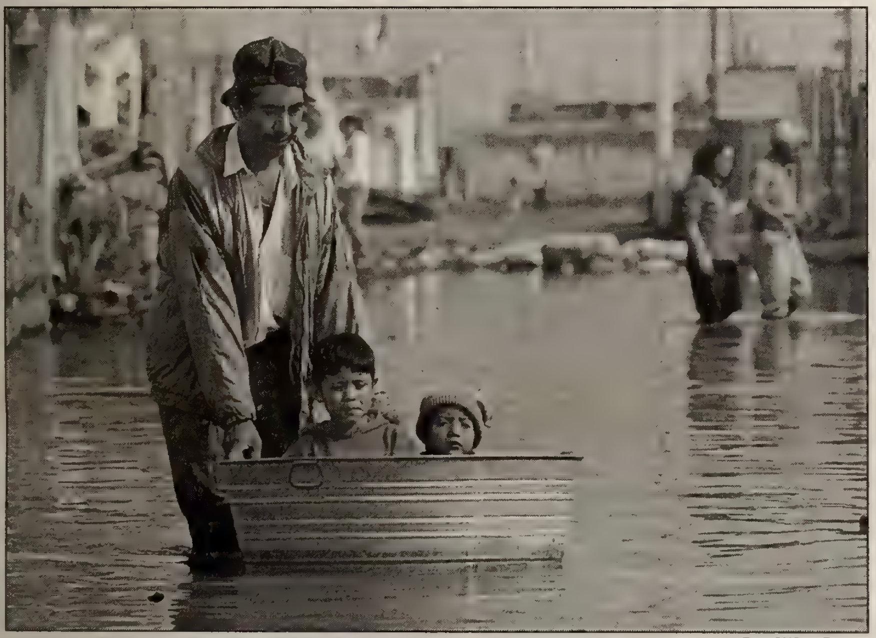


Foto CNS de Reuters

Inundaciones en Mexico

Un hombre de México usa una cubeta grande para transportar a dos niños a través de las aguas de inundación en Ciudad México. Seis personas han muerto en deslizamientos e inundaciones producidos por lluvias torrenciales, las peores de esa zona en más de 100 años.

Entidad de Florida hace campaña para República Dominicana

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (CNS) — Una entidad benéfica con enlaces directos a la República Dominicana está lanzando una campaña de socorro urgente a largo plazo para la nación isleña, que puede haber sufrido los mayores daños ocasionados por el Huracán Georges.

Marc Coppack, portavoz de New Hope Charities, en West Palm Beach, dijo que esa agencia está pidiendo alimentos y suministros médicos de urgencia para su embarque inmediato al distrito de La Romana, situado al este de Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. La misma ha embarcado ya un estimado de 20,000 libras de provisiones a dicha zona. "New Hope" ha establecido centros para recogida en West Palm Beach y Miami y necesitan aspirina, curitas, suministros sanitarios, pañales, jabón, champú y blanqueador, así como alimentos que no sean de fácil descomposición, tales como arroz, frijoles y leche en polvo, dijo Coppack a "The Florida Catholic."

Buscando la santidad

Ser santo es imposible si contamos únicamente con nuestra fuerza. Ser santo es difícil si acogemos con pocas ganas nuestra vocación de cristiano y nos dejamos atemorizar por los obstáculos o nos dejamos desviar por el interés exagerado por los bienes materiales.

Pero para quien tiene buena voluntad y escucha con atención la palabra de Dios, frecuenta los sacramentos, reza y se mantiene en la amistad con Dios, llegar a la santidad es fácil.

Dios espera nuestra correspondencia a la abundancia de gracias que nos ha otorgado. La esterilidad espiritual o el mal uso de sus dones provoca el abandono divino, y es arriesgado contar con la misericordía de Dios cuando nos falta aún la más mínima reacción a sus renovados llamados a la conversión y a la santidad.

Hemos de trabajar para Dios y para su Reino y nos aprovecha egoístamente los dones y las oportunidades recibidas. La infidelidad y la traición a las esperanzas que Dios ha puesto en nosotros nos merecen su abandono y su castigo y nos convierten en enemigos de Dios y en esclavos de la arrogancia y de la temeridad, frustrando la esperanza divina.

Dios nos ha elegido y hecho hijos suyos. Nos ha colmado de sus dones; nos ha comunicado su amor y su misma vida. Los dones recibidos no deben ser motivo de orgullo y de egoísmo. Son una invitación a la responsabilidad ante Dios que nos los da y ante los demás con quienes debemos compartirlos. Dios nos entrega sus bienes para que los usemos para el bien y el servicio de todos.

Lo que Dios quiere de nosotros es esto: que seamos santos. Hay que desear la perfección y la santidad no de un modo vago, sino de manera eficaz, tratando de hacer bien todas las cosas. ▼ *(Con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)*

Michael Douglas se une a grupo que procura prohibición de armas

OTTAWA (CNS) — El actor Michael Douglas, ganador de un premio de la Academia Cinematográfica, prestó su situación de celebridad a una delegación internacional que insta al gobierno canadiense para que apoye a una prohibición global sobre las armas atómicas.

Michael Douglas

"Creo personalmente que las armas atómicas son el mayor peligro para el futuro de nuestro planeta, de nuestras vidas y de nuestra civilización", dijo Douglas en una conferencia de prensa que siguió a la reunión del 29 de septiembre entre el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Canadá, Lloyd Axworthy, y las organizaciones religiosas y no gubernamentales del Canadá y los Estados Unidos.

"Estoy comprometido a que, durante mi vida, podremos abolir las armas atómicas", dijo Douglas. "De modo que digo: 'No más armas atómicas'".

El Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, nombró recientemente a Douglas como Mensajero de Paz de las Naciones Unidas. Douglas voló a Ottawa desde Nueva York a bordo de su avión a chorro privado y salió inmediatamente después de la conferencia de prensa. ▼

Un Poco de tu Tiempo — Un Mundo de Diferencia.

Es la hora de abrir tu corazón. Presta tu tiempo y talento a los necesitados de tu comunidad.

Campaña Católica de la Comunicación

Monje recibe obsequio de un amigo de largo tiempo, Kofi Annan

Foto CNS por Dianne Towalski, del St. Cloud Visitor

Los estudiantes de la Escuela Preparatoria de St. John, en Collegeville, Minnesota, miran una cruz dada al Padre Gordon Tavis, benedictino, por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan. La cruz, procedente de México, será exhibida permanentemente en la escuela.

COLLEGEVILLE, Minnesota (CNS) — Mientras el Padre Gordon Tavis, benedictino, estaba recobrándose de la cirugía renal, la última llamada telefónica que él esperaba recibir fue una del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Kofi Annan, uno de sus amigos de largo tiempo.

"Me asombró que el secretario general de las Naciones Unidas, con su itinerario ocupado, me llamara", dijo el Padre Tavis al St. Cloud Visitor, el periódico de la Diócesis de St. Cloud.

Annan ha conocido al sacerdote desde mediados del decenio de 1970, cuando los dos eran compañeros de clase en un programa de maestría en el Instituto de Tecnología de Massachusetts.

Después, a principios de agosto, el Padre Tavis recibió una llamada de la secretaria de Annan, pidiendo la dirección exacta del sacerdote, según dijo ella, porque Annan y su esposa deseaban enviarle un regalo por correo.

El obsequio resultó ser una cruz del Instituto de Arte Folklórico Mexicano, de Ciudad México.

La superficie de la cruz está cubierta con veintenas de objetos de metal en miniatura, incrustados o labrados, fijados con puntillitas. Los objetos semejan libros, mazorcas de maíz, autos, piernas y brazos humanos, entre otras cosas.

Un gran corazón de metal — una alusión aparente al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús — está situado al centro de la cruz.

La cruz es un ejemplo de una "cruz de milagros". Los objetos minúsculos, llamados "milagros", han sido usados durante siglos por los católicos de la América Latina para dar gracias por la ayuda divina en la recuperación de una enfermedad o una lesión. ▼

Residente de Seattle viaja a El Salvador para entregar donativos

SEATTLE (CNS) — Con 160,000 millas en el odómetro, el camioncito Toyota de 1977 de Don Sly ha sobrevivido a años de desgaste por haber sido conducido por un hijo adolescente y haber transportado equipos pesados en el empleo de Sly como ingeniero de seguridad.

De modo que, ¿podría el camión hacer un viaje de 5,000 millas desde Seattle hasta El Salvador? No hay por qué preocuparse.

Sly hizo el viaje solo al país de la América Central en agosto, con la cama de su camioncito llena de suministros escolares, bicicletas y computadoras donadas por las iglesias y escuelas del oeste del estado de Washington.

No sólo entregó él los donativos cuando llegó a la capital, San Salvador, sino que también dejó su camión allá, donándolo al Instituto para Tecnología, Ambiente y Auto-Suficiencia, conocido por sus siglas en español de ITAMA, que apoya a proyectos para ayudar a los salvadoreños pobres a fin de que lleguen a ser auto-suficientes.

Sly se imaginó que el antiguo camión no sería una carga en el país afectado por la pobreza — es sencillo de reparar y su color amarillo que se desvanece no atraería una atención indeseada.

Sly, feligrés de la Parroquia de Santa María en Seattle, había planeado originalmente volar a El Salvador con un grupo de católicos del occidente del estado de Washington que fueron a observar el establecimiento de una zona de paz local en el sudeste de El Salvador. ITAMA había ayudado a ese proyecto.

Pero cuando no funcionaron los planes para que la organización hermana del Instituto con sede en Texas, la Fundación Estadounidense para la Auto-Suficiencia, llevara su camión donado a aquel país, Sly decidió entregarlo personalmente.

"El vehículo parecía ser confiable", dijo él. "Mi hermano recomendó que yo comprobara las correas y las mangueras, pero yo ni siquiera hice eso".

El Salvador se halla a una distancia aproximada de 3,000 millas por aire de Seattle, pero Sly tuvo que seguir una ruta de 5,000 millas que lo llevó a través de Brownsville, Texas. En México y después en Guatemala, él reclutó la ayuda de jóvenes locales para que lo ayudaran a llenar los procedimientos confusos de las aduanas.

Su única rotura en el viaje de ocho días fue una manguera rota. Pero él sospecha que los dos tubos de creyones que iban en la cama de su camioncito tapado fueron víctimas del calor y probablemente llegaron en forma de amasijo.

No hubo ceremonia alguna cuando él llegó a las oficinas principales de ITAMA, alrededor de las 10 de la noche. El camión fue descargado y "empezaron a usarlo al día siguiente", dijo él. ▼

Si quiere anunciarse en este suplemento en español llame a Cindy Feerick al (704) 370-3332.

Diez personas nombradas en plazas de ministerio hispano en Dubuque

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — Monseñor Jerome Hanus, Arzobispo de Dubuque, ha designado a cinco sacerdotes, tres religiosas, una mujer laica y un seminarista en plazas del ministerio hispano de la Arquidiócesis.

Monseñor W. Dean Walz, Vicario Episcopal para la región de Waterloo de la Arquidiócesis, fue designado para la nueva plaza de Vicario Arquidiocesano para el Ministerio Hispano.

"Nosotros, en el ministerio hispano, compartimos la preocupación del Arzobispo hacia los muchos hispanos que han llegado a nuestra zona en los años recientes, procurando trabajo y circunstancias decentes para vivir con sus familias", dijo Monseñor Walz. "Ellos no traen nada con ellos sino su fe religiosa profunda, su pobreza y su sueño de una vida mejor. Nuestros corazones están con ellos".

Los cinco sacerdotes proporcionarán el ministerio sacramental y pastoral en los cinco centros para el ministerio hispano establecidos en la Arquidiócesis, y cinco asociados pastorales religiosos o laicos suministrarán la asistencia diaria para satisfacer las necesidades pastorales de los hispanos en sus zonas. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Procesion en la Habana

Millares de cubanos celebraron la festividad de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre, patrona de Cuba, con una procesión a través de las calles de La Habana el 8 de septiembre. Las celebraciones marianas a principios de septiembre en toda Cuba fueron algunas de las mayores observancias religiosas públicas desde que el Papa Juan Pablo II visitó a Cuba en enero último.

Sister Helen Prejean, from page 1

man being.

"What happens with the death penalty is we freeze frame a human being in the worst act of their life, and then we freeze frame ourselves into having to kill them for it," she said.

She discussed what is called the selectivity in the way the death penalty is imposed, especially in terms of defendants' financial and social status. "We've heard the expression, 'Capital punishment means them without the capital get the punishment,'" she added. "People who are poor know that."

She said the death penalty "has nothing to do with deterrence" because criminals usually do not think of the consequences of their crimes. The death penalty multiplies society's tragedies because it "imitates the worth of the crimes," she added.

> **"What happens with the death penalty is we freeze frame a human being in the worst act of their life, and then we freeze frame ourselves into having to kill them for it," she said.**

Sister Helen voiced her belief that "people, when presented with ... the facts about the death penalty, can choose an alternative." She describes in her book her belief in "measured retribution:" nonnegotiable, long-term prison sentences.

Community

Lloyd LeBlanc illustrated to Sister Helen how powerfully faith and forgiveness influence human behavior. He also reminded her of the importance of community when dealing with loss, Sister Helen said.

"We don't know how to deal with pain and death in our culture very well," she said. "I realized the great need to have groups where people gather around people who have been through this kind of pain and this kind of loss.... "

While his hurt never completely left, LeBlanc forgave his son's killers and received an apology from Patrick Sonnier the day he was executed.

Sister Helen recalled how LeBlanc felt he took the path God wanted him to travel. "He started walking along the road," she said, "and gradually the grace of Jesus met him on that road." ▼

At canonization, pope recalls Jewish victims of Holocaust

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While honoring Edith Stein as a Catholic saint, the church must never forget the millions of her Jewish brothers and sisters who died with her in the Nazi death camps, Pope John Paul II said.

During an Oct. 11 Mass in St. Peter's Square, the pope canonized the Carmelite nun, who was raised Jewish, became Catholic at the age of 30, and entered the monastery 14 years later, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

Deported by the Nazis from the Netherlands, where she and her sister were given refuge, she died Aug. 9, 1942, in the gas chamber at Auschwitz.

Each year on her Aug. 9 feast day, the pope said, Catholics must remember the Holocaust, "that savage plan to eliminate a people which took the lives of millions of Jewish brothers and sisters."

"For the love of God and of humanity, once again I raise a heartfelt cry: May there never again be repeated a similar criminal initiative against any ethnic group, any people, any race in any corner of the earth," the pope said.

Throughout his homily, the pope emphasized St. Stein's Jewish roots and prayed that her witness would make "the bridge of mutual understanding between Jews and Christians even more solid."

While objections to the canonization were not as many nor as vocal as objections to her 1987 beatification, some Jewish leaders continued to insist that Stein was killed because she was Jewish, not martyred for her Catholic faith.

Pope John Paul said he was honored "to solemnly present before the whole world this eminent daughter of Israel and faithful daughter of the church as a saint."

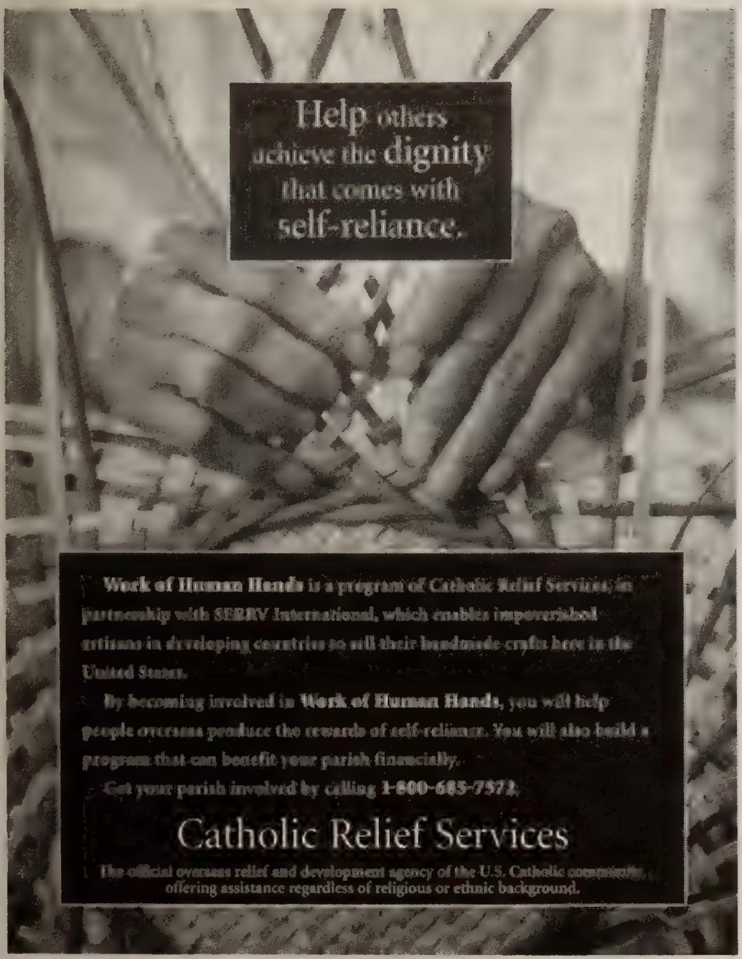
"Because she was Jewish, Edith Stein was deported along with her sister Rosa and many other Jews from the Netherlands to the Auschwitz concentration camp where, together, they found death in the gas chamber," he said.

"We remember them all today with profound respect," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said St. Stein had refused offers to help her avoid the deportation because she was a nun.

He said her response was to ask, "Doesn't justice perhaps exist in the fact that I do not take advantage of my baptism? If I cannot share the fate of my brothers and sisters, my life is, in a sense, destroyed."

Hundreds of cardinals, bishops and priests concelebrated the Mass, including Melkite Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, father of the U.S. girl whose healing was accepted as the miracle needed for St. Stein's canonization. ▼


Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling 1-800-685-7572.

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Work of HUMAN HANDS

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Our Mission:

Providing Healing & Christian Service to North Carolinians for 50 Years

Ever since St. Joseph Hospital was founded in 1948 by Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh and Dr. Francis Owens of Southern Pines, our purpose has been to serve the health care needs of the residents of our communities.

We enter our second half-century of service with a renewed commitment to that mission. Our recent affiliations with Catholic Health East will allow us to do an even better job of ministering through caring.

Whether your health care needs involve long-term care, home health care in the 24 counties we serve, private duty nursing assistance, hospice, adult day health care, child care, senior housing or retirement living, think first of St. Joseph: the name you can trust.

ST JOSEPH OF THE PINES

1-800-581-9257

Book Review

"The Slick Boys: A Ten-Point Plan to Rescue your Community by Three Chicago Cops who are Making It Happen"

Reviewed by BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
Catholic News Service

This book may well have been titled "Been There, Done That, Now Here's What We're Going to Do." The Slick Boys — a slang term for undercover police officers — speak from experience about gang influence, shootings and parental indifference.

If their story were to end there, or even if it were to include their accomplishments (e.g., Martin attending West Point, Davis playing in the 1982 NCAA Final Four), it would be a good story.

But it doesn't. In fact, that is only the start of a journey that takes them back to their Chicago housing-project roots where they try to make a difference among people whose lives mirror what they themselves experienced.

You get a view of housing-project life from three who lived it, and who are now immersed in improving it and the lives of those who reside there.

Their stories about drugs, killings, abandonment and injustice could be told by others, but the Slick Boys fortify those stories with a 10-point plan for changing ghetto despair.

Among the points in their plan are protecting family, giving something back to the community, leading by example, the value of education and respect for all.

Sound familiar? Sure, these ideas are not unique. However, what the Slick Boys provide in proposing them is hope, because they have demonstrated that each point works. They supplement their proposal with personal stories, work-related incidents and stories.

In their school programs, the trio tells their firsthand stories about the destruction caused by drugs, cigarettes and alcohol, and they talk about values, spirituality, sex and prejudice.

It may appear that this book is written only for those who live in urban areas. However, the stories told by the Slick Boys should be read by all who prefer hope over despair.

There's nothing sweet about "Slick Boys." It's blunt, which is what parents and youth ministers will appreciate. It also provides hope, which is what youth themselves will appreciate even more. ▼

Brian T. Olszewski is the editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

"The Slick Boys: A Ten-Point Plan to Rescue Your Community by Three Chicago Cops who are Making it Happen," by Eric David, James Martin, and Randy Holcomb, with Luchina Fisher. Simon and Schuster (New York, 1998). 240 pp., $22.

Word to Life

October 18. Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C. Readings:

1) Exodus 17:8-13
   Psalm 121:1-8
2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
3) Luke 18:1-8

By SHARON K. PERKINS

To the residents of East Fort Worth, the sight of the beige minivan trolling the various streets and cul-de-sacs probably seemed suspicious at first. However, after three years of slow, purposeful wandering, I'm sure I became a fixture as familiar as the mail carrier. I was a woman with a mission: a house hunter.

Our family had outgrown our first home, and the location had become inconvenient for all our daily destinations, so the vision was born in my heart to sink roots in a particular part of the city that suited us perfectly. Of course, the intersection of vision and reality created many opportunities for discouragement. For three years, the circumstances never seemed to be right — the houses on the market were too small, too expensive or too much in need of repair. We also had the daunting task of selling our home at a good price and qualifying for a loan. The orchestration of all those contingencies would have driven me to the funny farm or an early grave — had I not been given a measure of faith.

Like Moses whose tired arms remained raised toward heaven, I had friends and family who steadily supported the vision when my circumstances appeared to defeat it. The Scriptures taught me throughout the process to be patient and thankful to the God who has all times and seasons in his hand. And today's Gospel from Luke strengthened my resolve to remain persistent in prayer, knowing that when the time was right, the right home and the right buyer would come along, and that in the meantime all my striving and worrying would be counterproductive.

When that time finally came, I was absolutely amazed at the series of events that worked in our favor. But even better was the opportunity we were given to share stories of God's providence. I learned how to be thankful even for the obstacles in my path. In those three years, the search for a new home yielded not only a new place to live — it brought a new understanding of the power of persistent prayer and a deeper faith in God who delights in meeting our every need. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 18 — Oct. 24, 1998

Sunday, Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday,** Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday,** Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday,** Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Ephesians 4:7-16, Luke 13:1-9

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Pro-Life Corner
REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 3rd
For a copy of a non-partisan voters' guide showing all candidates' positions on a wide range of issues, call Jeff Norkus at (704) 595-6444 (days).
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097
A Day with Father Michael Joncas — A Liturgical Gathering
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 1998
St. Anne's Church
1694 Bird St., Rock Hill, SC
Father Michael Joncas is a national liturgical treasure in the Catholic community and for all who worship. He is coming to Rock Hill to renew our understanding of liturgy, introduce creative ways to celebrate our faith and renew our tradition. This annual event is co-sponsored by St. Anne's Parish and the Oratory Center for Spirituality.
Cost: $20
For more information and registration contact: Sarah Morgan, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131
HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Dee Snider's Strangeland"

Senselessly violent clunker in which writer-producer Dee Snider stars as a mad murderer who uses the Internet to lure his victims to gruesome deaths by torture. Directed by John Pieplow, the dreary formula plot mixes inept action scenes of the police hunt for the killer with perverse images of his sadistic activities. Excessive violence, graphic torture scenes, sexual references, brief nudity, incessant rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Impostors"

Screwball comedy set in the 1930s follows two hapless actors (Stanley Tucci and Oliver Platt) who become stowaways on board a liner whose passengers include a mad terrorist (Tony Shalhoub) out to blow up the ship. Also written and directed by Tucci, the pacing is uneven but the overall effect enjoyable thanks to a large ensemble cast portraying all manner of shipboard eccentrics. Comically intended sexual encounters, double entendres, occasional profanity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

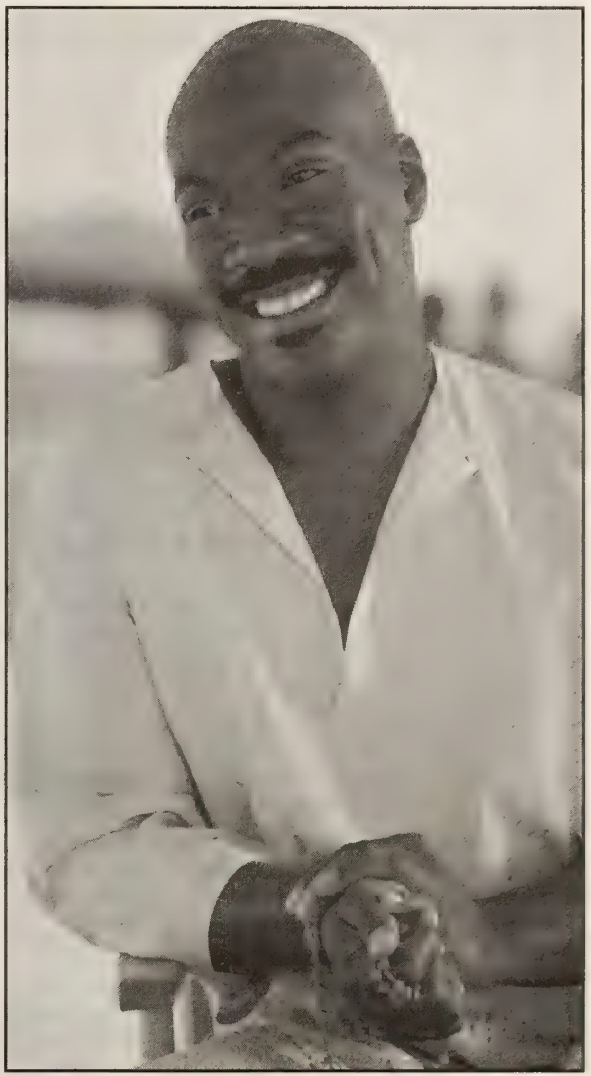
"The Mighty"

Touching drama in which a gifted, deformed schoolboy (Kieran Culkin) befriends a slow-witted oversized classmate (Elden Henson) and their bonding helps each face daunting personal problems on their horizons. Director Peter Chelsom weaves a tale of psychological and physical impairment into a story of hope that triumphs over loss. Brief violence, some menace and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"A Night at the Roxbury"

Witless comedy about two nerdy brothers (Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan) who haunt local nightclubs until they stumble onto romance and success in spite of themselves. Directed by John Fortenberry, the brainless proceedings feature gratingly irksome characters whose dumb antics are thuddingly dull. Implied affairs, a discreet sexual encounter, crude expressions and a few instances of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



"Holy Man"

Eddie Murphy stars as the prophet known as G, who helps turn around a failing home shopping network in "Holy Man." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS PHOTO FROM TOUCHSTONE

'Saving Private Ryan,' 'The Practice,' Rosemary Clooney win awards

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Singer Rosemary Clooney, the movie "Saving Private Ryan" and the ABC drama "The Practice" have been named winners of this year's Catholics in Media Associates Awards. Clooney will get the group's lifetime achievement award at a Nov. 1 brunch in Los Angeles following a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles.

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

charlotte celebrates its celtic traditions

CUCANANDY

Saturday, October 24
2pm & 7:30pm

Spirit Square

Adults $7 • Students $5

372.1000 Box Office
522.6500 Ticketmaster

A celebration of traditional celtic songs, dances, rythms & stories.

"This Trio is electric..."
Chapel Hill News

CELTIC HOTLINE: 704.379.1300
www.celtic-celebration.org

WSOC-TV CHARLOTTE 9
NORTH CAROLINA Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

And visit NOVELLO WorldPlay Saturday
Free Street Festival
Oct. 24, 11am-5pm
The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County
Main Library, 6th & College Streets. Free admission. 704.336.2020.

Post-abortion counseling workshop scheduled

WINSTON-SALEM — The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte co-sponsors a workshop on post-abortion counseling for professional counselors, health professionals, clergy and volunteer lay counselors Nov. 13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

The workshop will emphasize practical techniques for helping women who have had abortions. Trauma-sensitive perspectives will be offered to the understanding of how women cope with pregnancy loss after induced abortions. Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, the featured speaker, will discuss spiritual aspects of healing, in addition to covering a variety of professional counseling techniques.

Burke is a psychologist and author of several books and articles related to post-abortion healing. She has been involved in post-abortion issues for about 15 years, and specializes in women's issues, bereavement, pregnancy loss, sexual abuse, eating disorders and anxiety management. She conducts retreats for women suffering from abortion trauma throughout the United States. She also provides individual, marital and group counseling.

Six contact hours of continuing education credit are available for members of several professions.

Cost for physicians, nurses and therapists is $50 per person, and $30 for pregnancy care center workers and pastors. Send registration and check payable to Rapha, 3637 Old Vineyard Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104. Registration deadline is Nov. 3.

Other sponsors of the workshop are Dr. Martha Shuping and Rapha Triad, a Christian psychiatric service.

For more information, call Shuping at (336) 659-1342. ▼

Belmont Abbey College announces $18 million goal

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College will seek a record $18 million to complete its Millennium Campaign by the year 2001. The announcement was made Oct. 10 to launch the public phase of the capital campaign for the private, coeducational liberal arts college.

Campaign chairman Kevin Kennelly said nearly $14 million already has been raised toward the goal. "We've seen tremendous support, beginning with a pledge of $2 million from the Benedictine monks who founded Belmont Abbey College," he said. "Corporate and individual donors have been very generous, and we look forward to the public phase of the campaign."

The college's chancellor, Benedictine Abbot Oscar Burnett, said the monks' record pledge is evidence of their love for the school and confidence in its future. "It is part of God's work that we should help educate each other," he added. ▼

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Mary Beth Bonacci to visit Oct. 26

St. Thomas Aquinas to host nationally known speaker

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church will host Mary Beth Bonacci, nationally renowned speaker and author, on Oct. 26, at 7: 30 p.m. Bonacci's visit will include a presentation on "Teen Relationships and Chastity."

Mary Beth Bonacci

Bonacci, 35, speaks to audiences across the U.S. and internationally, addressing thousands of young people, adults and teachers each year. In 1993, she addressed an audience of 75,000 at Mile High Stadium in Denver during World Youth Day.

Bonacci addresses the issues of love, dating, sexuality and marriage. In humorous but powerful presentations, she discusses the need for real love and ways for single people to find that love. She stresses respect for the power and beauty of human sexuality, and encourages audiences to understand sex as a language of permanent commitment instead of a means of momentary pleasure or a shortcut to intimacy.

"My message to people (including teen-agers) is to respect their sexuality," said Bonacci, who has appeared on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and MTV. "It is a beautiful thing."

While in college, Bonacci saw a speaker series on chastity, and it had a tremendous impact on her. I had never heard that term (chastity) before," she said. "It was about love — about finding, living and learning love."

Bonacci has spent the last several years promoting her message of chastity throughout the world. In 1996, she visited Uganda, Africa. "The average income there is $75 per month," she said. "People are so poor, they understand cause and effect real well."

High school students and parents are encouraged to attend the St. Thomas Aquinas lecture. The public is also invited to attend. For more information on Bonacci's visit to Charlotte, call (704) 549-1607. ▼

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768

ModularCorp

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Augustinians begin pastorate in Maggie Valley

By JOANITA NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — A new community of the Order of St. Augustine has been formed here.

Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, prior (head) of this community, and Augustinian Brother William C. Harkin arrived at St. Margaret Church Sept. 15; Augustinian Father Terrance W. Hyland completed the trio when he joined the group 10 days later.

Father Doyle will serve as St. Margaret's pastor. Father Harkin is parochial vicar. Brother Hyland will serve as director of the nearby Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center when the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, leave at the end of the year.

The Maggie Valley group is the second Augustinian community this year to staff a church in the Charlotte Diocese. Augustinian Fathers Thomas J. Meehan and Arthur D. Johnson arrived at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte in March, followed by Augustinian Father Pat Leonard, who joined them in July.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Father Terrance W. Hyland, O.S.A. (left), Brother William C. Harkin, O.S.A., and Father Francis J. Doyle, O.S.A., have formed the new community of the Order of St. Augustine at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley.

"Our province, within the last eight years, has been doing a pastoral plan, and we've evaluated all of our ministries," Father Doyle said.

In the process, letters of inquiry went out to various southeastern dioceses.

"Bishop Curlin was one of several who responded," Father Doyle said. "He understands religious (community) life and has a great respect for religious traditions and charisms."

All three started their vocations at the Augustinian novitiate at New Hamburg, N.Y.: Brother Harkin in 1958, Father Doyle in 1962 and Father Hyland in 1965.

Augustinians had taught Father Doyle at Monsignor Bonner High School in Drexel Hills, Pa. By age 18, he was attracted to the priesthood.

Prior to his ordination in 1970, he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at Villanova University, and a master's in theology from Augustine College in Washington, D.C.

Father Doyle has served as a pastor and also been a formation director for Augustine seminarians. He prefers parish work.

"You're involved with different people from all walks of life," he said.

Brother Harkin was also 18 when he joined the Augustinians. He graduated from Monsignor Bonner four years before Father Doyle. Choosing to be a brother rather than a priest, he completed a year's novitiate, then a three-year postulancy, before taking his final vows.

Brother Harkin has done parish work, much of it with the elderly, and has worked in various community ministries. In 1994, he went to Washington Theological Union to prepare for the diaconate. Father Doyle was his formation director during his training. Brother Harkin was ordained a deacon in 1996.

Father Hyland was ordained a priest in 1971.

"One of the reasons I joined the Augustinians was because I sensed there would be variety," he said. "I have been very blessed."

Father Hyland has served as a high school guidance counselor, a formation director, and pastor and associate pastor in various parishes. He has also been involved in prison ministry. ▼

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.

Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Holy Angels: Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! For the following positions, apply at: Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (740) 825-4161 or e-mail: HAngelsHR@aol.com

RN: 2nd Shift, Clinical - experience in pediatric nursing or developmental disabilities (preferred)

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and Part-time, all shifts, prefer experience in developmental disabilities

Assistant Director of Development: 3-5 years non-profit development experience (annual fund, special events, donor recognition, grant writing); BA required; computer knowledge and Donor II preferred.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Director of Academic Advising and Student Support Services: Belmont Abbey College is seeking a Director of Academic Advising and Student Support Services. This is a twelve-month administrative position. Responsibilities include administration of the first year seminar program and of non-remedial advising for students on academic probation or with documented learning disabilities; coordination of evaluation for learning disabilities, development of a tutoring program and service as Section 504 Coordinator for the Americans With Disabilities Act. Applicants should have a Master's Degree in Counseling or Education with experience in counseling. Applications with resumes should be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC 28012. Deadline: Friday, Oct. 30, 1998 Belmont Abbey College is a Catholic, Benedictine, co-educational liberal arts college in Belmont, NC, ten miles west of Charlotte. Equal opportunity employer.

Young Catholics pray, work at youth gathering in Chile

By MIKE LANCHIN
Catholic News Service

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — Young Catholics from North America and South America prayed, performed service work and discussed their role in the church in the third millennium during the Continental Youth and Young Adult Gathering in Chile.

At the Oct. 11 closing Mass of the five-day event, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Pope John Paul II's representative to the gathering, urged more than half a million young people to assume their role in leading the church into the next millennium.

He called on the youths to give shape to their "thirst for truth, peace, and freedom ... and enthusiasm for living and for opening new horizons for the church and for the Americas."

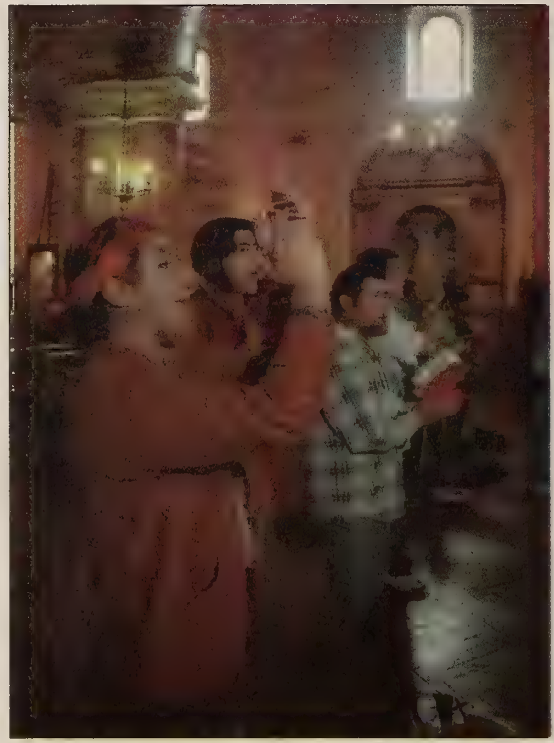
He said that in the current reality of "moral relativism and lack of identity," young Christians should be aware that they are "called and chosen by Christ."

"You must assume the challenge of living with Christ in your spirit," said the cardinal, who is Vatican secretary of state.

Cardinal Sodano confirmed 62 young people at the Mass, including three from the United States: Nathaniel Earl Bean from the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska; Jenny Rivera from the Los Angeles Archdiocese; and Dana Nicole from New Jersey.

Bean, a high school senior, told Catholic News Service that his confirmation meant "an emotional, spiritual and physical growth, a basis for love and happiness."

Waldina Almaguer, 27, from Cuba, who was also confirmed, told reporters: "Today I feel like the most privileged young woman in the whole of America.



CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Esmeralda Martinez, of Chicago, attends a catechesis session Oct. 9 at the Basilica of Merced in Santiago, Chile, during the Continental Youth and Young Adult Gathering.

"But the most wonderful thing is to know that our Catholic Church has its future guaranteed by so many young people," she added.

Cardinal Sodano, speaking to reporters, summed up the impression that the young people had left on the Chilean capital.

"What we have seen is a church on the march, not in the desert but in a garden full of life. This is a day of hope. What we have witnessed is a small hurricane that has passed through Santiago," he said.

The attendance at the Mass in Santiago's hippodrome surpassed the expectations of church organizers.

Archbishop Francisco Errazuriz Ossa of Santiago told a closing press conference: "Everyone can go away from the gathering convinced that we (Catholics) are indeed many."

The majority of the worshipers had spent the previous night dancing, singing and praying during an all-night vigil.

The delegations of young people — estimated to total some 200,000, including more than 400 from around the United States — began arriving in the Chilean capital Oct. 5.

The theme of the Oct. 6-11 gathering for people aged 15 to mid-30s was "The Holy Spirit Will Reveal All Things to You."

The gathering's opening Mass Oct. 7 in Santiago's O'Higgins Park was concelebrated by Archbishop Errazuriz; Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the president of the Latin American bishops' council; and Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Top functionaries from the Chilean government, including President Eduardo Frei and his wife, also attended.

The same day, designated the Day of the Good News, Americans from South Dakota and Minnesota sang and prayed alongside fellow Catholics from Chile and Argentina in a simple chapel in the San Roque Parish on the outskirts of Santiago.

Fifty-one young people and a few adults from the South Dakota dioceses of Sioux Falls and Rapid City and the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese, spent the week at the small, lower-middle class parish.

"We have all come together to celebrate a spiritual pilgrimage, to walk together into the third millennium, hand in hand, trying to make it a better one than the second," Holy Cross Father Malcolm Johnson, an American priest who works at San Roque Parish, told worshipers in the packed chapel.

"Despite certain language and cultural barriers, we all share the same faith," he said, first in Spanish, then in English.

For many of the American youths, it was their first time abroad. As part of their activities during the week, they were confronted with the realities of Chilean society, not just through prayer and reflection, but by cleaning up public areas, visiting the elderly and sick, meeting inmates in local prisons and planting trees. Oct. 8 was designated the Day of Solidarity and Reconciliation, when most of the social services took place.

"This is an opportunity to seek out my faith and see what is going on outside my community, in the rest of the world," said Courtney Johnson, an 18-year-old freshman from South Dakota State University. ▾

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES 567-4021 HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Steve Hughes
HOUSE PAINTING & PRESSURE WASHING
Houses • Driveways • Sidewalks • Window
Custom Painting Interior/Exterior
(704) 821-6542
References Provided • St. Gabriel Parishioner

Finding the pulse of the Spirit in the world today
Mark your calendar! October 23-25, 1998
Charlotte, NC Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel
A conference to celebrate "The Year of the Holy Spirit" in preparation for the Christian third millennium
The urgent question of our souls...
Where in our world is the Holy Spirit?
"The church wishes to prepare for the jubilee in the Holy Spirit, just as the Virgin of Nazareth in whom the Word was made flesh was prepared by the Holy Spirit."
– Pope John Paul II, The Lord and Giver of Life, 1986
JUBILEE 2000 CHRIST YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER
***To request a brochure:** Office of Evangelization*
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3214 or (704) 289-2773

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

FC28.2
C36.5c

********************3-DIGIT 275
42,083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930
S300 P1

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 23, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 8

Inside

Archbishops praise Nobel Peace Prize winners ...PAGE 3

Living the Faith
Appalachian missionary nun wins Lumen Christi Award ...PAGE 12

Local News

Education endowment to assist MACS students ...PAGE 10

St. Mark Church kicks off capital campaign ...PAGE 11

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 8-9

The new encyclical
Special Supplement

PHOTO BY MIKE KROKOS

"I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."(Psalm 121: 1-2)

Fall colors dominate the Smoky Mountains landscape in this photo taken last weekend. The mountain range is adjacent to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

Pope tells U.S. bishops annulments should be the last resort

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic couples having serious difficulties should turn to church tribunals for a possible annulment only as a last resort, Pope John Paul II said.

As moderators of their diocesan tribunals, bishops must ensure that their faithful do not have the mistaken idea that a church annulment is "divorce under a different name," the pope said Oct. 17.

Pope John Paul focused on the importance of following church law, particularly in marriage cases, in a speech given to bishops from Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico making their "ad limina" visits to Rome.

The pope told the bishops, who make the visits every five years, that the provisions of canon law are designed to safeguard and foster Christian life.

"To see the law as spiritually liberating runs against the grain of a certain understanding of law in Western culture, which tends to view law as a necessary evil, a kind of control required to guard fragile human rights and restrain wayward human passions, but which would disappear in the best of all possible worlds," the pope said.

Church law, he said, has a different approach which combines pastoral concern and justice.

Canon law, including the rules for protecting the sanctity of marriage, "can only be understood as a means for the development of the Christian life in accordance with the radical demands of the Gospel," the pope said.

Following church law makes possible communion with God and among the members of the church, he said. "Consequently, as a basic rule, ecclesiastical laws bind in conscience," the pope said.

"In other words, obedience to the law is not a mere external submission to authority, but a means of growing in faith, charity and holiness under the guidance and by the grace of the Holy Spirit."

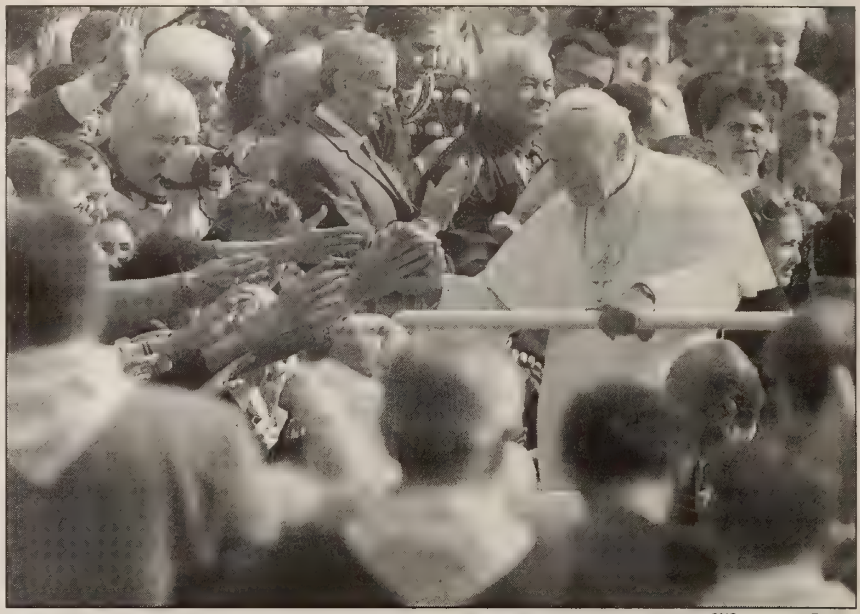
Truth and charity are the basic elements and the guiding principles of church law, he said.

Because the purpose of church law is pastoral, he said, various provisions are made in canon law for dispensations or exemptions which temper "the rigor of the law in order to foster a higher good," particularly, the supernatural good of the individual and of the community.

In the same way, he said, church censures are not to be seen as "vindictive, but medicinal, inasmuch as they aim at bringing about the conversion of the sinner."

While canon law covers every aspect of church life, its provisions deal-

SEE ANNULMENTS, PAGE 7



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Poles greet pope on his 20th anniversary

Polish pilgrims reach out to touch Pope John Paul II on the 20th anniversary of his election as pope Oct. 16 in St. Peter's Square. Several thousand people from his homeland greeted the pontiff with banners, flags and flowers.

World Food Day teleconference debates hunger solutions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Panelists at a World Food Day teleconference debated how to bring food to hungry people, and whether it is necessary to declare that access to food is a right. The right to food is not just being fed, said Anuradha Mittal of India, who works with the Food Information and Action Network. It is "the right to be able to feed oneself," she said. Leonard Rogers, a deputy director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, opposed the idea of enshrining the right to food. "We're less interested in discussing abstract rights and goals and more interested in getting to the business of ending malnutrition," he said.

Former prosecutor speaks out against assisted suicide

SAGINAW, Mich. (CNS) — How Michigan voters respond Nov. 3 to a proposal to legalize physician-assisted suicide will write a prescription for life or death in other states, according to a former county prosecutor. Richard Thompson, the former Oakland County prosecutor who was the first to file charges against suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian, has been lecturing throughout Michigan against Proposal B. The biggest problem the opponents of Proposal B face is convincing Michigan voters that the "B" stands for "bad" because there are no provisions to prevent abuse of such a law, Thompson told nearly 850 people attending the Bay, Midland and Saginaw County Right to Life's annual Focus on Life benefit dinner Oct. 1.

Interfaith group creates workers' rights manual

CHICAGO (CNS) — Religious and governmental public policy advocates have unveiled the first comprehensive manual identifying workers' rights with abusive employers. Representatives from the Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and union groups held an Oct. 8 news conference releasing the "Worker Rights Manual" — a compilation of the rights of the employed when confronted with workplace mistreatment, ranging from overtime pay problems, religious discrimination and finding an affordable lawyer. "For the religious community, it's a question of justice. Too often, we forget about the thousands of workers suffering in their workplaces," said the Rev. Richard Bundy, director of the Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues.

Groups target immigration raids as civil rights violations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In issuing a report on what it says are abusive immigration raids, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights has called for an end to recently stepped-up enforcement raids. At an Oct. 14 press conference in Washington, U.S. natives Catalina Veloz Reyes and Michele Youngquist talked about how INS actions disrupted their lives. Others described a climate of fear among legal and illegal immigrants that affects efforts to form unions and to crack down on sweatshops and other abuse of employees. A statement from the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Migration Committee said dioceses across the nation describe "that among the most recent and visible affronts to the dignity of the human person are the frequent roundups or raids of undocumented immigrants conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service."

Texas bishop witnesses execution of killer he counseled

TYLER, Texas (CNS) — Standing only a few feet away from Jonathan Wayne Nobles but separated from him by a barrier of glass, Bishop Edmond Carmody of Tyler watched and prayed as the man he had known for six years was put to death Oct. 7 by lethal injection. Nobles, 37, had converted to Catholicism while in prison and met Bishop Carmody, who visited him often on death row. He was executed in Huntsville for the stabbing deaths of Mitzi Johnson-Nalley, 21, and Kelly Farquhar, 24, in 1986. About two years ago, Nobles asked Bishop Carmody to be one of the witnesses at his execution. "I said I would be there with him, and a promise made is a debt unpaid," the bishop said.

Bishop McHugh decries destruction of human embryos

CAMDEN, N.J. (CNS) — The willful destruction of human embryos is unacceptable, said Bishop James T. McHugh of Camden after a New Jersey court ruled in favor of a woman's request to destroy hers. "In effect this authorizes the destruction of the unborn child in its first stage of life," the bishop said in a statement issued immediately after the ruling. In the first case of its kind in New Jersey, Superior Court Family Judge Lee B. Laskin ruled that a divorced couple's seven frozen embryos be destroyed, against the wishes of the husband. However, at the husband's request, the judge stayed his order pending an appeal, so the embryos remained frozen in storage.

Interfaith group works to defeat Michigan suicide initiative

DETROIT (CNS) — Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim clergy have joined forces to defeat Proposal B, the initiative to legalize physician-assisted suicide that Michigan voters will decide Nov. 3. Against a backdrop of tombstones bearing the message "Let's Bury B," clergy and representatives of health care and education outlined objections to the proposed legislation and their campaign to defeat it during an Oct. 7 press conference.

Wyoming bishop decries gay student's murder

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (CNS) — Bishop Joseph H. Hart of Cheyenne decried the fatal beating of a University of Wyoming student and urged Catholics in Wyoming to pray for the victim, his family and the two young men charged with the death. "I am sure that the Catholics of Wyoming find this heinous crime as repugnant as I do in view of its obvious clash with the message of the Lord," said Bishop Hart, spiritual leader of Wyoming's 60,000 Catholics. The victim, Matthew Shepard, 21, was gay, and unofficial reports indicated it was a major motivation for two young Laramie men to beat him, rob him and leave him in near-freezing temperature, tied to a fence post outside Laramie Oct. 6.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

October 23, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 8
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 25— 2:00 p.m.
Dedication of new altar
Chapel of the Redeemer, Hot Springs

October 26
Continuing education day for clergy
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 28 — 6:15 p.m.
Dedication of new altar
St. Joseph Church, Newton

October 31 — 2:00 p.m.
Pro-life monument dedication
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

5:00 p.m.
40th Anniversary Celebration
Holy Rosary Church, Lexington

Diocesan planner

October

24 CHARLOTTE — An encore performance of the comedic play "You Can't Take It With You" is today at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. Tickets are $4 at the door.

KING — Good Shepherd Church hosts its annual fall bazaar from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. today in the King Recreation Acres Community Building on Dalton Road. Featured will be crafts, a raffle, food, music and a "kids' corner."

TAYLORSVILLE — The Franciscan Friars' Ministry of the Word sponsors a parish mission focusing on renewal and conversion today through Oct. 28 at Holy Trinity Church, 665 W. Main St. Mission events include a covered dish supper at 6 p.m. Oct. 24, an evening youth session Oct. 25, daily Masses at 9 a.m., and liturgical services each evening at 7 p.m. For more information, call (828) 632-8009.

TRYON — St. John the Baptist Church, 600 Laurel Lane, hosts its annual bazaar today from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church hall. Hand-crafted gifts and raffles highlight the event.

25 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, hosts a "moms' evening" today at 7 p.m. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

CHARLOTTE — The Christian community Ultreya meets today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pregame food today prior to the Carolina Panthers football game. Sales begin 2 1/2 hours before game time, and pro-

U.S., Northern Irish archbishops praise Peace Prize selection

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rival Northern Ireland politicians John Hume (right) and David Trimble (left) are pictured during a May peace concert with rock singer Bono. Hume and Trimble were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Northern Ireland conflict.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee and the Catholic primate of all Ireland said the awarding of the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize to Northern Irish Catholic and Protestant political leaders was well-deserved.

In congratulatory letters sent to the co-winners Oct. 19, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., committee chairman, praised the selection of John Hume, Catholic leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, and David Trimble, Protestant head of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said the honor to Hume and Trimble represents well-deserved recognition of their "outstanding work for the cause of peace and of their part in bringing about the Good Friday agreement."

The politicians were named winners of the peace prize Oct. 16 for their help in brokering the April 10 peace accord — known as the Good Friday agreement — that offers Northern Ireland the hope of lasting peace after more than 3,200 deaths during three decades of sectarian violence between the Protestant majority and the Catholic minority.

Archbishop McCarrick wrote to both men, "This remarkable agreement, which owes so much to your vision and persistence, offers a way forward which respects the equal rights and legitimacy of both traditions, nationalist and unionist, Catholic and Protestant alike."

Archbishop Brady, primate of all Ireland, said he was delighted with the honor to Hume and Trimble. "Their belief that an honorable and fair peace is possible has inspired them and many others to work tirelessly to achieve that goal," he added.

He said the Good Friday agreement "lit the light of hope in many hearts. It challenges us all to walk together the road to greater understanding, to help each other and to rely on each other to build a better future for ourselves and for those who come after us."

Archbishop Brady also said the prize was a tribute to "countless other people" who took risks for peace.

Hume and Trimble agreed, saying many others shared in the honor.

Hume, 61, who founded his predominantly Catholic party in 1970, said the prize should be seen "not as an award to myself but of very powerful international approval of the peace process in Northern Ireland."

> **"This remarkable agreement, which owes so much to your vision and persistence, offers a way forward which respects the equal rights and legitimacy of both traditions, nationalist and unionist, Catholic and Protestant alike."**
>
> *— Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J.*

He said it is both "an award to all the people in Northern Ireland" and "a clear strong statement" to them.

"In my opinion," he added, "it will strengthen the peace process because it is from the most highly respected international peace authority."

The 54-year-old Trimble, leader of Northern Ireland's largest Protestant political party for only three years, said he felt "slightly uncomfortable" with the attention because many people had been involved in the peace effort.

He also sounded a note of caution.

"We know that while we have got the makings of peace, it is not wholly secure yet," he said. ``I hope it does not turn out to be premature."

Trimble alluded to obstacles still on the road to peace: the decommissioning of guerrilla weapons and the challenge of making several new legislative and administrative bodies created by the Good Friday agreement work.

In an interview with Vatican Radio that aired Oct. 16, Hume repeated a theme he has sounded before: the need to respect diversity in a divided Northern Irish people.

"It is necessary to repeat every day that the victory (already reached) is not the solution," he said. "It is necessary to reach an agreement which respects the diversity of the two peoples."

Irish President Mary McAleese, speaking in Boston, said she hoped the award "will give renewed impetus to all the political parties in Northern Ireland to work together towards securing the ultimate goal of peaceful co-existence of both traditions on this island."

The head of this year's five-member peace prize committee, Francis Sejersted, said the committee hoped the award would further peace in the troubled province.

He said the committee was not worried that peace prospects might flounder, as they did after the 1976 peace prize went to Northern Irish peace activists Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams.

"Naturally we regret that that process came to a standstill or was not as positive as we had hoped," he added. ``But that prize was primarily for work that had been done."

Laureates Hume and Trimble will share a $960,000 prize, to be awarded later this year at a ceremony in Norway. ▼

---

ceeds benefit local children's charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the 103-year-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

26 CHARLOTTE — An Alzheimer's disease support group meets today at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

28 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., hosts an estate planning seminar focusing on the importance of the will today. For details, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for the separated, divorced and remarried "outside the church" meets today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call Kathy Wooley at (704) 376-1503.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., hosts a visit from Bishop William G. Curlin as part of the parish's 20th anniversary celebration. The bishop will bless a new St. Joseph statue at 6:15 p.m., celebrate Mass at 6:30 p.m., and consecrate the new altar. Former pastors have been invited to attend as well.

30 BELMONT — The Italian film "Il Postino" is screened at 7 p.m. today in the auditorium of the William Gaston Science Building at Belmont Abbey College. The movie is free and open to the public.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Father Ray Berg is spiritual advisor of "An Encounter with Jesus," a men's Emmaus retreat, today at 7 p.m. through Nov. 1 at 2:30 p.m. at Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd. Cost is $95. For more information or to register, call Mark Mukosiej at (828) 665-2722 or Tom Sparacino at (828) 255-9940.

31 HIGH POINT — An All Saints' Day-theme children's Mass is celebrated today at 5 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr. Children are invited to wear faith-related costumes to Mass, and a party will take place afterward. Children should bring a saint's story.

HIGH POINT — The Hispanic community of Christ the King Church hosts a dance today at 8 p.m. Call the parish office, (336) 884-0244, for more information.

LEXINGTON — A Mass commemorating the 40th anniversary of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is celebrated today at 5 p.m. Bishop William G. Curlin is principal celebrant and will install Oblates of Francis de Sales Father Albert Gondek as pastor. A dinner follows. Former pastors have been invited to attend.

November

2 CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, 4207 Shamrock Dr., hosts a class for people who wish to learn or improve their ability to speak English today from 6:30-8 p.m. There is no fee and materials are provided. For more information, call Pat Godoy, (704) 545-0433 (Spanish-speaking callers) or Marlee Battaglia, (704) 597-1331 (English-speaking callers).

3 WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Theresa Guild of St. Leo the Great Church hosts a card party and fashion show today from 7-10 p.m. Cards and board games are welcome, and dessert will be served. Tickets are $6 and can be purchased in advance from Helen Roulo at the parish office or at the door.

7 CHARLOTTE — A harvest dance is today from 8 p.m.-midnight in St. Matthew Church parish hall, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, with live music from The Atlanta Polka Band. Snacks and set-ups will be provided. Admission is $12 per person; reservations for groups of eight or more are being accepted. For details, call Walter Swol at (704) 568-3238, or Frank Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says confirmation helps faithful bear witness

By LYNNE WEIL

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Confirmation helps the faithful by giving them the strength to bear witness, Pope John Paul II said.

At his Oct. 14 general audience on St. Peter's Square, the pontiff told pilgrims that confirmation "imprints an indelible spiritual mark or 'character' on the soul," enabling believers to bear public witness "through their words and actions, even to the point of bearing the supreme witness of martyrdom."

"We are not Christian in name alone," Pope John Paul said. "We are also (Christian) through our witness to life, which some outstanding figures have even carried out to the point of death."

The pope noted that St. Thomas Aquinas wrote about how through confirmation the Holy Spirit gives people the spiritual strength "suited to the age of maturity."

"Such maturity obviously is measured not by human criteria," the pope added, "but within the mysterious rapport of every person with Christ."

Pope John Paul also said that the baptized person who receives confirmation "declares before the church the readiness to let himself be seized in an ever more profound way by the Spirit of God."

In preparation for Oct. 16 celebrations of the 20th anniversary of this pontificate, the Vatican press office released statistics about the general audiences held by Pope John Paul. This was his 877th such gathering, and to date about 14 million of the faithful have attended the audiences, according to the Vatican.

Pope says Croatia deserves entry into European institutions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Croatia should be welcomed into European and global institutions, Pope John Paul II told the country's new ambassador to the Vatican. During an Oct. 12 ceremony at which Ambassador Marijan Sunjic presented his credentials, the pope noted that he had observe Croatia's democratic progress first hand during his Oct. 2-4 pastoral visit. "With the fall of communist totalitarianism, your country and the other nations of Central and Eastern Europe are no longer separated from the great family of European nations," Pope John Paul said.

Pope says priesthood is "irreplaceable" part of church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who deny or diminish the importance of the ordained priesthood in the Catholic Church lose sight of what Christ wanted, Pope John Paul II said. "The ordained priesthood is an irreplaceable component of the structure of redemption; it is the channel through which the fresh waters necessary for life normally flow," the pope said in an Oct. 15 address to the plenary assembly of the Congregation for Clergy. The priesthood, he said, "is the nerve center of the whole life and mission of the church."

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY

CNS Columnist

Halloween: Reactions to what one wears

The second most popular holiday of the year is coming, Halloween.

For one evening children get the experience of having people react to their costume rather than to the person underneath. In a way, that is what happens to anyone who wears a uniform, like police, soldiers, letter carriers or priests.

The reactions we priests seem to get when in clerical garb are of five varieties. I call them the "GAFAW" reaction: guilt, anger, friendliness, assistance and wonder.

The guilt reaction seems to be inculcated early. I hear it from our pre-schoolers who see me coming down the hall and run away saying, "Oh, oh, it's him!"

Once when I was walking through a parking garage in downtown Washington a young woman driving a car filled with other young people squealed around the corner and screeched to a stop. "Sorry, Father," she yelled to me, as though I was going to give her detention for bad parking-garage manners. Sometimes when I am in the grocery store, I've noticed people hurriedly putting those gossip tabloids back in the magazine rack when they see me standing in line behind them. Guilt works wonders.

Anger takes more time. Often the anger comes when people have time to talk, like on an airplane. Then they want to tell you about the mean things some priest once said to them in the distant past. Or how outraged they are that either (a), the Catholic Church has not changed its position on something, or (b), the Catholic Church has changed its position on something.

Friendliness is the nicest reaction, even though a little puzzling at times. Some people seem to know every priest in the world, or at least assume they do. "Hi ya, Father," they call out across streets and theater lobbies and restaurants.

Assistance is part of the territory with clerical garb. People think we should know how to help or, conversely, that we need help. This reaction gives a great opportunity to talk to people.

Not long ago I was leaving my high school reunion on the West Side of Chicago with a group of classmates, all better fixed financially than I am. A man approached us and asked for money. Actually, he asked me for money, though there were others there. Nobody else reached for a wallet. Somehow they figured that was my job.

Of course, the assistance reaction works the other way just as often. Once, as I approached the cashier in the local cafeteria, she told me, "That's OK, Father, it's been taken care of."

Finally, the most interesting reaction is wonder. People wonder about a lot of things, and the clerical uniform gives them a chance to ask. This is the best reason for wearing clerical garb. It is an invitation to people to talk about faith.

They want to know about celibacy and what it means. They want to know what you believe and when you decided to be a priest. They want to know what we believe about the afterlife, suffering, the soul and grace. They want to know about the Christ and his church.

It is the "wonder" reaction that makes it all worthwhile. It means that everyday brings a treat, not just Halloween.

Editor's Notebook

JOANN KEANE

Associate Editor

Vote. Just Do It.

A week from Tuesday, your constitutional rights kick in. Nov. 3 is election day, and every registered Catholic, regardless of political affiliation, is offered the opportunity to cast their ballot, their statement of political opinion. It is a privilege to take the time and visit your assigned voting booth.

The Catholic News & Herald does not accept political advertising, nor do we endorse specific candidates. We do, however, as Bishop William G. Curlin addressed in his Oct. 9 column, urge all Catholics to review the candidates' positions on issues that weight heavily on our faith.

As individuals head to the polls, the bishop offers this advice: "Before casting our ballots, we should study the 'voting records' of our political leaders. Do they represent our beliefs? Do politicians play the 'game' of claiming personal abhorrence of abortion while publicly voting pro-choice for political reasons?"

"We should not be deceived by those who claim their support of 'other' social issues excuses their voting pro-abortion. No one deserves our vote who fails to exhibit a defense of those fundamental rights and freedoms on which true democracy is based," said Bishop Curlin.

"Catholics should be especially embarrassed to know that 10 Catholic senators have voted against a bill, passed by the House of Representatives, to ban the partial birth abortion procedure," said the bishop. "This is barbarism unparalleled in history." Bishop Curlin calls Catholic support of the partial birth procedure a scandal.

There are a number of other issues at stake, and candidates who will address the crux of these topics well into the new millennium. In addition to the Senate race, there are numerous District U.S. House of Representative slots on the ballots.

Determine for yourself who is and who is not best suited to represent our needs.

If you are Internet connected, a good place to start is http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/SBOE

As you delve deeper on this site, you'll find links to specific partisan headquarters websites. It is the party Websites where you'll find specific issue information. Go, read, learn. If you're not Web savvy, read daily newspapers, tune into TV newscasts, watch televised debates.

On that Tuesday, submit your opinion where it counts. Pull the curtain shut, and vote your conscience.

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOV. 3

Determine for yourself who is and who is not best suited to represent our needs. If you are Internet connected, a good place to start is http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/SBOE

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Forgiving: An act of faith

As a Catholic priest, I have the privilege of administering the sacrament of reconciliation, most recently in the confessional at Saint Patrick's here in New York. The older I get, the more I appreciate the significance and force that this act of forgiveness, in fact any act of forgiveness, brings to individual lives.

Because I have been present at that precise moment when men and women stand most vulnerable before God, before others and before themselves — I have seen for myself how forgiveness works.

These experiences have taught me that true forgiveness must begin with self-honesty. To the extent that someone is thoroughly candid and honest with me as confessor, I find that same person being honest simultaneously with himself or herself. It is that kind of honesty you experience when you look into the mirror, and say to yourself, "I know what an idiot I am for doing such-and-such. I am genuinely sorry for doing it and I really want to do better than that in the future."

This is the beginning of true forgiveness. As Aquinas put it, "Grace builds on nature." It is only when we are being honest with ourselves that God can move in and strengthen our resolve. All the praying and ritual cleansing combined cannot effect anything until we are first willing to be honest with ourselves about our transgressions. Spiritual strength comes only when we are *right* with ourselves before God.

It is true that each of us is assured of God's forgiveness. The psalmist explains: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He put our transgressions from us." But we cannot simply presume forgiveness. The acknowledgment of guilt to God and others must be accompanied by an expression of sorrow and an effort to make amends whenever possible.

The story of a forgiving mother tells us much about forgiveness and its power. A woman, inconsolable in her grief for her young son who died, was encouraged by a friend to bring back good memories: "Tell me about a moment you would especially like to remember about your son."

Said the mother, "I remember once as a little boy when he ran to me to say he was sorry for doing something wrong. He was crying and unhappy."

"What made you think of that time?" the friend asked. "Because," said the mother, "at that moment he needed me. And when I hugged and forgave him, the tears stopped."

I like that story because it resonates with my 28 years as priest-confessor. Forgiveness is an act of faith born out of our love and concern for the well-being of others. When we forgive one another, as God forgives us, we show the divine spark within us.

Forgiveness is a choice freely made. It is a gift we can give or withhold. And we can reject it when it is offered us. Forgiveness consoles and heals not just one person but two — and sometimes more. And, like most virtues, forgiveness is learned in the home.

When we are forgiven, a power is released that makes us whole again. Ultimately it is up to each of us to be honest and courageous enough to face our own shortcomings, and thereby find the strength to do what we could not otherwise do on our own — to forgive one another.

Father McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Similarities between Moses and Jesus

Q. My daughter asked me these questions, and I could not help. We hope you can.

Is there a similarity between Jesus' life and Moses? Two major incidents — Pharaoh killing the Hebrew children in Egypt and Herod killing the Jewish children in Bethlehem, hoping to kill Jesus — among others, sound like more than coincidences.

She also said there is a similarity between the Sermon on the Mount and Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from God. Jesus, she claims, was maybe another Moses. I disagree.

A. Though you don't give your daughter's age, I am awed by her questions. They touch upon some significant truths about our Lord and the Gospels, truths evident from a close reading of the Bible, but which few Catholics stumble upon by themselves.

The Gospels, especially Matthew, and the rest of the New Testament are filled with close parallels between the lives and ministries of Jesus, the inaugurator of the new covenant between God and the human family, and Moses, through whom the Sinai covenant was made between God and the Jewish people. Both are born in dangerous circumstances and are threatened by hostile rulers. Both come out of Egypt and are rejected by their own people. Both pass through water and are tempted in the wilderness in the process of saving their people.

Both ascend the mountain and with authority give God's word and commands. Both mourn that their people are "sheep without a shepherd" (Num 27:17 and Mt 9:36), and so on. Moses is thus referred to as a "type" of Jesus, someone whose person and actions symbolize, prefigure another who is yet to appear. In the same way, the book of Revelation (Chapter 21, for example) sees the city of Jerusalem as a type of heaven.

Awareness of such typologies can offer wonderful insights into the meaning of the Gospel, and events in the life of our Lord, which is, of course, why the Gospel authors utilize them so frequently and in such a variety of ways.

The introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, to which you refer, is a good example. Jesus "went up the mountain, and after he had sat down ... he began to teach them" (Mt 5:1-2).

That sounds like a straightforward, simple report. It is, however, loaded with significance, especially since the following three chapters are considered the gem of Matthew's Gospel, the first and focal discourse of Jesus to the people.

For the Jews, going onto a mountain to teach always evoked the image of Moses giving the law to the people, which explains why Matthew uses that image several times in his Gospel. Sitting was (and still is in many places) the common posture for teachers in the Near East when they were to present a teaching of special importance.

Matthew's point here is that something of major significance is about to take place. It does, of course, as Jesus unfolds his plan and replaces or develops much of what they have been told by Moses with his own new vision. (See Mt 5: 21, 27, 33, 38 and 43, among others.)

Jesus certainly would have prayed and taught on the Galilean hill we today call the Mount of the Beatitudes. However, the "mountain" for Matthew was a theological rather than a geographical place. The covenant of the first Moses was now to be replaced with the "new and eternal covenant" of the Messiah.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

A broken promise that may have saved a life

At 17, Brad was pretty depressed. He was thinking about hurting himself — maybe even committing suicide. He took some pills out of a bottle in his dad's medicine cabinet and carried them into his room. He hid them in a drawer.

The next day he told his best friend, Kevin, that he was going to take the pills that night. He didn't explain why he wanted to die, but he seemed awfully unhappy.

Kevin thought he was really serious, especially when Brad made him promise not to tell. How do I know all of this? I know because Kevin got on the phone and called Brad's mom. He broke a promise, but it's possible that he also saved Brad's life.

That evening, Brad's mom confronted him about the pills, and he came clean. Yes, he had them, and he had thought about taking them, but he'd changed his mind.

I was on duty in the emergency room when Brad's mom called for help. I set up an appointment with a psychologist right away. I've called to follow up, and Brad is doing fine. He's working with a therapist, and it sounds like they're getting to the bottom of things that have been troubling Brad a long time.

Here's the important message: It's quite possible that Brad is alive today because Kevin got on the phone. He didn't keep the secret.

Who knows? Probably 40 teen-agers think about suicide for every one who actually tries. Kevin had no idea what Brad would do. Mental health professionals are trained to decide if Brad's one of the talkers or one of the doers. Even they can't be sure all the time.

For Kevin, and for other teens like him, the best bet is always playing it safe. If your friend talks about suicide, take it very seriously.

When somebody is talking suicide, the ordinary rules of trust between friends get changed. This is a secret you should never keep. Even if it means breaking a promise, you're making the right decision.

The urge toward suicide is most often a response to some sort of life crisis — a breakup, an embarrassment, a letdown or a loss. Those things are part of any teen-ager's life, and many kids think, just for a moment, "I'd be better off dead."

Still, as soon as somebody starts taking action on those thoughts, an important line has been crossed, and the situation becomes more dangerous.

It is quite possible that Brad would be mad at Kevin because he told the secret. Usually, those angry feelings go away quickly. But even if Kevin loses Brad's friendship, he still made the right decision. Losing a friend isn't the worst thing that could happen.

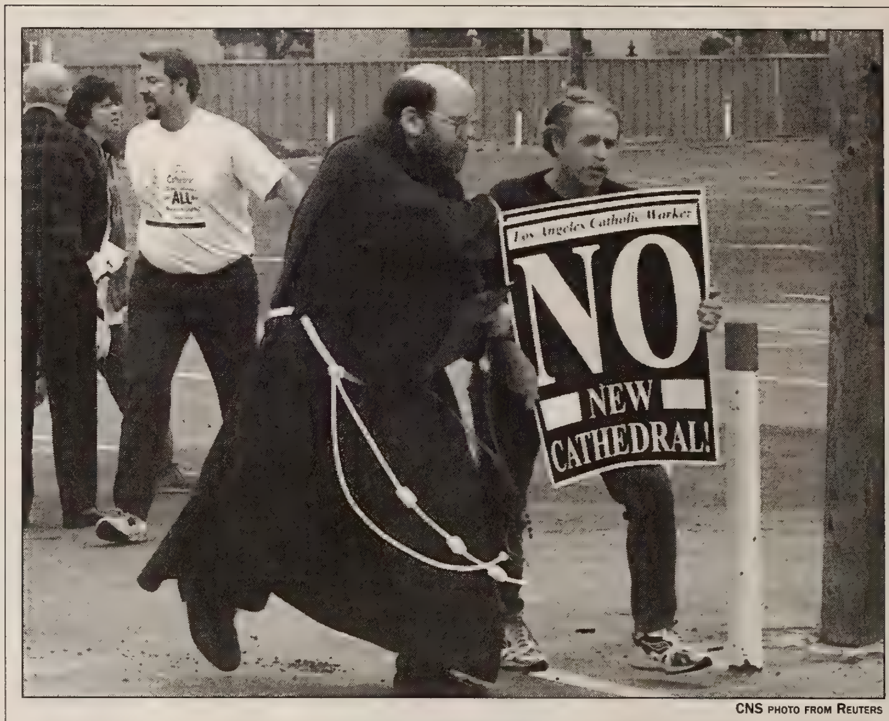
The worst thing that could happen is this. Imagine that Brad tells Kevin he's thinking about suicide. Kevin keeps the secret, and that night Brad goes home and takes every pill in the medicine cabinet. If he dies, Kevin will carry a heartache every day of his life. There's no worse outcome than that. Brad is dead, and Kevin carries the anguish forever. That's not a choice you ever want to make.

Papal nuncio to Honduras backs indigenous activists, supporters

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — The papal nuncio to Honduras defended church activists, including a U.S. Jesuit, whose support of indigenous protesters drew calls for the deportation of foreign priests involved. The nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Conti, said he "fully supported" several Jesuit priests and other church activists who have been accused of stirring up indigenous communities in recent weeks. "They're being accused of practicing international terrorism, but if what they're doing in support of the indigenous peoples is terrorism, then I say it's welcome here," he told Catholic News Service in an interview Oct. 18.

Newsman urges return to 'common goals' of WWII generation

NEW YORK (CNS) — Tom Brokaw, anchor of NBC Nightly News, urged those attending the annual Al Smith dinner in New York to address contemporary American society by recalling the achievements of the World War II generation. He said Americans today feel an "underlying anxiety" about "where we are as a nation" at the approach of a new century and millennium. The country would be helped, Brokaw suggested, by recalling the generation that was reaching adulthood 60 years ago, in 1938, when the effects of the Great Depression were still felt and Germany was moving along the road that would lead to war and the attempt to exterminate the Jews. He recounted the stories of a number of individuals and couples from that generation he had talked with. And he said they were able to meet the challenges of their era with an awareness of possessing "common ground" despite their disagreements and of working for "common goals."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cathedral protest

A clergy member attempts to remove a protester from the site of the groundbreaking for Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles Oct. 14. The ceremony was disrupted by Catholic Worker protesters who climbed onto an earthmover that was to be used in the groundbreaking.

Chicago priest likens Hispanic ministry to a fiesta

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Esequiel Sanchez, director of Hispanic ministry for the Chicago Archdiocese, says that "to understand Hispanic ministry, you have to understand the dynamic of a fiesta." "There is justice involved — to make sure everyone has something to eat. There is celebration involved — when it comes to the music. And there are rituals and a purpose to every fiesta," he said in an interview with The New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper. Ordained in 1995, Father Sanchez was appointed to the newly created position of director of Hispanic ministry Sept. 1.

Elderly Chinese bishop hopes pope will visit China

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An elderly Chinese Catholic bishop said he and his people, "in full fidelity and prayer," are waiting for the day when Pope John Paul II will visit their country. "The pope has shown that he loves the Chinese church very much, giving it maximum attention. For this reason, we hope with all our hearts that one day he can come to our country," said 90-year-old Bishop Matthias Duan Yinming of Wanhsien. The bishop spoke by telephone from China with Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Vatican newspaper objects to Nobel literature prize winner

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper objected to this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. In a brief report in its Oct. 9 edition L'Osservatore Romano said Jose Saramago had a "substantially anti-religious vision" and called his choice for the 1998 Nobel honors "yet another ideologically slanted award." Saramago, 75, told a news conference Oct. 9, the day after the award was announced, that he "would have given up the Nobel" if he had to renounce his convictions. A member of Portugal's Communist Party, Saramago had some of his works censored in Portugal under the former center-right government. One of them, the 1991 novel "The Gospel According to Jesus Christ," also upset church leaders.

Dorothy Day's abortion seen as no impediment to sainthood

NEW YORK (CNS) — Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker leader who died in 1980, should be considered for canonization because she had an abortion and not despite it, according to Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. In an interview at his residence Oct. 9, he told Catholic News Service that her repentance for the abortion may have been the beginning of her conversion. And her canonization would "speak to a great number of women and others and remind them that God is very merciful," he said.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Mums
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

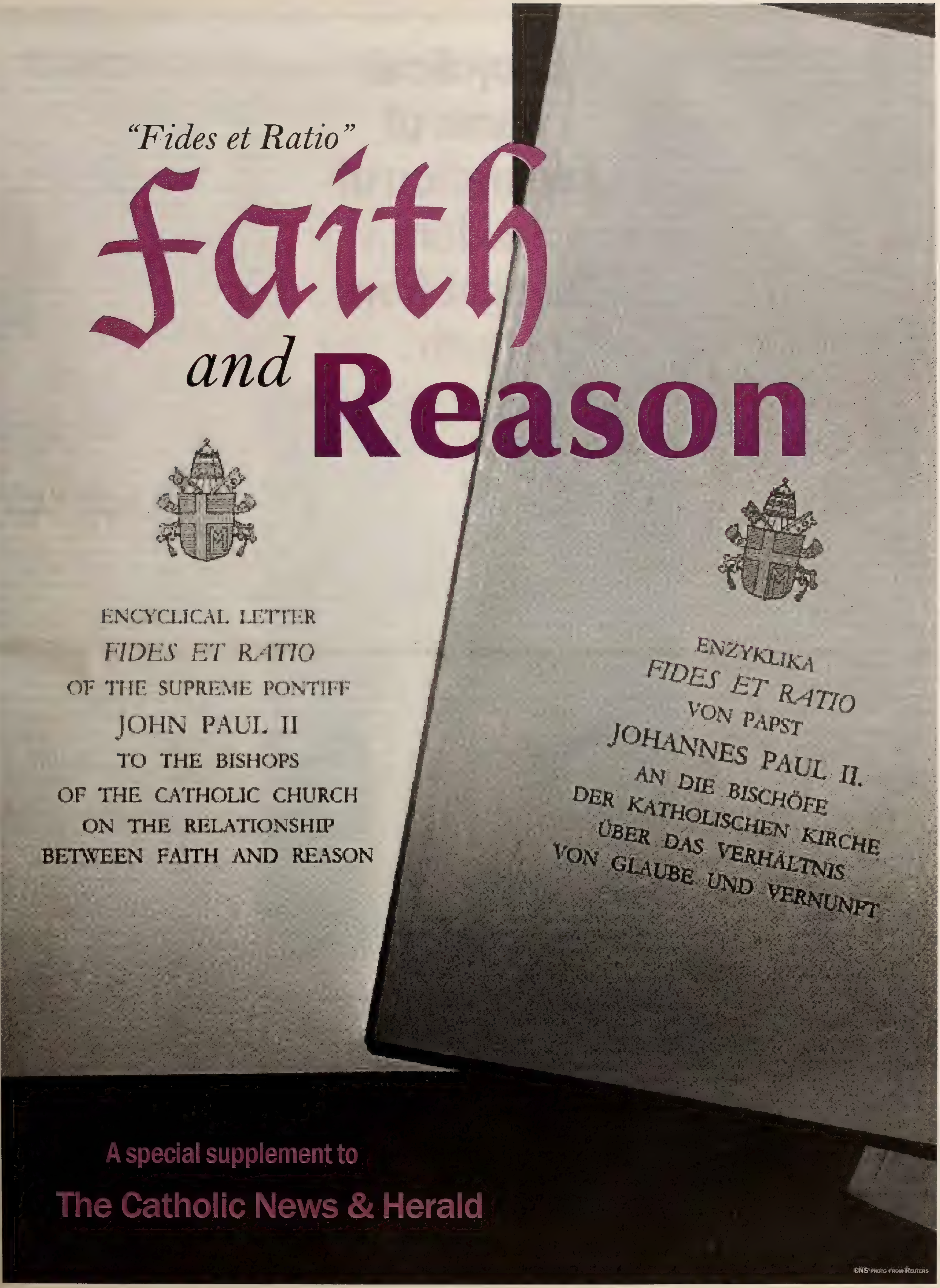
10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

"Fides et Ratio"

Faith and Reason



ENCYCLICAL LETTER
FIDES ET RATIO
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF
JOHN PAUL II
TO THE BISHOPS
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ON THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON

ENZYKLIKA
FIDES ET RATIO
VON PAPST
JOHANNES PAUL II.
AN DIE BISCHÖFE
DER KATHOLISCHEN KIRCHE
ÜBER DAS VERHÄLTNIS
VON GLAUBE UND VERNUNFT

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A special supplement to

The Catholic News & Herald

Encyclical warns of separation of modern thought from truth

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a long-awaited encyclical titled "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"), Pope John Paul II warned of a growing separation between modern thought and the "ultimate truths" of religion, a division which he said is leading people to ethical confusion and even despair.

In response, the pope appealed for a renewed harmony between philosophy and theology. He urged intellectual leaders to rise above today's utilitarian vision of life and allow transcendent truths to guide them.

At the same time, he asked the church's theologians to recover the "metaphysical dimension of truth" in their own work, and help bring the certainties of faith back into the moral life of believers.

The 35,000-word document, released at the Vatican Oct. 15, was the product of years of reflection by the 78-year-old pontiff, on a theme dear to his heart. Addressed to the bishops of the world and written in a specialized vocabulary, its message was aimed primarily at experts in the fields of philosophy and theology.

But the encyclical also struck universal themes about the meaning of life, the ability to know the truth and the deep questions posed by evil and death. In a global culture that mistrusts absolute truths and relies too much on pragmatism and technology, it said, many men and women are left to "stumble through life" confused and anxious.

"At the end of this century, one of our greatest threats is the temptation to despair," the pope wrote.

The aim of the encyclical, he said, was to offer people fresh confidence in seeking the truth and alert them to errors which condition their attitudes and behavior.

In particular, the pope challenged a "post-modern" view that would judge all values as relative. Truth cannot be arrived at by consensus, and morality cannot be decided by majority vote, he said, yet such ideas are taking hold — a consequence of the notion that reason can do without faith.

The encyclical emphasized Christ's salvation as the event that enlightens both theology and philosophy. It said Christian revelation is a "lodestar for all" who seek to know life's meaning, and defended the "universal value" of the church's philosophical heritage.

Divided into seven chapters and heavily footnoted, the encyclical begins with a simple thematic statement: "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." It said the church's interest in ultimate truths builds upon an age-old quest for meaning that can be seen in such diverse sources as Homeric poetry, the preachings of Buddha and the Old Testament.

This search for final answers has always been a hallmark of philosophy, which over the centuries has left a "spiritual heritage" to humanity: a core of insight into the human being's capacity to know God, truth and goodness, as well as certain fundamental moral norms shared by all, it said.

CNS file photo by Arturo Mari

Pope John Paul II released his 13th encyclical titled "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason") on Oct. 15. The 35,000-word document concerning modern thought and truth was aimed primarily at experts in philosophy and theology.

> *"Different philosophical systems have lured people into believing that they are their own absolute master, able to decide their own destiny and future in complete autonomy, trusting only in themselves and their own powers. But this can never be the grandeur of the human being," he said.*

But the pope said the modern age, increasingly skeptical of any claim of absolute truth and increasingly absorbed by human experience and data, has driven a wedge between faith and reason. One result is a dangerous misunderstanding of freedom, he said.

"Different philosophical systems have lured people into believing that they are their own absolute master, able to decide their own destiny and future in complete autonomy, trusting only in themselves and their own powers. But this can never be the grandeur of the human being," he said.

"Truth and freedom either go together hand in hand or together they perish in misery," he said.

The pope faulted modern philosophers for accentuating the limits on the human search for meaning. In our age, he said, reason has been overloaded with subjective knowledge and information about human experience, but has "lost its capacity to lift its gaze to the heights."

He outlined a catalogue of current philosophical errors, and said theologians have been susceptible to them, too. These included historicism, which gauges the validity of a philosophy according to its historical context; scientism, which relegates religious and theological knowledge to the realm of fantasy; pragmatism, which excludes judgments made on ethical principles; and nihilism, which denies all the foundations of objective truth.

He said these errors have profoundly influenced modern attitudes, especially in science and technology. Some experts in these fields feel they have a "quasi-divine power" over nature and human beings, he said.

The pope said technological progress demands, instead, a sharpened sense of ultimate values.

"If this technology is not ordered to something greater than a merely utilitarian end, then it could soon prove inhuman and even become a potential destroyer of the human race," he warned. Many people recognize this, and live in fear of what contemporary man produces, he said.

The encyclical contrasted the "radical doubt" of modern times with past centuries of philosophical development, in which church fathers such as Sts. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and Anselm played a major role. It said the various branches of modern theology still need philosophy.

Here, the pope noted a tendency for theologians to rely less on the church's "Eurocentric" philosophical heritage and more on the traditions of local populations. But he said they have a duty to "go beyond the particular and the concrete" and demonstrate the universality of the faith, as the early church fathers did.

The pope concluded his encyclical with three exhortations. He asked theologians to refocus on the transcendent dimension of truth, so they can enter into a critical dialogue with contemporary philosophical thought. He appealed to philosophers to always "strive for truth" and help formulate an urgently needed "planetary ethics."

And he urged all people to look more deeply at the human being's search for meaning, and recognize that ultimately they will understand human freedom only within the "horizon of truth." ▼

Encyclical casts spotlight on India's philosophical tradition

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

"In engaging great cultures for the first time, the church cannot abandon what she has gained from her inculturation in the world of Greco-Latin thought. To reject this heritage would be to deny the providential plan of God who guides his church down the paths of time and history," the pope wrote.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason") casts a brief spotlight on India and on the church's interest in evangelizing the subcontinent.

In a text that is highly theoretical and avoids almost any discussion of specific geographical situations, the pope spoke of the "special place" held by India, noting its philosophical tradition and its potential openness to the Gospel.

The pope's point was that the church's own theology, which owes much to Greek and "Eurocentric" philosophy, should not be forsaken in favor of the wisdom of local traditions.

"In engaging great cultures for the first time, the church cannot abandon what she has gained from her inculturation in the world of Greco-Latin thought. To reject this heritage would be to deny the providential plan of God who guides his church down the paths of time and history," the pope wrote.

While Indian spirituality has a unique and original value, that does not mean it should remain "closed in its difference," he said. Christians in India have a duty to draw from the country's heritage elements which are compatible with their faith, in order to enrich Christian thought, he said.

The pope said the church's theological system may seem unfamiliar to local populations, but it should not be seen as an attempt to impose a single cultural model. Instead, it expresses the universality of the faith, he said.

"The Gospel is not opposed to any culture, as if in engaging a culture the Gospel would seek to strip it of its native riches and force it to adopt forms which are alien to it," he said.

The pope's comments came amid increasing debate within the church in India and other parts of Asia about how closely theology, liturgy and pastoral ministry should be tied to Western models. These questions were asked pointedly by several bishops at the Synod of Bishops for Asia this past spring; they said the church is seen as "foreign" in their predominantly non-Christian countries.

Vatican officials have also voiced alarm at what they see as "relativism" in some Indian and Asian theologies which highlight new, local ways of expressing the faith. One Asian theologian was temporarily excommunicated for his views last year.

In his encyclical, the pope said some people "claim that theology should look more to the wisdom contained in people's traditions than to a philosophy of Greek and Eurocentric provenance."

"Others still, prompted by a mistaken notion of cultural pluralism, simply deny the universal value of the church's philosophical heritage," he said.

The pope suggested that these critics missed a larger point.

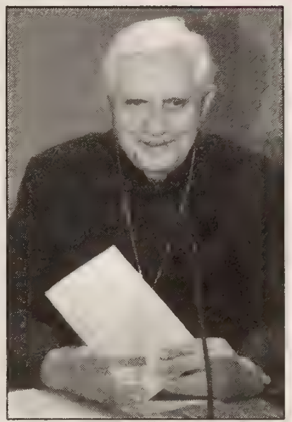
"What I wish to emphasize is the duty to go beyond the particular and concrete, lest the prime task of demonstrating the universality of one's faith content be abandoned," he said.

The pope said his comments on India applied equally to the great cultures of China, Japan and other countries of Asia, as well as Africa. ▼

Cardinal says encyclical may be 'summa' of pope's pontificate

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II worked more than 12 years on his encyclical "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason") and the final text may represent the "summa," or maximum expression of his pontificate so far, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said.


CNS photo from Reuters

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger

Cardinal Ratzinger and other Vatican officials, speaking at a press conference to unveil the encyclical Oct. 15, described the document as a profound reflection on modern thought and attitudes, written for experts in philosophy but with great relevance for all people.

It was the pope's 13th encyclical, written on a theme that he began investigating as a professor of ethics in the 1950s.

"Providence wanted this document to appear on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Holy Father's pontificate. It wasn't planned that way, but this fact illustrates the significance of the encyclical for his papacy," Cardinal Ratzinger said.

He said the pope already had in mind an encyclical on the growing division between faith and reason in 1982, when the cardinal arrived in Rome to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Some 12 years ago, he said, a study commission was formed to begin reflection on a basic papal text, and the work continued afterward.

He said the encyclical, like much of the pope's pontificate, zeroes in on the fundamental problems of contemporary men and women, which are connected to the relationship between freedom and truth.

He said it addresses the fundamental misunderstanding of freedom as "absolute autonomy," and insists on connecting human liberty with universal, transcendent truths. Likewise, it highlights the trend in the public sector toward consensus-building and away from truth-seeking, he said. ▼

Analysis

Pope: Men and women must regain respect for absolute truths

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his latest encyclical, "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"), Pope John Paul II returned to a guiding theme of his 20-year pontificate: Contemporary men and women, caught in a spiritual malaise, must regain respect for absolute truths.

In his 1995 encyclical, "Veritatis Splendor" ("The Splendor of Truth"), the pope examined a number of specific moral teachings which he said had been forgotten. His new document looks at the search for truth itself, the essential quest to "know thyself" that has motivated philosophers and theologians for centuries.

Once again, he finds cause for alarm on the modern landscape, with its dominant features of skepticism, unbelief and ethical uncertainty.

In outlining the shortcomings of 20th-century philosophy and theology, the encyclical is clearly aimed at intellectuals who are familiar with the history and terminology of philosophical reason. The document is dense and difficult. But if the 35,000-word text is for a few, its underlying message is for the many, both inside and outside the church.

The pope summarizes that message in statements that try to challenge prevailing attitudes and stimulate a response. He says:

- Many intellectuals have turned their backs on the search for ultimate truths, focusing exclusively on empirical human experience as the only knowable reality.
- In a global culture that largely accepts this retreat from absolutes, people feel cut off from values, drifting through life "to the very edge of the abyss without knowing where they are going."
- The modern schism between reason and faith is also reflected in social institutions, where truth-by-consensus and morality-by-majority are taking hold.
- The church's message itself risks being distorted or denied in such a climate, where any claim to truth is seen almost as a form of intolerance.

Even in simplified form, the pope's arguments are complex and ill-suited to the sound-bite culture. But the pope knows that a papal encyclical carries a unique weight among leaders of thought and culture; he is convinced that if he reaches them, he can help change the direction of intellectual pursuit.

"The pope, in his travels and speeches and public appearances, addresses everyone. But here he does not forget the 'niche' of intellectuals, a small number of thinkers who wield great influence in the world," said papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

The pope's appeals to philosophers and theologians are strongly argued and full of passion, reflecting his own background as a professor of ethics in the philosophy faculty of the University of Lublin in Poland. His closest aides say these themes — man's relationship with God, his search for meaning and the modern conditions that hinder this search — are still the topics that get the 78-year-old pontiff fired up in private conversations.

In keeping with his goal of stimulating fresh debate, the pope appeals for dialogue in the encyclical, but he makes clear that the condition, indeed the starting point, for any dialogue is respect for transcendent truth. Without it, intellectuals are merely engaging in hypotheses — and hypotheses "may fascinate, but they do not satisfy," he states.

In that sense, the encyclical does not engage in bridge-building to the philosophies that reject transcendental truths; rather, it issues a clarion call against their allure.

The pope is confident that he has many historical allies in this battle, and he names them: Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, Eastern figures like Buddha and Confucius, Christ himself and the Apostles, church fathers from St. Augustine to St. Thomas Aquinas, and even the Italian astronomer Galileo, once condemned by the church for his view of the heavens. All these, the pope recalls, declared that faith and science can never contradict each other.

For philosophical experts, "Faith and Reason" represents a strong critique. For average readers, it offers no easy remedies, but rather attempts to turn people in the right direction.

A few years ago, the pope said modern man has "rediscovered the sacred, even if he does not always know how to identify it." This encyclical attempts to give intellectual form to that search, in the hope that it may light a path, perhaps a difficult one, for contemporary men and women. ▼

Summary

Vatican Text: A Brief Synthesis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of "A Brief Synthesis of the Encyclical 'Fides et Ratio,'" released Oct. 15.

In every human heart there are questions which transcend all differences of culture, nationality, race or religion: "Who am I? Where do I come from, and where am I going? Why is there evil in the world? What will there be after this life?" (No. 1) In grappling with these questions, men and women build their lives and give meaning to their actions. The 13th encyclical of John Paul II takes its cue from these fundamental questions and offers an answer based upon the truth of faith in Jesus Christ.

More than 100 years after the encyclical "Aeterni Patris" of Leo XIII (Aug. 4, 1879), "Fides et Ratio" turns once again to the theme of the relationship between faith and reason or, put differently, between theology and philosophy. The encyclical has all the hallmarks of a "historic" document. Why should faith be concerned with philosophy, and why does reason need faith's contribution? These questions of John Paul II do not go unanswered. Nor are they presented merely as a theoretical exercise — though at first sight the theme could give this impression. They are in fact deeply related to life because they determine how people act. "Fides et Ratio" traces the development of a cultural situation which has led to the separation of faith and reason, and which is now proving unworkable. The encyclical appeals to all who are concerned for the truth and are leaders in the fields of thought and culture, that they may focus on what is essential, precluding nothing and setting no limits.

The encyclical offers a reflection of great philosophical and theological breadth. John Paul II does not condemn, but instead presents a serious problem which is bound to stir wide-ranging discussion among intellectuals and all those engaged in the world of culture: Why is it that reason prefers to hold back from the truth when it is the very nature of reason to attain the truth? Reason is endowed with all that it needs to search ceaselessly for the truth, accepting no limit other than the truth itself. Yet various modes of philosophy today, themselves the fruit of modern thought which is clearly in crisis, seek to glorify reason's debilitation. Thus, in practice, they prevent reason from being what it is. This results in a vision of the human person and of the world which gives pride of place to willpower and pragmatism (cf. No. 5), disseminating a widespread skepticism which "reduces everything to opinion" and "rests content with partial and provisional truths" (No. 5).

Right from the introduction, which synthesizes the encyclical's themes, John Paul II in his "diakonia of the truth" (No. 2) defends the greatness of reason. After all that has happened in the last hundred years, it may seem paradoxical, but reason finds in faith its most valuable help and support, the steadfast ally which allows reason to be what it is. On the other hand, a dialogue between Christian faith and debilitated reason will not be fruitful; faith needs reason strengthened by the truth in order to explain why it acts with full freedom.

The purpose of "Fides et Ratio" is to give people of today fresh confidence (cf. No. 6). In "Veritatis Splendor" — of which the new encyclical is a continuation — the pope pointed to a number of moral truths which had been forgotten or misunderstood. In this encyclical he is concerned with truth itself, its foundation in relation to faith. For John Paul II, this is no routine task but a solemn duty.

Chapter 1 introduces the theme of revelation as knowledge which God offers humanity. Disclosing the mystery, revelation urges reason to seek the explanations which reason can make its own but can never claim to exhaust.

Chapter 2 focuses on the unity between the knowledge conferred by faith and the knowledge conferred by reason. It shows how biblical thought, accepting this unity, is convinced that a sure path to the knowledge of the truth can be found. It insists that the knowledge offered by God cannot be ignored if one wants to find the path which leads to the answer to the fundamental questions of life.

Chapter 3 tackles more specific questions. It shows how with their ever-inquiring reason men and women can attain the truth, which is by its nature universal, valid for all people at all times. The pope considers different "faces" of the truth, leading to the claim that "one may define the human being as the one who seeks the truth" (No. 28). No. 33 is a good summary of the chapter: "It is the nature of the human being to seek the truth. This search looks not only to the attainment of truths which are partial, empirical or scientific; nor is it only in individual acts of decision-making that people seek the true good. Their search looks toward an ulterior truth which would explain the meaning of life. And it is therefore a search which can reach its end only in reaching the absolute. ... Such a truth is attained not only by way of reason but also through trusting acquiescence to other persons who can guarantee the authenticity and certainty of the truth itself."

Chapter 4 offers a penetrating historical, philosophical and theological overview of how Christianity engaged ancient philosophy. It considers the example of the first centuries when the church fathers, aided by the rich insights of faith, "succeeded in disclosing completely all that remained implicit and preliminary in the thinking of the great philosophers of antiquity" (No. 41). Then follows the great medieval period with the enduringly valid thought of St. Thomas Aquinas and his vision of the harmony between faith and reason based upon the principle that "whatever its source, truth is of the Holy Spirit."

The modern period, however, reveals a gradual and "fateful separation" of faith and reason (No. 45), resulting in a changed role for philosophy to the point where it became "instrumental reason directed toward the promotion of utilitarian ends, toward enjoyment or power" (No. 47). This brought an impoverishment of both faith and reason, since "each without the other is enfeebled" (No. 48).

Chapter 5 in its first part mentions the various interventions of the magisterium, touching upon the key moments linked especially to fideism and rationalism. In its second part, it shows how the church has always urged philosophy to be faithful to its true task, and shows how this has at times enriched modern philosophical thinking.

Chapters 6 and 7 are the heart of the encyclical and contain the Holy Father's most substantial response to the question which he addresses. In Chapter 6, "Fides et Ratio" identifies the ways in which the various branches of theology need philosophy. Here the pope highlights some recent problems in theology. There are those who, in wanting to open new paths for scholarship, "simply deny the universal value of the church's philosophical heritage" (No. 69). John Paul II tackles this problem directly, especially with regard to the relationship between faith and culture, a problem which has been central to recent theological discussion particularly in India. He gives essential criteria for ensuring that this encounter is fruitful (cf. No. 72).

For John Paul II, the relationship between faith and reason "is best construed as a circle" (No. 73), by which he means that "theology's source and starting point must always be the word of God revealed in history, while its final goal will be an understanding of that word which increases with each passing generation." The fruitfulness of this approach is shown by the array of thinkers from both East and West who have produced systems of thought which remain valid today: John Henry Newman, Antonio Rosmini, Jacques Maritain, Etienne Gilson, Edith Stein, Vladimir Soloviev, Pavel Florensky, Petr Chaadaev and Vladimir Lossky (cf. No. 74).

The encyclical's claim that philosophy and theology find in revelation their "point of contact and comparison" is genuinely original. This is the starting point for the richest and most substantial chapter of "Fides et Ratio" — Chapter 7. It begins by indicating the "sapiential way" to be followed as the path leading to the definitive answers which give meaning to life. It insists on the natural human capacity to reach the truth and concludes with the metaphysical implications of knowing.

"At the end of this century, one of our greatest threats is the temptation to despair" (No. 91). Faced with this drama, the challenge which John Paul II presents is to move "from phenomenon to foundation" (No. 83) and thus "to lead people to discover both their capacity to know the truth and their yearning for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life" (No. 102). From this starting point, the encyclical offers a dispassionate analysis which shows the hopeless limitations of some contemporary philosophical systems which reject the metaphysical demand for a constant openness to the truth (cf. No. 81). Eclecticism, historicism, scientism, pragmatism and nihilism are all modes of thought which, closed as they are to the fundamental requirements of truth, cannot be used as philosophies which might help to explain the faith.

"Truth and freedom either go together hand in hand or together they perish in misery" (No. 90). This, it may be said, is the encyclical's ultimate message.

Pope coins terms in encyclical, redefines others

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his encyclical on faith and reason, Pope John Paul II coins some interesting terms and lends new meaning to others. They offer insight into the document's major theme, that contemporary men and women must find a new harmony between philosophical reason and the truths of faith:

"Crisis of meaning": The search for meaning is difficult and fruitless for many people — and considered pointless by some — because of a proliferation of theories that try to give answers without reference to absolute truths. The result is ambiguous thinking, skepticism and deepening introversion.

"Fragmentation of knowledge": The idea that the modern person is overburdened by a "maelstrom of data and facts" about human experience, but lacks the transcendent vision capable of tying it all together.

"End of metaphysics": The postmodern idea — false in the pope's view — that the "time of certainties is irrevocably past" and that people must learn to live in a horizon of total absence of meaning, where everything is provisional and ephemeral.

"Philosophical pride": When a system of thought seeks to present its own partial and imperfect view as the complete reading of all reality, as in "separate" philosophy, which claims self-sufficiency.

"Immanence": Used in reference to the increasing preoccupation with subjective human experience, and the idea that the human spirit can live within the confines of its own immanence without any reference to the transcendent. The pope is worried about people's inability to "look beyond themselves."

"Planetary ethics": The urgently needed remedy for a world in which "the ethical conscience of people is disoriented" because of the retreat from moral truths; based on Christ, it would be the opposite of the spreading "individualist ethic" of the modern age.

"Scientism": One of the errors named in the encyclical. Under the banner of empirical knowledge, it would relegate religious knowledge to the realm of fantasy, dismiss values as products of the emotions and reject the notion of "being" to clear the way for factual reality. "Science would thus be poised to dominate all aspects of human life through technological progress."

"Sapiential task": The responsibility of philosophers and pastors to help people recover the dimension of ultimate truths in their lives and way of thinking. ▼

Annulments, from page 1

ing with marriage are often the most complex and the most sensitive for bishops and pastors, the pope said.

"The indissolubility of marriage is a teaching that comes from Christ himself, and the first duty of pastors and pastoral workers is, therefore, to help couples overcome whatever difficulties arise," he said.

And, the pope said, annulment must never be seen as a Catholic name for divorce.

The marriage tribunal is a servant of the truth, he said. Its purpose is to find out whether or not there are facts to support an allegation that the marriage bond did not exist.

The process leading to a nullity declaration must show clearly a desire to be faithful to Christ's teaching about the permanence of marriage, and it must be inspired by pastoral concern for those who turn to the tribunal in order to clarify their position in the church, the pope said.

"Justice demands that the work of tribunals be carried out conscientiously and in strict observance of canonical directions and procedures," Pope John Paul said.

The pope said it was particularly important that the tribunal member who is "defender of the bond" of marriage be "diligent in presenting and expounding all that can reasonably be argued against the nullity of the marriage."

Each and every step of the process outlined in the Code of Canon Law must be followed scrupulously, the pope said.

"A canonical process must never be seen as a mere formality to be observed or a set of rules to be manipulated," he said. ▼

Church, city honor baseball's Sammy Sosa on New York visit

By **TRACY EARLY**
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Sammy Sosa, the home run hitter of the Chicago Cubs, was a hero for the Archdiocese of New York and the rest of the city when he visited New York on the weekend of the opening of the World Series.

On Oct. 16, he got a red cardinal's skull cap placed on his head by Cardinal John J. O'Connor and a John Paul II Medal for his example of sportsmanship — especially to youth — from the Northeast Catholic Hispanic Center.

The next day, before getting the keys to the city from the mayor and then throwing out the first pitch at the opening Yankees-Padres game, he visited health care facilities of the archdiocese.

Sosa is from the Dominican Republic, and is a special hero to the large community of immigrants from that country who live in New York, as well as to others of the Hispanic community.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, he was the last of five recipients to get the John Paul II Medal at a Mass where the Hispanic community marked the pope's 20th anniversary. But Sosa was the primary focus of attention for the large congregation and for the heavy media presence.

Cardinal O'Connor, who heads the board of bishops overseeing the Northeast Hispanic Center, celebrated the Mass and delivered the homily in Spanish.

At the end of the Mass, the congregation heard an address by Belisario Betancur Cuartas, president of Colombia from 1982 to 1986. Mario Paredes, director of the Northeast Center, said Betancur spoke of the presence of Pope John Paul II in the various regions of Latin America, and of "the echo of his presence."

Following Betancur's address, Cardinal O'Connor presented the medals, which had been created by the Hispanic Center for the pope's 20th anniversary. In addition to Sosa, the recipients were:

- Horacio Aguirre, owner of the Nicaraguan newspaper, Las Americas.
- Nestor Carbonell Cortina, a native of Cuba who is an executive of the Pepsi-Cola Company.
- Leonor Jimenez de Mendoza, a philanthropist from Venezuela.
- Mary Healey-Sedutto, executive director of the Catholic Health Care Network, a federation of agencies of the New York Archdiocese and the New York Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

On Oct. 16, he got a red cardinal's skull cap placed on his head by Cardinal John J. O'Connor and a John Paul II Medal for his example of sportsmanship — especially to youth — from the Northeast Catholic Hispanic Center.

Sensing the special enthusiasm for Sosa at the end, Cardinal O'Connor brought out his red skullcap, known as a zucchetto, to place on his head, and Sosa immediately knelt to receive it.

The next day Sosa visited representative institutions of the Catholic Health Care Network to express appreciation for the aid it had sent to his country and others damaged by Hurricane Georges. He also has set up a relief fund to aid hurricane victims and the youth of Chicago.

He began the visits at St. Clare's Hospital, which has been a principal center of care for AIDS patients. But now that new methods of treatment have reduced demand for hospital care, St. Clare's has undertaken a $40 million renovation program to reposition itself as a primary care center for its community, formerly known as Hell's Kitchen.

New York Gov. George E. Pataki also came to St. Clare's and gave Sosa the Jackie Robinson Empire State Freedom Medal. The governor said the medal was just created last year, that it was the state's highest award and that Sosa was the first recipient.

Jackie Robinson, who died in 1972, became the first black player on a Major League Baseball team when Branch Rickey brought him to play second base for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Robinson's widow, Rachel, and their daughter, Sharon, were present at St. Clare's for the medal presentation. Rachel Robinson said the choice of Sosa "sets a very high standard for this award."

Sosa gave Pataki a bat that the player said he used to hit his 59th home run this year. Sosa and Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals electrified the baseball world by breaking Roger Maris' record of 61 home runs in one season. This year, Sosa hit 66, but McGwire topped him with 70.

At St. Clare's, Healey-Sedutto said the Catholic Health Care Network, established in 1996 to combine the strength of more than 30 institutions in an effort to preserve a health care ministry under Catholic principles, collected more than 250 tons of medicines and other supplies for hurricane relief. ▼

God
calls us in
many ways.

Is God
calling you?

If you are thinking of the
priesthood, please write
or call to find out more
about serving in the
Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768

Book heralds work of Italian Catholic who aided Hungarian Jews

By Tracy Early
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — An Italian Jew visited the United States in October to publicize the "fantastic" story of an "ordinary" Italian Catholic whose actions during the Second World War saved thousands of Hungarian Jews.

Enrico Deaglio, editor of a weekly newsmagazine, Diario, published in Milan, told the story in a 1991 Italian book that has just now been issued by the University of Notre Dame Press in an English translation as "The Banality of Goodness."

It tells of Giorgio Perlasca, a believing but not churchgoing Catholic who was a young businessman caught in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, during the war.

He had Spanish connections, and when the Spanish consul left Budapest at the end of November 1944, Perlasca carried out what he called in his diary a "colossal bluff" to convince the authorities that he had become Spain's diplomatic representative.

In that pose, he was able to bring more than 5,000 Jews under diplomatic protection in Spanish safe houses until Soviet forces reached the city in mid-January 1945.

Perlasca reported that in taking twin boys out of a group about to be deported he was even able to fool a German officer he then learned was Adolf Eichmann.

"It's a story that in a certain way has to be a mystery," Deaglio said in an Oct. 13 interview in New York. "One really can't explain why an ordinary man could do such things."

Adding to the strangeness, Perlasca was a supporter of fascism who served in Mussolini's army in Ethiopia and then fought as a volunteer on the side of Francisco Franco in Spain's civil war. But it was the latter that got him situated for his actions in Budapest.

Deaglio said, however, that Perlasca's support for fascism did not include anti-Semitism.

Only in the late 1980s was Perlasca "discovered." But he was then given honorary citizenship by Israel and received awards from the governments of Hungary, Spain and Italy before his death in 1992.

Deaglio said that although Italians considered their war record good, they did allow 8,566 Italian Jews to be deported without protest, and that uneasiness about this made stories about people such as Perlasca unwelcome.

"He was a disturbing person," Deaglio said. "He was an ordinary man, and if you accept that an ordinary man could do what he did, you have to ask why other people with more power and more opportunities didn't do what he did."

The communists who ruled Hungary after the war were also uninterested in spotlighting people who acted to save Jews, Deaglio said. Their position was that "everybody suffered the same thing," he said.

Perlasca was "discovered" when a group of Jewish women who had survived the war in Budapest and later wound up in Berlin began recalling their experiences.

They remembered his extraordinary efforts on their behalf, and decided to try to locate him. They then took steps that led the Israeli Commission for the Designation of the Just to give him a gold medal and the right to plant a tree on the Street of the Just in Jerusalem.

Deaglio said a significant part of Perlasca's story was the work of the papal nuncio in Budapest, Archbishop Angelo Rotta, who returned to the Vatican after the war and worked in the Secretariat of State until his death in 1963. Archbishop Rotta was one of the few people who knew Perlasca was only pretending to have diplomatic status, Deaglio said.

Deaglio said the record of church officials and parish clergy in Hungary was not universally positive. The nuncio's own secretary was unwilling to take risks and so was kept in the dark about Perlasca, he said. And he said some priests refused to give the conversion certificates that might save Jewish lives unless the Jews indicated a true conversion. ▼

Word to Life

October 25. Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C. Readings:

1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalm 34:2-3, 17-19, 23
2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
3) Luke 18:9-14

By DAN LUBY

Two kids are looking for the coach. The first one marches up and introduces herself.

"Coach," she says, "I'm here to join your team. I led the league three seasons running in scoring, rebounding and assists. Not to brag, but I'm taller, faster and a better shooter than any kid here. When do I start?" "I'll let you know," the coach says quietly.

Gym class ends. Players leave, lights go out and the coach walks to the parking lot, where the second kid waits.

"Coach," she says hesitantly, "I'd really like to play on your team. I've tried out lots of times, but I've never actually made a team before, and I don't know very much about basketball; but the kids say you can teach anybody. I'll do whatever you say. Can you find a spot for me?"

The Coach smiles. "I think I can."

Which player would you want on your team? The arrogant know-it-all with the gilt-edged pedigree? Or the humble plugger who wants to be taught?

The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Sunday's Gospel speaks to a pair of fundamental truths: our deep seated inability to earn salvation and God's overwhelming desire to save us.

Even for churchgoing folk who know better, it's hard to acknowledge that we really are sinners. It lends an attractive air of humility to say it, but when you're following all the rules and other people are breaking them left and right, it's hard to mean it, deep down. It's harder still not to feel pleased with ourselves when we compare our lives to the lives of the scoundrels and sneaks around us.

The fact is that without a deep conviction of our need for forgiveness, nothing God can do will save us from ourselves. Only when we embrace our kinship with other sinners can the healing mercy of God make us whole and fill us with joy.

Questions:

How can I temper pride of accomplishment with gratitude for the ability to succeed? Who do I know who is truly humble? What's one way I can better imitate their humility?

"The other man, however, kept his distance, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven. All he did was beat his breast and say, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'"
—Luke 18:13

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 25 — 31, 1998

Sunday, Sirach 35:12-14,16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18, Luke 18:9-14; **Monday,** Ephesians 4:32—5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday,** Ephesians 5:21-33, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday,** Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; **Thursday,** Ephesians 6:10-20, Luke 13:31-35; **Friday,** Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUESDAY, NOV. 3
For a copy of a non-partisan voters' guide showing all candidates' positions on a wide range of issues, call Jeff Norkus at (704) 594-6444.

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

MODULARCORP
*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Movie Review

'Beloved' plumbs the depths of slavery's scars

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A fiercely independent woman haunted by what she did to escape slavery and keep her children free fuels the powerful drama "Beloved" (Touchstone).

Adapted from Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by director Jonathan Demme, the movie is a labor of love by its star and co-producer, Oprah Winfrey, who plays the central role of the escaped slave, Sethe.

A sense of mystery and of hauntings, real or imagined, inhabits the lyrical tale. It is set primarily in 1873 Ohio, but startling flashbacks gradually tell of Sethe's horrific escape from Kentucky's Sweet Home Plantation one fateful night in 1855.

Unable to find her husband, the pregnant Sethe was waylaid by vicious brutes who molested her in unspeakable ways and carved onto her back deep whip scars in the shape of a tree.

This terror-laden escape is related by middle-aged Sethe to old friend Paul D. (Danny Glover), who has appeared on her Ohio doorstep a full 18 years later. He has news of the missing husband she felt abandoned her and their children in their need.

CNS photo from Touchstone Pictures

Kimberly Elise (left), Oprah Winfrey and Thandie Newton star in "Beloved," a drama on the life of a former slave. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Though wary of ever trusting a man again, Sethe takes him into her home and her bed but the household soon adds a bizarre personage, Beloved (Thandie Newton), who is found dazed and delirious on a tree stump in their front yard.

The disturbed Beloved becomes a wedge between the family members and new revelations about Sethe's actions to prevent her own and her children's recapture have profound effects on them all.

With a cast of actors who hold nothing back emotionally, Demme delivers a film of visceral impact that plumbs the depths of slavery's scarring of the body, mind and spirit.

The tragic saga definitely feels too long at nearly three hours. This is partially overcome by how the story remains essentially mysterious throughout its jagged unwinding, which serves to keep interest from flagging.

Restraint doesn't seem to be in Demme's visual vocabulary, so viewers are warned the sexual attack on Sethe, her violent response to possible recapture, the hanging flashback and Beloved's enraged frenzies are quite disturbing.

However, a profound sense of community and of forgiveness eventually emerges strongly that lifts Sethe's story to a more universal level.

With harrowing performances by Glover, Winfrey, Elise and Newton, Demme is able to capture the inner turmoil these characters feel even living in a post-slavery era. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

A Day with the Gospel of Matthew
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 19 or
Sat., Nov. 21, 1998

Our annual fall Scripture day is dedicated to the Gospel of the new liturgical cycle, Matthew (A Cycle). The day includes prayer and an introduction to Matthew, an overview of the Gospel, reading and faith sharing. Eucharist and lunch are included in the day's schedule.

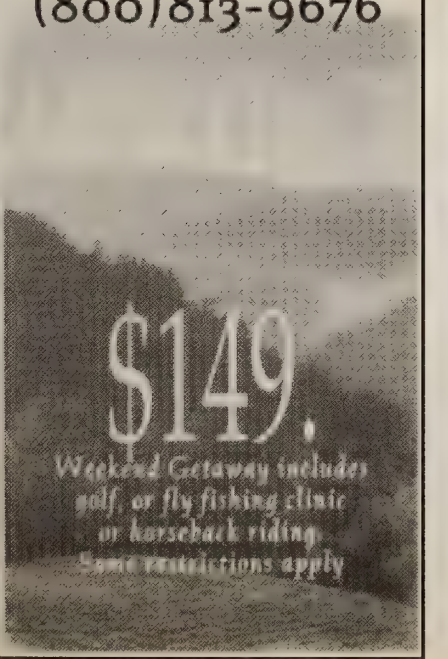
Cost: $30 (lunch included)
Pre-register by November 13

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676



$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

PART 1: Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Empowering the people

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the American bishops' anti-poverty program. The 1998 CCHD collection will be held Nov. 21-22. Earlier this year, the national CCHD committee awarded a $35,000 grant to a Charlotte organization. The following story is the first of two on how that group is using CCHD funds.

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

CHARLOTTE — Events of Helping Empower Local People (H.E.L.P.) have been described as "part religious revival, part political convention and all business."

The people of H.E.L.P. like that description because they believe it takes all those things to get problems solved.

This assertive approach from many sides appears to be working. Since it sprouted roots in Charlotte, H.E.L.P. has united Charlotteans around basic issues — improving police protection, needed street repairs, expanding job opportunities and upgrading school buildings.

H.E.L.P. finds it supporters where many in Charlotte have — in houses of worship. In the past four years H.E.L.P. has recruited the support of some 30 congregations.

Add to that support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The American bishops' anti-poverty campaign has, for the second year in a row, awarded H.E.L.P. a $35,000 grant.

H.E.L.P., an offshoot of the Industrial Areas Foundation, is a community organizing group. CCHD funds programs like H.E.L.P. whose main goal is to help people help themselves.

Already H.E.L.P. has identified over 500 problems in Charlotte neighborhoods and rallied people of all ages, races and creeds to help solve those problems.

In addition, the group has planted serious seeds of support for young people. Last April, H.E.L.P. announced plans for a college program. Highlights include starting a $30 million trust fund for last-gap college financing for students, hiring more high school advisers to work with students on SATs, college applications and visits, and financial aid. That same program would guarantee each student who graduates with 95 percent attendance in junior and senior high school, three job interviews.

The college program, set to begin in 2000, is one of many creative initiatives begun by H.E.L.P. Other initiatives include creating models for an adult learning center, making sure local schools offer quality education, and lobbying for better housing code enforcement.

During H.E.L.P.'s founding convention held in Charlotte last April, a keynote speaker reminded the 1,600 people in attendance what makes the city rich. "Charlotte's greatness resides in the engine reaching all sections of town and allowing anybody who wants to get on board."

Some say groups like H.E.L.P. are steering that train, making certain it covers all the sectors of town.

Now, H.E.L.P. is guiding the engine through nearby Union County. The work there includes organizing churches to lobby for equity in schools.

CCHD supports H.E.L.P. because it clearly supports people.

"H.E.L.P. tries to change structures (that cause poverty) and that affects a much larger group of people," said Jesuit Father James Devereaux, whose parish, St. Peter Church, is a member of the organization. "In the case of schools and housing, we're not just saving people at the last minute. We're looking at structures and situations that need to change." ▼

Mary Coyne Wessling is a free-lance writer in Greensboro.

Education endowment to assist MACS students

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Joe Treacy was always committed to Catholic education. The 1967 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS), who also attended St. Patrick and St. Ann's elementary schools as a youngster growing up in Charlotte, spent a good portion of his adult life working to improve the parochial education offered to students. Treacy was a member of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Board of Education from 1992-94 and a founding member of the MACS Education Foundation Board of Directors.

When Treacy passed away late last year, he left $10,000 to the MACS Education Foundation, which raises funds for MACS, including CCHS. As a result, the F. Joseph Treacy Jr. Endowment Fund was recently created in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to provide tuition assistance to MACS students.

The money is earmarked for the continuation of Catholic education and the work Treacy was a part of as a MACS supporter, his wife, Sheila Treacy, said. "Joe believed in evangelization, and he saw this as a way to reach out to others in the community, including non-Catholics entering our schools."

"Joe always tried to give back what was given to him," she continued. "He believed in MACS and in providing a Catholic education to all. Joe saw a place where he could make a difference (serving on the boards)."

"He also believed in the 'four r's': reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and religion, and saw those as another reason to support Catholic education," Sheila Treacy added.

While on the school board, Treacy served as chairman for two years. During that time, the decision was made to move CCHS to its present location on Pineville-Matthews Road. Treacy was also a very active member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, which raised more than $3 million for the new high school.

As of June 30, the Treacy endowment totaled more than $10,700. The gift will continue to generate funds for MACS, because as an endowment, the principal is never used. The number of endowments in the Foundation is up to 50, and the total assets of the diocesan Foundation are at $5.2 million.

"Through his gift, Joe Treacy left a legacy that will allow MACS to grow and meet its needs in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation.

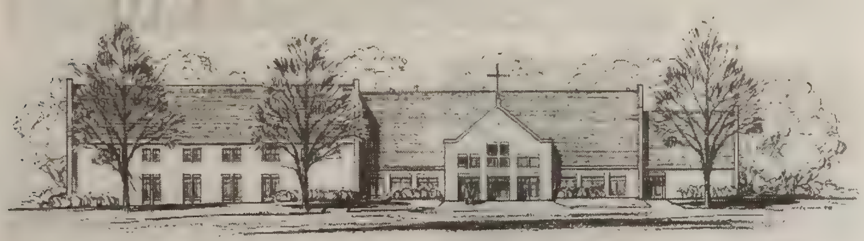
More and more individuals across the diocese are following the example of Treacy's legacy by remembering the church in their estate plans. Kelley added that individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from the accumulated assets to endow schools, churches and other organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said. ▼

For more information about the Foundation or establishing an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, at (704) 370-3301, or Cindy Rice, director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320.

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 • (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel



Artistic rendering of new St. Mark's

St. Mark parish initiates capital campaign

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

HUNTERSVILLE — On June 1, 1997, Monsignor Joseph A. Kerin preached his first homily to parishioners of St. Mark Church. The faith community crowded into a bowling center off Interstate 77 to hear the pastor welcome them to the Charlotte Diocese's newest parish.

As the church family has steadily grown over the past 16 months (nearly 940 families or 3,300 individuals make up the parish roster), Msgr. Kerin and St. Mark parishioners have turned to Davidson College for a larger place to have Mass. Liturgies are now celebrated in the college's Love Auditorium and John M. Belk Arena. The church also celebrates Saturday evening vigil Masses at Huntersville United Methodist Church.

Now the parish is ready to raise funds for its own multi-purpose facility. Last weekend, St. Mark kicked off its initial capital campaign. Called "The Cornerstone Campaign," the goal is to raise $3.5 million to begin the first phase of a parish facility — a building to serve present liturgical, educational and other parish needs.

The 26,000-square foot facility will include worship space to accommodate 700 people, classrooms, meeting rooms, office space, a nursery, gathering room, kitchen, gymnasium, cry room and storage rooms. The building will be located on a 23-acre tract of land on Stumptown Road purchased by the diocese in 1990, across the street from the parish rectory.

"From the beginning, our people have recognized the needs of our parish community," said Msgr. Kerin. "Within our first two weeks of existence, we formulated a parish mission. We also established a planning committee that projected a number of our future needs, including growth. As the parish has continued to grow, we have been keeping up with the projections. That is how we formed our immediate needs."

The faith formation necessities of the parish are of utmost concern as well.

"We had 756 youths in pre-school through 12th grade take part in our religious education program in our first year," Msgr. Kerin said.

"All this helped lead us to the conclusion that we needed a building to handle our religious education and meeting needs, and a place of worship," he added.

Msgr. Kerin hopes to break ground on the parish facility next spring. It will take nine to 12 months to complete the project.

"We hope to be in the building by the spring of 2000," he added. "It depends on the success of the capital campaign."

The second phase of the campaign, according to Msgr. Kerin, would be the actual church building, then other projects as dictated by parish needs. ▼

In brief...

Irish priest with service in N.C. dies

CHARLOTTE — Father Edward O'Doherty, who served parishes in North Carolina during the 1960s and '70s, died Sept. 8 in Co. Sligo, Ireland, the chancery of the Charlotte Diocese announced Oct. 15. A native of Ireland, Father O'Doherty was born in 1902. He was ordained in Rome for the Diocese of Achonry, Ireland. In his early years of service, he ministered as a chaplain in the Royal Air Force and for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Father O'Doherty arrived in North Carolina in 1966. Among the parishes he served are Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa, and St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. He retired in 1980 at his request.

Council announces board members

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women recently announced its list of board members for 1998-99. The 27-year-old organization looks to further volunteer community action through spiritual and social activities.

New board members are Lillian Leonard, president; Marian Borowicz, 1st vice president; Joan Charbonneau, 1st vice president; Janet Law, 2nd vice president; Betty Klinc, secretary; Rosemary Marsicano, treasurer; Carolyn Kingman, community service; Maryann Grabasky, social activities; Margie Villani, social activities; Anne McCarthy, spiritual activities; Margaret Devaney, special projects. Past president is Alice Schmidt.

Celebrant Singers to perform in concert

CHARLOTTE — Jon Stemkowski's Celebrant Singers, an internationally known Christian music ministry, presents a community concert Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The concert is free of charge, and a free-will offering will be taken.

The event is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte, whose members share evangelical ideas and activities with local Catholic and other church communities.

Commission members say that while everyone is invited, this event is especially geared toward the youth of the diocese. The concert will include contemporary Christian music, praise and worship, personal testimony, and ministry.

"Celebrants is not 'just another music group,'" said Jon Stemkowski, founder, who has more than a quarter-century of music ministry experience. "Our objective is to share the love of Christ. It's a powerful ministry, and it will touch your heart."

In their 20-year history, the singers have ministered in all 50 states, across Canada and in more than 70 nations around the world. They have sung to more than 5 million people in live concerts and countless others via broadcast media.

They have released nine recordings to date, including an all-Spanish record. Recordings will be available for purchase at the concert.

In 1984, the singers ministered in St. Peter's Square before an Easter-week crowd of over 120,000 people. Stemkoski and the singers were also given a private audience with Pope John Paul II. More recently, they were invited to participate in Denver's World Youth Day.

This year, seven teams of Celebrant Singers will present more than 1,400 concerts in some 20 nations, six Canadian provinces and all 50 U.S. states. The ministry is ecumenical, and its members have sung in more than 3,000 Catholic parishes since 1977. ▼

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Joseph P. O'Rourke
Certified Public Accountant
4921 Albemarle Road, Suite 116
Charlotte, NC 28205

Tax consultation, planning and preparation for individuals and small businesses.
Accounting services available.

704-568-7886

HOMEOWNERS
Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%
LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958
We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation
Rates subject to change.
1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style; experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Part-time Youth Minister: Needed immediately for grades 6-12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. 15-20 hours per week; 1200-parish. Salary depends on experience. Please send resume to Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Attention School Bus Drivers: Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools is now hiring for a school bus supervisor. This is a full-time position. Applicants must be a certified school bus driver in the state of NC and be able to do light maintenance work on the buses. Good pay and benefits. Apply in person at 1123 S. Church Street.

Church Secretary: Regular part-time position, Tuesday through Friday (5 hours daily) To provide and maintain administrative support to the pastor and priests of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Charlotte. Responsibilities: provide secretarial services including answering telephones, directing calls, and taking messages. Transcribe and type letters, sermons, and related documents. Maintain correspondence. Set up and maintain filing system. Assist in the use of office equipment (copier, fax, computer). Inform the pastor and priests of scheduled events. If interested, please bring or mail your resume and salary requirements to: St. Peter's Church, 507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Resumes may also be faxed to the Parish Office at (704) 358-0050.

Housekeeper: Housekeeper needed for priests' residence, part-time position: 6 hours ever Tuesday. To clean the priests' residence. Responsibilities: clean, vacuum, dust, mop (maintain a clean and tidy home.) No cooking or laundry involved. Please send your information and salary requirements to St. Peter's Church, 507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Information may also be faxed to the Parish Office at (704) 358-0050.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you to St. Jude for prayers answered. — C.M.D.

Appalachian missionary nun wins Lumen Christi Award

CLINCHCO, Va. (CNS) — The Catholic Church Extension Society presented its annual Lumen Christi Award Oct. 12 to a woman religious who "works tirelessly to bring health care and hope" to people in a corner of Appalachia, said Msgr. Kenneth Velo, president of the Chicago-based society.

During an interfaith prayer service in Clinchco, Msgr. Velo presented the award to Sister Bernadette Kenny, a Medical Missionary of Mary who is a licensed nurse practitioner and runs St. Mary's Health Wagon, a mobile medical clinic.

The award is presented annually by the Extension Society to "a person who best exemplifies the 'Light of Christ' among the poor and unchurched in the United States."

"The more I have learned about Sister Bernie, the more I realized what a single beam of bright, shining light can do," said Msgr. Velo in a statement announcing the award winner. "By living out her Catholic faith so fully in all she does, she shows people that the Lord loves them."

Traversing remote and often dangerous mountain roads in her converted Winnebago camper for the last 18 years, Sister Kenny has brought free health care services to people who are too poor to afford it. In addition to her medical services, Sister Kenny organizes public health fairs in remote areas in the southwest corner of the Richmond Diocese throughout the year.

Sister Kenny, who was nominated by Richmond Bishop Walter J. Sullivan, "gives everyone she treats more than medical care. She is a living example of God's love," said Msgr. Velo.

Born in Boston and reared in Somerville, Mass., Sister Kenny is one of five children of Thomas and Helena Kenny. After graduating from St. Clement's High School in Somerville, she worked as a dental assistant for a year and then at 19 she entered the Medical Missionaries of Mary on Sept. 12, 1957.

She spent her first three years training in Boston, then completed her studies in Drogheda, Ireland, where the motherhouse is located and where the order runs a large hospital. She then spent 10 years in Africa, working among the poor in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

She graduated from Boston College's School of Nursing in 1974, and in 1983 earned her degree as nurse practitioner from the Medical College of Virginia. Sister Kenny moved to southwest Virginia in 1978.

"Her caring nature, delicate touch and dedication to people's well-being has made her a dear friend of us all (in far southwestern Virginia)," said Bernard Reilly, former president of Dickenson County Citizens Committee in Clinchco.

"She helps people maintain and increase their self-respect and self-confidence," he told The Catholic Virginian, Richmond's diocesan newspaper.

Dr. Thomas E. Renfro, a physician at St. Mary's Medical Arts Building in Norton, said Sister Kenny "has truly and literally gone the extra mile to provide the needed care for these people and in doing so has advanced their understanding and appreciation of the quality care that primary care providers give."

CNS PHOTO FROM EXTENSION SOCIETY

Medical Missionary of Mary Sister Bernadette Kenny makes a house call to check on 6-year-old Whitney Holts in Clinchoco, Va. Sister Kenny was honored for her work among the Appalachian poor with the 1998 Lumen Christi award from the Catholic Church Extension Society.

In his nomination Bishop Sullivan cited examples of how she helps people. In one instance, she responded to the call of a single woman who was in labor alone in an isolated mountain home, he said. The local roads were closed because of ice and snow.

"Good Samaritan Bernie drove as far as possible in her vehicle and walked the next 1.5 miles with her doctor kit in hand," Bishop Sullivan said.

When she reached the woman, she got her to her four-wheel-drive truck and drove her to the hospital through the snow while instructing her to take deep breaths and to hold on. Three minutes after their arrival a healthy baby was born.

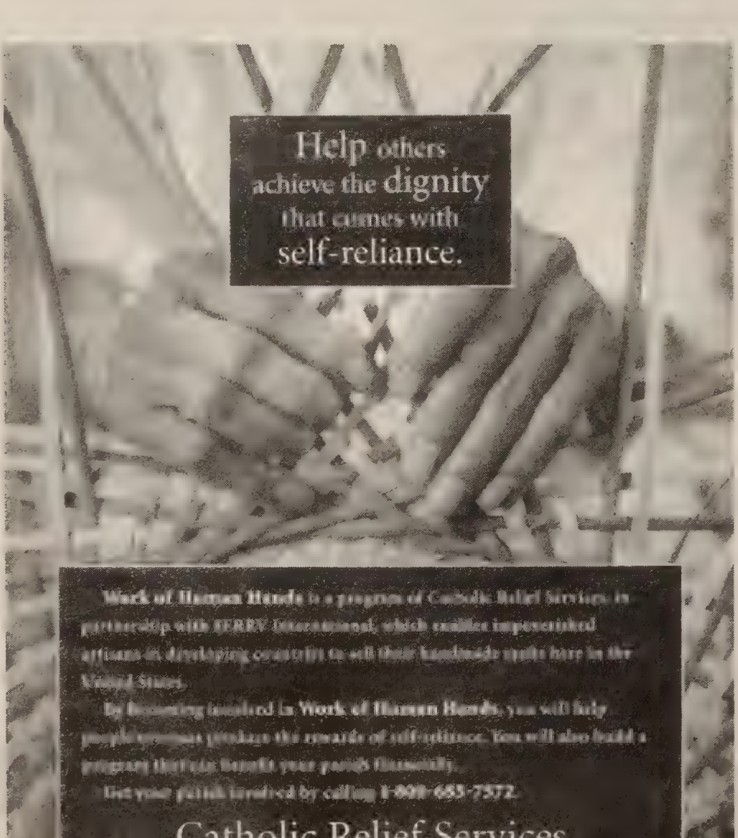
"Her embodiment of the healing touch of Christ to isolated, underserved, poor Appalachians in need of essential medical services over these past 20 years makes Sister Bernie worthy of this recognition," Bishop Sullivan wrote.

Nominations for the Lumen Christi Award are submitted by bishops across the country and reviewed by a committee which selects the candidate who best manifests the Extension Society's missionary spirit.

The recipient receives $2,500 and a plaque and the diocese of the nominating bishop receives $25,000 for further outreach in the diocese.

The Catholic Church Extension Society is a national organization that helps support the Catholic Church in rural, remote and poor areas of the United States and its territories. ▼

Contributing to this story was Steve Neill in Richmond.


Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.
Catholic Relief Services

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

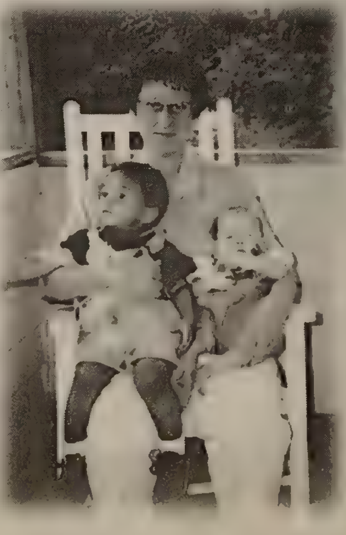
With thanks to...

Trish, as she is affectionately known, has served during the past three years as Child Care Specialist, House Manager and now Director of Residential Services for Room at the Inn. The moms, kids, volunteers, staff and board members want to say "thanks" and honor Trish for her loyalty and unselfish dedication to this ministry.

A blessing to our home, Trish's days are never boring. A "mom" to us all, you can find her on a midnight run to the hospital, in a chair with a lap full of little ones, or spending twelve hours of labor with a new mother — coaching and encouraging every step of the way. Humor, support and sharing life's experiences are Trish's gifts to us all and we are so grateful to her.

Room at the Inn, Inc., is a unique comprehensive program which helps homeless, single, pregnant women (with or without other children) through pregnancy and up to one year after birth. Providing shelter, clothing, food, baby supplies, transportation, in-house child care, counseling and case management, this non-profit agency is licensed by the state of North Carolina. If you would like more information, please call.

Room at the Inn
(704) 643-0699



Patricia Lavoie

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S300 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 30, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 9

Inside

Jubilee 2000
Charlotte conference celebrates the Spirit
...Page 15

Catholics condemn doctor's murder
...Page 3

Local News

Seniors Day of Reflection held in Hickory
...Page 16

Mercy Sister Mary Vincent Spencer dies at 96
...Page 14

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...Pages 4-5
Faith Alive!
...Pages 8-9

Feast of All Saints, Nov. 1

"It is in this mingling of earthly and heavenly music as sharing in both, that the saints appear: 'Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches!'(Ps 149:5)"

Days of Devotion
Pope John XXIII

Breaking the cycle

Healing in the wake of domestic violence

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Antonio doesn't remember the first time he hit his wife.

He didn't think anything of it then.

More abuse, both physical and emotional, followed. His wife finally called the police.

"When I went to jail, I was surprised — not because of the fact that I had hit her, but the fact that she called 911," Antonio told a group of law enforcement trainees during a domestic violence awareness session at Mecklenburg County Jail North Oct. 22.

Time in jail and six months of counseling at a county-run batterers' education program started Antonio's process of healing himself and the relationship with his wife.

"It's a challenge to find out who you really are," Antonio said. "Sometimes you have to fall. How you pick yourself up, that's how you find out who you are."

Through the program, New Options for Violent Actions (NOVA), Antonio met Joe Marinello. An educational counselor and a member of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office's Domestic Violence Task Force, Marinello ministers to domestic violence offenders on both sides of prison walls.

Marinello, a graduate of Belmont Abbey College, is a parishioner of St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte. He has counseled and educated for four years, and called his job "a calling" and "truly vocational work."

"I didn't know how I was going to deal with him when he first came into the program because he was rebellious, to say the least," Marinello said of Antonio. Anger and denial fueled Antonio's feelings. But in time, Marinello said, Antonio began asking real questions about accepting responsibility and wanting to change.

The batterer's process of realization and acceptance is the only way to stop the abuse, Marinello said, adding that 95 percent of offenders are men. He said he believes that men can change, but it must involve an evolution in the way they think about women.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Behold the season ...
"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9)

During the awareness session, Marinello and Paula Irby Thomason, also on the task force, examined domestic violence, its impact on society and the misguided attitude that domestic violence is a permissible form of behavior.

Offering a historical perspective, Thomason said that acceptance of violence against women has been "articulated in the precepts of religion, philosophy and law" for centuries.

"We've got a lot of work to do," added Thomason, who also works at United Family Services' The Shelter for Battered Women in Charlotte. "Not until the late '70s did the law (truly become) an ally for women and children."

In addition to counseling outside the county jail, both counselors coordinate the jail's domestic violence program, a "forced intervention" established for inmates 18 months ago. "They're all required to take it, because when you think about domestic violence, it really is the hub of all crime," Marinello said.

The jail program consists of a domestic violence awareness survey highlighting definitions, symptoms

See DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, page 14

The World in Brief

Vatican official urges leaders to address status of Jerusalem

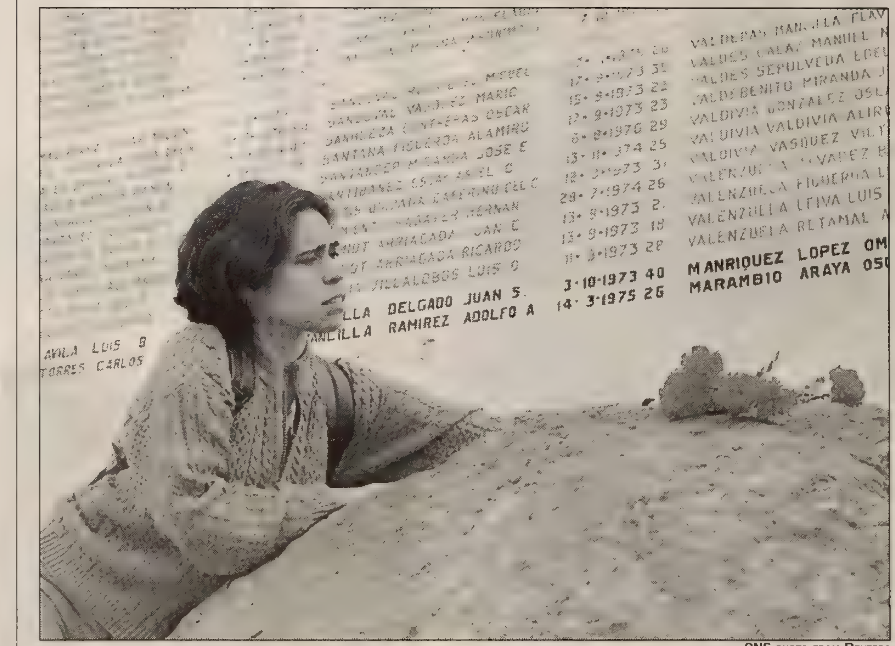
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A top Vatican official urged Israelis and Palestinians to address the status of Jerusalem and find a solution that meets their territorial interests and the wider concerns of all Christians, Muslims and Jews. With East Jerusalem still under Israeli military occupation, the situation today is one of "manifest international injustice," Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, an assistant secretary of state, said Oct. 26. Any political solution on Jerusalem should have the agreement of religious leaders at the local and international level, the archbishop said.

Social health index registers another slight gain

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Index of Social Health, which monitors the social well-being of the United States, registered a slight gain for the second year in a row for 1996, the last year for which comprehensive statistics were available. It was the first time the index, assembled by the Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy at the Fordham Graduate Center in Tarrytown, N.Y., had registered gains in consecutive years since 1987-89. The 1996 social health index stood at 43.1 out of a possible 100, up from 40.0 in 1995. It is still a far cry from the index's high point of 74.4 in 1972, the index's third year.

Don't tell churchgoers how to vote, interfaith group says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Get involved in voter education, registration and discussion of issues, but draw the line at telling churchgoers how to vote, an interfaith organization is telling religious leaders. "Two distinctly different ways of mixing religion and politics are at work in our nation," said the Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance and a Baptist minister. "Using religion as a cover, political operatives ask houses of worship to function as political distribution machines, disseminating partisan materials under the guise of 'voter education,'" Rev. Gaddy said at a Oct. 21 press conference.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Memorial in Chile

Carla Soto leaves flowers near a memorial to her grandfather and dozens of other alleged victims of the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet Oct. 22 in Santiago. Pinochet was arrested in London Oct. 17 and is being held on an appeal for his extradition to Spain to face charges of human rights abuses.

Faiths unite to fight death penalty in California

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Fourteen religious leaders, dozens of members of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim and Quaker faith communities, and victims of violence spoke out recently against capital punishment in California. The event bringing these people together was the Oct. 8-10 conference in San Francisco called "Changing Hearts and Minds," billed as California's first interfaith effort against the death penalty. Sponsored by a statewide coalition, California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty, and Death Penalty Focus of California, conference workshops focused on making changes in a state where support for capital punishment runs higher than 70 percent.

MacBride Principles part of omnibus budget bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The MacBride Principles aimed at ending religious-based employment discrimination in Northern Ireland are now part of U.S. policy. They are included in the omnibus budget law signed Oct. 21 by President Clinton. The principles had been part of a 1996 bill approved by both houses of Congress but vetoed by Clinton on an unrelated matter. The omnibus bill contains $19.6 million in foreign aid to the International Fund for Ireland, meant to pick up the struggling economies in Northern Ireland and the six border counties in the Irish Republic.

Priest shortage responsibility of all, L.A. cardinal says

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — In an open letter to Catholics in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the nation's largest, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said solving the priest shortage in the archdiocese is "our collective responsibility." He outlined seven suggestions to help ease the shortage, and listed steps Catholics and parishes could take to bring about more priest vocations. "Did not Jesus foresee this very shortage when he spoke these words: 'The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few'?" Cardinal Mahony asked, quoting Matthew 9:37. According to the Official Catholic Directory, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles had 1,233 active priests, both diocesan and religious, as of Jan. 1. Only the archdioceses of New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia had more.

U.S. bishops face large agenda at November general meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Justice, human dignity, vocations and church laws will be on the U.S. Catholic bishops' agenda when they meet in Washington Nov. 16-19. They are slated to cast at least 22 votes on various items ranging from a statement on the pro-life challenge in the 21st century to regulations for recording names on baptismal registries. They will elect a new president and vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, as well as several committee chairmen. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president since 1995, and Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, vice president for the same period, will conclude their three-year terms of office with the November meeting.

Bill on drugs for suicide may come before next Congress

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A federal bill that would have blocked easy use of Oregon's doctor-assisted suicide law is dead for this term, but may have more friends when Congress reconvenes in 1999. Senate and House committees both approved the Lethal Drug Abuse Prevention Act for floor votes, but legislative leadership has been busy debating possible impeachment procedures. The drug bill's sponsor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., chairs the committee that will investigate charges against President Clinton. Hyde's bill — and a companion bill sponsored by Republican Sen. Don Nickles of Oklahoma — would make it illegal for doctors to prescribe federally controlled drugs for use in suicides.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

October 30, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 9
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Curlin will take part in the following events.

November 1 — 11 a.m. Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

November 2 — 7:30 p.m.
All Souls Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

November 5 — 6 p.m.
Room at the Inn Annual Banquet
Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte

November 7 — 2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

November 8 — 2 p.m.
25th and 50th wedding
anniversary celebration
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

November

3 WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Theresa Guild of St. Leo the Great Church hosts a card party and fashion show today from 7-10 p.m. Cards and board games are welcome, and dessert will be served. Tickets are $6 and can be purchased in advance from Helen Roulo at the parish office or at the door.

6 BREVARD — Sacred Heart Church, 4 Fortune Cove, hosts its annual craft fair today and Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Included are handmade crafts, baked and canned goods, jewelry, raffle items and a café.

HICKORY — A World Community Day ecumenical service is today in the fellowship hall of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 726 1st Ave. N.W. at 7 p.m. The focus is on the variety of cultures represented in the community. Child-care will be provided. Call Carole Marmorato, (828) 256-8956, for more information.

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass, preceded by the rosary and followed by Benediction and adoration, is celebrated in Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr.

7 ASHEVILLE — A catechist workshop focusing on Scripture, morality, the sacraments and the Creed is today at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Admission is free and includes lunch. Sister Marianne Alpha of Human Life International facilitates. To register, call (828) 252-8816 by Nov. 4.

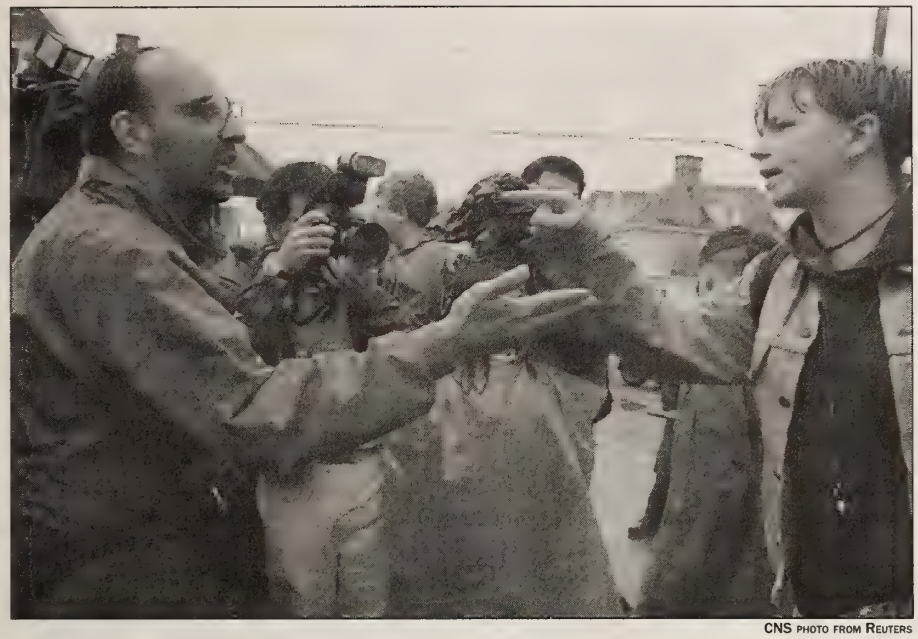
CHARLOTTE — A harvest dance is today from 8 p.m.-midnight in St. Matthew Church parish hall, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, with live music from The Atlanta Polka Band. Snacks and set-ups are provided. Admission is $12 per person; reservations for groups of eight or more are being accepted. For details, call Walter Swol at (704) 568-3238, or Frank

Catholic leaders, NRLC condemn killing of N.Y. abortionist

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — The Catholic bishop of Buffalo condemned as barbaric and cowardly the killing of a New York doctor who performed abortions.

Dr. Barnett Slepian, 52, was killed by a single shot from a high-powered rifle fired through a kitchen window at his home Oct. 23.

Police were investigating whether his death was connected with similar shootings of four other doctors who performed abortions. Three attacks in Canada and a fourth in Rochester, N.Y., since 1994 all involved gunshots from a high-powered rifle fired through windows at the doctors' homes. None of the other shootings was fatal.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Dr. Barnett Slepian (left) argues with an unidentified anti-abortion demonstrator outside a Buffalo abortion clinic in 1992. The doctor was killed in the kitchen of his home in Ahmerst, N.Y., Oct. 24 by a marksman with a high-powered rifle. Police were investigating whether his death was connected with similar shootings of four other doctors who performed abortions.

"I condemn the killing of Dr. Slepian as a barbarous act," Buffalo Bishop Henry J. Mansell said at an Oct. 25 press conference. "As pro-life people, we are committed to life at every stage."

Bishop Mansell said in a later statement that such an act "is totally contradictory to the values and ideals of people truly interested in life, and certainly to the pro-life movement."

In Philadelphia, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua said the attack on Slepian has a parallel to the recent beating death of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was a homosexual.

"These attacks are painful illustrations of what happens when we succumb to what our Holy Father has labeled 'the culture of death,'" Cardinal Bevilacqua said. "There is dignity in every person, and when one person's dignity is denied, the dignity of each of us is diminished."

> **"I condemn the killing of Dr. Slepian as a barbarous act," Buffalo Bishop Henry J. Mansell said at an Oct. 25 press conference. "As pro-life people, we are committed to life at every stage."**

He said he finds it "difficult to fathom someone who claims to be pro-life committing such a repugnant anti-life act. The pro-life effort is about love and respect. It is not about hate; it is not about condemnation; it is not about violence."

The National Right to Life Committee encouraged the prompt arrest and prosecution of the individual or group responsible for "this senseless act of violence."

David N. O'Steen, executive director of NRLC, said the group, "unequivocally condemns any such acts of violence used by individuals, regardless of their motivation."

The NRLC statement took issue with the suggestion made by some groups and individuals since Slepian's shooting that speaking out against abortion leads to such violence.

"Such a suggestion is like blaming the civil rights movement — and all those who courageously spoke in favor of the rights of African Americans — for the riots or deaths that were a part of that era," said the NRLC. ▼

'Bemardin' referendum on Cook County ballot

By MICHAEL WIMBLE
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Though it's a concept, not a candidate, a 56-word question will get name recognition in Cook County voting booths Nov. 3.

The primary source for the non-binding referendum was the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin's 1995 address to delegates of the American Medical Association.

The referendum asks if the Illinois General Assembly should "establish health care as a basic right of every person" by July 4, 2000. The measure failed to reach the floor of the Illinois House of Representatives for a vote in the last House session.

Dr. Warren Furey, personal physician to the late cardinal, and Dr. Quentin Young, president of the American Public Health Association, hope that a "Yes" vote in Cook County will revive interest and support for the amendment named in Bernardin's honor in the House.

While business community critics argue that the financial demands of such an amendment would have severe effects on state spending, Democratic state Rep. Michael Boland, the amendment's sponsor in the House, points to three states with either universal health care (Hawaii) or universal coverage for those age 18 and under (Vermont and Minnesota).

"There are presently huge wastes of money within the state health care system. This could be paid for without state budget increases. We have a moral commitment to help everyone," said Furey.

In a political atmosphere that Young describes as "a turn-off," he sees public policy issues as having the ability to send voters into the booth.

"We haven't heard much about issues," said Young. "Maybe this nonpartisan issue can bring people to the polls where they can make a decision on this issue and choices on the candidates." ▼

Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

CHARLOTTE — Internationally known, ecumenical music ministry the Celebrant Singers perform in concert today at 7 p.m. in St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be taken. Recordings may be purchased at the event. The concert is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

HUNTERSVILLE — A financial seminar for individuals whose spouses have died is from 9-11:30 a.m. today at Huntersville United Methodist Church, 100 Ranson Drive. Daniel J. Taylor, founder of a Chalotte-based financial firm specializing in working with the widowed, facilitates. To register, call Sister Therese Galligan, (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

MONROE — The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Lourdes Church hosts a unique auction and bake sale today from noon-3 p.m. in the church hall on parish grounds, 725 Deese St. Handmade items, door prizes, grab bags and food highlight the event.

SYLVA — A workshop on parish implementation of the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. All interested persons are invited. Bring a bag lunch; drinks are provided. Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. Admission is free, and registration is required by calling (704) 370-3231.

8 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. Call Josie for details at (704) 527-4676.

9 CLEMMONS — A charismatic healing Mass is today at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Call (336) 778-0600 for details.

11 WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School's annual open house is today from 7-9 p.m. for all interested students in grades 8-11 and their families. Open house admission is free. For details, call (336) 725-4247.

14 CHARLOTTE — The Men's Club of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., hosts its annual "Extravaganza" at 6:30 p.m. Several local charities will benefit from proceeds, and the event includes food, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and a raffle for $2,500. Cost is $25 per person. Call Bill Maryman, (704) 542-0351, with auction item donations or for reservation information.

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Lutheran Synod and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte sponsor "One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism," an event for adults who work with youth, today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 2210 North Elm St. The seminar includes a keynote speech, prayer and a variety of workshops. Cost is $15. For registration information, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

HENDERSONVILLE — A natural family planning series taught by the Couple to Couple League begins today from 7-9 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. The method taught is the Sympto-Thermal method. For details and to register, call Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

Correction

A diocesan planner item in the Oct. 9 and 16 issues of The Catholic News & Herald incorrectly identified the profession of Dr. Martha Shuping of Winston-Salem. She is a psychiatrist.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Christianity is lesson of love, not a self-help program

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gospel of Christ is not a self-help manual, but a proclamation of the truth that salvation is a gift requiring a response of love for others, Pope John Paul II said.

"Christian spirituality does not consist in an attempt at self-perfection as if man, by his own efforts, can promote his own holistic growth and achieve salvation," the pope said.

Christian spirituality, he said at his Oct. 21 weekly general audience, "consists in welcoming all the life that the Spirit gives us."

The human heart is wounded by sin and healed only through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the pope said.

"Only if sustained by this grace can men and women live as true children of God.

"Christian spirituality does not consist in becoming almost 'immaterial,' disembodied or lacking responsible commitments," he said.

In fact, Pope John Paul said, the presence of the Holy Spirit should penetrate "our whole being — intelligence, will, affections, corporeality" — so that everything a Christian says and does will reflect and proclaim salvation in Christ.

"The Holy Spirit, equal to the Father and the Son, is the protagonist of that 'Gospel of life' which the church never tires of announcing and witnessing before the world," he said.

The Gospel of life, the pope said, "is not simply a reflection on human life nor simply a commandment" that all human life must be defended, protected and loved.

The Gospel of life is an announcement of Christ who gave his life so that all people could have eternal life, he said.

"The life which Jesus Christ gives us is a living water which quenches the deepest thirst of man and introduces him, as a son, into full communion with God. This living water and giver of life is the Holy Spirit," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said it is only in imitation of Christ that Christians can find the true meaning of life, which is "to be a gift which fulfills itself in self-giving."

In brief remarks at the end of the audience, the pope welcomed a pilgrimage from the Diocese of Derry, Northern Ireland, saying, "I pray that God will bless that region with lasting peace."

Commitment needed to keep peace, pope tells new Irish ambassador

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling permanent peace a "fragile reality" in Northern Ireland, Pope John Paul II encouraged the Irish people to be open to compromise and committed to equality. Meeting the Irish Republic's new ambassador to the Vatican Oct. 23, the pope said, "I pray that the future of all the people of Ireland, without distinction, will be grounded in justice, equity and harmony." Eamon O'Tuathail, the new ambassador, told the pope, "The Holy See has played an important part in seeking to build bridges and to promote peace in Ireland.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Seeing Jesus as he really is

As the cool weather hit us rather suddenly, I was not surprised to hear someone say, "The next thing you know, the holidays will be here."

It had the tone of complaint.

I couldn't help myself. I had to say, "Yes, but isn't it wonderful that the season of Jesus will be with us again." For that's what Christmas really is — the time to remember who Jesus is and why he came to be with us.

Jesus was very much on my mind because I just had read "A Portrait of Jesus" (Doubleday), a thoughtful book by Father Joseph Girzone. Many people of all faiths know Father Girzone as the author of the very human and beautiful "Joshua" books.

A few summers ago I had the privilege of making a retreat with him and his co-worker, Dominican Sister Dorothy Ederer. They were two incredibly caring people, so enamored of Jesus that it took them no time to create a climate of acceptance and love for the group of us who had come together to meet Christ.

Father Girzone has an agenda, and it comes through loud and clear. His concern is that while we get sermons on catechism, theology, Scripture and moral issues, Jesus as a person is too often ignored.

Making Jesus' presence real is the mission Father Girzone has taken on. He presents Jesus as a person, so that we can see him walking the pathways, eating, healing people, living a lifestyle "free from the clutter of the law," treating people as friends, revering nature, focusing always on what is in the heart of a person.

Founder of the Joshua Foundation, an organization dedicated to making Jesus better known throughout the world, Father Girzone believes if we took Jesus seriously, so that "Christ lives in me," as St. Paul said, we could bring about a profound, good effect upon the whole world.

Here is Father Girzone's blueprint:

"If we acted kindly toward those we work with, and were understanding and forgiving of those we live with; if we were spiritual in our interests and concerned about helping those around us who are undergoing hard times and financial reversals; if in our local politics we were genuinely concerned about the good of the people and rose above petty, self-serving motives; if we learned to be forgiving and understanding, rather than overly prone to take offense, what a world this could be! And if this spirit spread, people could see how beautiful it is to be a Christian, and what it means to be sons and daughters of the great king."

Certainly, of all who have made an impact on the world, one alone stands out as absolutely unique — Jesus. He never let up on the message that God is intrinsically bound up with us even in all the ordinary aspects of life, that the kingdom of God is related to everyday events. He turned upside down every value the world wants: power, wealth, success. He said the kingdom of God holds values just the opposite.

And he left us with unfinished business — the challenge of carrying on his work. Each of us must discover for ourselves how to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, forgive enemies and learn to make peace, to be just, to love.

Father Girzone maintains that the focus of our religion should be to "make Jesus' presence known." Who could disagree with that?

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Spiritual petitions

Sister Yvonne Nelson stood in the vestibule of St. Boniface Church in Jellico, Tenn., and handed parishioners a flyer asking "Who Carries the Burden of the World Debt?" With posters as a backdrop she patiently explained how servicing international debt robs the poorest countries of their ability to provide their people with education, health care and food. She encouraged the parishioners to sign a petition asking rich nations to declare a Jubilee year and effect major debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

Few understand the intricacies of international finance, but Sister Yvonne and the folks of Jubilee 2000/USA (Box 29550, Washington, D.C. 20017) recognize the effects of world debt on the poor.

A mother in Lima, Peru, cannot send her two older children to school because the government reduced educational funds to service the debt from arms purchased by previous military administrations. The peasants of Danao in the Philippines cannot replant their mangrove forest because the government must develop the area commercially to pay the debts from the Marcos regime. Infant mortality rates continue to rise in Zambia, but the small African country must spend four times as much on debt servicing as it does on health care. The poor carry the burden of debt incurred by their leaders in the 1970s and 1980s for questionable development projects, excessive military expenditures and personal corruption. As economist Pat Adams writes, "The rich got the loans, and the poor got the debts."

While most agree debtor nations need economic reforms, the severe structural adjustment programs demanded by international financial institutions in the near term ignore the basic human needs of vast numbers of people. To qualify for debt relief and new loans, and to attract foreign investment, debtor countries must conform to a relatively unregulated free market. Countries must earn hard currency.

The formula: Shift agricultural and industrial production from domestic needs to the export market, maintain low wage labor to attract foreign investment and exploit natural resources faster. To balance the budget, reduce government spending and increase taxes. The result: The poor lose vital medical, educational and human services.

The Jubilee year outlined in the Book of Leviticus, chapter 25, offers some inspiration for a religious response. Every 50 years the children of Israel needed to restore the social equality. Yahweh commanded that slaves be set free, that land be returned to its original owner and debts be forgiven. In both ancient and modern times, large debts make slaves of debtors.

Pope John Paul II says in his statement, "As the Third Millennium Draws Near," "Christians will have to raise their voice on behalf of all the poor of the world proposing the jubilee as an appropriate time to give thought...to reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations."

The debt crisis admits no quick fix, no facile answer. In a democracy citizens speaking out build the political will to recognize an injustice and correct it. Sister Yvonne, raising awareness that the world's poorest are suffering from unjust economic structures, stands in the best biblical tradition by transforming a page of signatures into a spiritual petition.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky. Has has a master's degree in economics.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Helping Mom and Dad talk about sex

The most surprising thing I learned during a recent Christopher Closeup interview with two respected authorities on young people is how difficult it is for parents and their kids to have any discussions with one another about sex.

Lois Leiderman Davitz and Joel Davitz are now retired from Columbia University, where they taught psychology and education while conducting research, but they are still shedding light on the human dynamics of family values. Their recent book, "20 Tough Questions Teenagers Ask and 20 Tough Answers," (Paulist Press) put it bluntly: "A parent simply doesn't like the thought of one's own child having sex, just as kids feel uneasy thinking that their parents have sex. OK for everyone else, but not in the family."

Their explanation for the awkwardness in talking about sex should resonate with anyone who sought and found information and guidance about sexual matters from anybody and anywhere except mom and dad. But the fact remains: Most parents do understand much of their youngsters' concerns. As hard as it is for any generation of young people to understand, parents really were kids once.

Looking back on my own teen-age years, it seems that the best — and only — information my mom and dad shared with me about sex was usually prompted by some occasional spontaneous and innocent prompting of my own.

Maybe you will be lucky and your teens will help you out.

Maybe they really will remember that you were once their age, that you were at one time caught up in the exciting, yet confusing, discovery of your own sexuality.

Maybe they will open the lines of communication themselves. Maybe they won't wait for you to indicate a readiness and openness to talk about sex. Maybe they will realize that you are uncertain how to start the conversation and worried about showing your feelings. Maybe they will take a chance and tell you they want to talk.

Maybe they will come up with some straightforward questions: "What was it like dating when you were young? What did you do when things got too hot to handle? What did you do about pressure from friends about sex?"

Maybe they will stay open and listen to you without prejudging what you say. Maybe they will understand that your goal is to try to share your values and your experiences, your knowledge and even your mistakes, so they will learn not only about sex and the world but also about you and about themselves.

Maybe after one of these conversations, they will reassure you that they appreciate your honesty as well your efforts to get beyond the awkwardness the Davitzes refer to. Maybe they will even tell you they love you. Sometimes it's hard to say, but it's the one thing you both need to hear.

But, just in case your teens don't do any of those things, you can. After all, you're the parent.

What it all really comes down to is respect — a loving regard for your children and their deeply felt concerns, for yourself as a person and a parent, and always for the truth.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Those discontinued missalettes

Q. Our parish formerly had small missals to assist people for the Scripture readings and other parts of the Sunday Mass. I was inspired to read the Bible and learned more about the faith.

About two years ago these "missalettes" were discontinued because, we were told, everyone's attention should be on the readers and priest at Mass. But sometimes people have hearing problems, there are disruptions, maybe babies crying, or other reasons we cannot hear or even see the priest or lector.

Also, people returning to the church after a lapse of time can feel embarrassed not being able to say the prayers with the "regulars."

I would appreciate it if you could help us who feel shortchanged understand why this is being done.

A. The dilemma you and your pastor face here is a common one and not easily resolved. First, many (maybe most) Catholics and other Christians are no longer aware that listening attentively and reverently to the word of God is itself an act of worship.

It is, after all, not only God's word written there. The teaching and tradition of the church is that it is God, Christ, who is proclaiming that word in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

In their instructions for the revision of the liturgy, the bishops at Vatican Council II simply repeated a long traditional belief when they taught that: "In the liturgy God speaks to his people, and Christ is still proclaiming his Gospel. And the people reply to God both by song and by prayer" (Constitution on the Liturgy, 33).

In other words, while reading Scripture is prayerful, faithful and commendable, listening adds another whole worship dimension to which we are invited and challenged in the sacred liturgy.

Many Catholics, aware of this, even prepare themselves sometime before Sunday Mass by reading and perhaps studying the Scripture texts a bit so they can hear them and respond to them more profitably at Mass.

There is no question that this is the ideal, what the church in its centuries-old tradition believes is happening in liturgical celebrations.

The other part of the dilemma is, of course, the one you raise. The quality of the proclamation of the readings by lectors, deacons and priests varies greatly. Even more, not all the readers prepare as well as they ought in order to be sure they understand the meaning and that it comes out intelligently.

Beyond that there are sound systems that could be better, and what is happening around us can often make it difficult to hear or pay attention.

While it is not easy, all these concerns obviously need to be considered seriously in any parish that takes its liturgical worship seriously. In communal worship, however, which Mass and other liturgies are, some sense of priority needs to be given to listening to God proclaiming his word to us. That, I'm sure, is what your pastor is trying to do.

Finally, even missalettes can be confusing to returning Catholics, so they're not the perfect answer either. In the parish I served until recently, we prepared a simple card indicating the sequence of ceremonies at Mass, with the parts of Mass said together by the people printed out.

That solution proved helpful not only to those coming back, but to visiting non-Catholics and even Catholics who didn't wish to bother continuously flipping pages.

Planned Giving

JIM KELLEY
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

A voice for Christian wishes

For most people in today's world, change remains a constant. Your circle of loved ones can increase or diminish over time as children grow up and have children of their own, good friends move away, and new friends come into your life.

These are but three examples that can call for a review of long-term financial plans. Even thoughtful, well-drafted documents may require an update from time to time because of events in family life, changes in tax laws or economic fluctuations.

An overall view

An estate plan often consists of, or revolves around, a will. This document sets forth provisions for members of your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese, or the diocesan Foundation. It can also be used to distribute property not placed in a trust or other arrangement, as well as express to the court your choice of guardian for minor children or others in your care.

After the initial estate plan is in place, many believe it is wise to review it with an attorney either when significant changes occur or about every three years. This helps assure that your wishes and your asset holdings are the best they can be. Instead of starting over with a new will each time revisions become necessary, it is good to know that a variety of changes can be made by using a simple "codicil" (amendment).

Typical events that might warrant revisions include a birth, a change in marital status, or the loss of a loved one. Changes in friendships, affiliations, or charitable interests may prompt the needs for a review, as can a significant change in wealth or a move to another state.

Seek professional help

A will, living trust or other legal arrangement helps organize your property and desires. Something you may wish to note is that the content of a will eventually becomes available to the public, although the content of a trust remains private.

Catholics from all walks of life tell us that they view estate planning as an opportunity for faithful Christian stewardship by assuring ongoing support to their family and loved ones, their parish, Catholic school agency, the diocese or the diocesan Foundation. Some use a bequest to make a "gift of a lifetime" — one that might not be possible now because of their current responsibilities and the resources required to carry them out.

Advantageous options may be yours when your rely on an attorney with experience in estate matters. He or she keeps up with laws, knows ways to minimize estate settlement expenses, pitfalls to avoid, and perhaps ways to saves taxes in order for you to conserve more property for loved ones through gifts to the church and other charitable organizations.

As one who has witnessed the heartache caused by an absence of long-term plans, I encourage you to safeguard your heirs and your property through proper planning. If you are interested in more information, please contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte Development Office, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301, or my associate, Cindy Rice, at (704) 370-3320.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Mideast Summit

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu grasp hands as Jordan's King Hussein (center) and President Bill Clinton (behind Netanyahu) look on at the signing of the land for peace agreement at the White House Oct. 23.

Vandalism at Philadelphia parish leads to a 'mitzvah'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — An act of vandalism at Good Shepherd Church in Philadelphia had some of its sting removed through a "mitzvah," or good deed, by a local Jewish philanthropist. Following news reports of its extensively damaged sanctuary, the parish got a surprise donation of $2,500 from the Lucille and Kal Rudman Foundation, headed by businessman Kal Rudman. Father J. Thomas Heron, pastor of the southwest Philadelphia parish, discovered on the morning of Oct. 13 that the church had been broken into.

Brazilian priest who spoke out against drug trafficking murdered

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — A Brazilian priest regarded as a champion against drug trafficking and drug consumption was murdered after celebrating Mass in a slum in Rio de Janeiro. Early on Oct. 19 police found the body of Father Oto Campos Braga, 39, inside his car after he was reported missing late on Oct. 18. Father Braga was attacked the evening of Oct. 18 after celebrating Mass. According to early investigations, the priest was repeatedly beaten with stones and sticks and his car was set afire.

Steubenville bishop receives 1998 Bishop O'Neill Award

HOUSTON (CNS) — Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon of Steubenville, Ohio, president of the Steubenville Register diocesan newspaper, is the 1998 recipient of the Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill Award. The award was presented during the Catholic Press Association regional convention Oct. 14-16 in Houston. It recognizes exemplary support among U.S. and Canadian Catholic bishops, archbishops and cardinals for the Catholic press and for editors of Catholic publications. The honor is given by the staff of The Observer, newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford, Ill. It is named for retired Bishop Arthur J. O'Neill, who headed the diocese from 1968 to 1994. His involvement with The Observer spanned 40 years, first as editor, then as publisher when he became bishop.

French cardinal, rabbi honored for work on Catholic-Jewish ties

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris and Rabbi Rene-Samuel Sirat, former chief rabbi of France, were honored in New York Oct. 20 for their work in Christian-Jewish relations. The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., gave its "Nostra Aetate" Award to the two religious leaders before an interreligious audience that packed the Sutton Place Synagogue in Manhattan. The award is named for the Latin title of the declaration on non-Christian religions by the Second Vatican Council.

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
Summit Station
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-5
Closed Sunday

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE™

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

(Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title The Catholic News & Herald	2. Publication Number 0 0 7 - 3 9 3	3. Filing Date 10/26/98
4. Issue Frequency Weekly except bi-weekly during June, July, Aug. No Christmas or Easter week.	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 44	6. Annual Subscription Price $15/yr for enrollees in parishes: all others $15/yr
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication *(Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)* 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003		Contact Person Michael A. Krokos Telephone 704-370-3333

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher *(Not printer)*

PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor *(Do not leave blank)*

Publisher *(Name and complete mailing address)*

Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlott
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*

Michael A. Krokos
PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237

Managing Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*

10. Owner *(Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)*

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte	1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status *(For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates) (Check one)*
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months *(Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)*

PS Form **3526**, September 1995 *(See Instructions on Reverse)*

13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
The Catholic News & Herald		October 23, 1998	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		**Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months**	**Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date**
a. Total Number of Copies *(Net press run)*		40,780	42,900
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales *(Not mailed)*	-0-	-0-
	(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions *(Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange copies)*	40,050	42,149
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation *(Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))* ▶		40,050	42,149
d. Free Distribution by Mail *(Samples, complimentary, and other free)*		295	295
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail *(Carriers or other means)*		55	55
f. Total Free Distribution *(Sum of 15d and 15e)* ▶		350	350
g. Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c and 15f)* ▶		40,400	42,499
h. Copies not Distributed	(1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	380	380
	(2) Returns from News Agents	-0-	-0-
i. Total *(Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))* ▶		40,780	42,879
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation *(15c / 15g x 100)*		99%	99%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the 10/30/98 issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner	Date
Michael A. Krokos, Editor	10/26/98

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
6. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form **3526**, September 1995 *(Reverse)*

Christians called to take faith on the road as jubilee

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with national wire stories, along with articles from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

Are we there yet?

As a reminder that Christians are not there yet, Pope John Paul II has called on believers to make a pilgrimage for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 — to take their faith on the road and bear witness to the ultimate desitnation of every person.

By BERNADEANE CARR
Catholic News Service

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — On family trips, children are forever asking, "Are we there yet?"

As a reminder that Christians are not there yet, Pope John Paul II has called on believers to make a pilgrimage for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 — to take their faith on the road and bear witness to the ultimate destination of every person.

In a recent document, the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers said, "Pilgrimages have as their goal the tent of personal meeting with God and with oneself. ...The journey would not only be a movement of the body but also an itinerary of the soul."

The first Christian pilgrimages were to sites of Jesus' life and death. After these Holy Land sites were occupied by forces hostile to Christianity, pilgrims began traveling to Rome, tombs of saints and sites of Marian apparitions.

To begin the new millennium, Pope John Paul intends to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along with millions of others traveling there, his journey will have a spiritual purpose.

According to Charlene Byrd, a travel agent for 25 years, people arranging a religious tour tell her, "I need to concentrate on my faith." Byrd is a parishioner at St. Catherine Laboure, San Diego.

"I think they've been really called," she told The Southern Cross, San Diego's diocesan newspaper. "They always have a kind of fever, (a sense) that God wants them there." Religious travelers have "a sense of excitement rooted in faith," said Father Brian Hayes of Our Mother of Confidence in San Diego. He accompanied a tour to the Holy Land last year.

Byrd, who began planning pilgrimages after starting her own agency seven years ago, said religious tours allow pilgrims to focus on the spiritual meaning of sites.

Larry Michaels, a permanent deacon at Church of the Resurrection in Escondido, said people think a pilgrimage is "a great thing but impossible to do."

With his wife, Jean, Michaels has traveled repeatedly to the Holy Land with a nonprofit tour company catering to clergy of all denominations and other religious travelers.

In organizing a Catholic tour, Michaels said, the first thing is to sign up a priest.

"Regardless of how it starts, the whole thing becomes very Christ-oriented," he said. "For Catholics, not to have Mass available would make it much less appealing."

Byrd said the priest "is there for spiritual purposes — for confession, or perhaps renewal of marriage vows as some travelers do when visiting Cana, or to renew their baptism at the Jordan." Tour guides should handle any problems, she noted.

During an orientation before trips, said Jean Michaels, tour members see slides that show "what they're getting into." Bus tours of the Holy Land mean short drives between long walking explorations, sometimes "out on rough terrain at archaeological sites."

She said Holy Land pilgrims must realize they'll have tired feet at day's end. "Most have this idea of the way of the cross, so they come prepared" to suffer a bit, she added.

Compared with commercial travelers, the leaders observed, pilgrims have more patience regarding inconveniences or delays.

While professionally arranged tours to shrines and holy sites appear to be increasing, travelers still can do a lot on their own. Many holy sites in Europe, especially in Rome, and hundreds in the United States, Canada and Mexico are planning special events during 2000.

And Byrd said travelers on generic tours can add a spiritual dimension to their trip by using scheduled free time to visit nearby churches, monasteries or shrines. She suggested asking tour guides for directions.

By contrast, according to the Michaels, it is nearly impossible to travel on one's own to the Middle East because government regulation of travelers is strict. Package pilgrimages take care of the formalities of entry to countries, as well as efficient and secure access to out-of-the-way sites.

"The problem of the language, the challenge of finding a hotel at night, and the difficulty of even finding ancient sites would waste a lot of time if you went on your own," said Larry Michaels.

He said pilgrims to the Holy Land don't see much violence, although security measures often are visible.

According to Byrd and Father Hayes, pilgrimages yield abundant rewards. They spoke of an extraordinary bond that develops among travel companions. Father Hayes said there is "a good sense of people looking out for each other, taking care of each other."

Byrd said the presence of priests and the sacramental ministry they offer spills over to travelers not on the pilgrimage. People on other tours staying in the same hotels sometimes give up scheduled activities to attend Mass.

But the most cherished fruit of a pilgrimage, the one that pilgrims remember and try to repeat, is the vivid sense of faith they gain.

"I saw the Bible come alive," said Byrd of her own Holy Land tour. "Jesus became more personal through things we don't think of or realize." ▼

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

What is a canonization?

By FATHER ROBERT L. KINAST
Catholic News Service

Collage of Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Archbishop Oscar Romero, Oct. 26, 1998.

When Mother Teresa of Calcutta died last year, people all over the world spontaneously referred to her as a saint.

People who knew the heroic work of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador described him as a saint after he was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass.

Such popular declarations of sanctity go back to the very origin of the church. Official declarations, however, come more slowly.

The process by which an individual formally is declared a saint in the Catholic Church is called "canonization." It affirms that God has demonstrated in the life and through the intercession of an individual that this person is worthy of imitation and public praise throughout the church.

The term "canonization" comes from the Greek word "canon," which means a measuring device or list of standards. Both meanings apply to the canonization of saints.

On the one hand, when the church canonizes a person it declares that the saint is a standard of Christian principles and values whom the faithful may confidently imitate.

And, "canonization" means that a person is added to the list of holy women and men the church publicly honors in the liturgy.

But how does a person become a canonized saint?

In the early church there was no formal process for declaring a person a saint. Martyrs automatically were considered saints because of their willingness to sacrifice life itself for the sake of the faith. Others who publicly confessed their faith but were not martyred were given equal esteem.

After the age of persecution, the title of saint was extended to those who led outstanding Christian lives of prayer, service and leadership. These individuals were honored in local communities as spiritual patrons of the people, their names were added to the litany of saints to whom the faithful prayed and their life story was handed on — sometimes with embellishments that were not entirely factual.

When popular sentiment regarding individual saints went to extremes (especially during the early Middle Ages), local bishops began to examine the claims made in order to determine whether or not these individuals should be considered saints. By the end of the first millennium this decision frequently was referred to the pope, and in 1234 Pope Gregory IX decreed that a person could be honored as a saint only if canonized by the pope.

A process for this came to be incorporated into canon law. In 1983 Pope John Paul II simplified the whole procedure and entrusted it to the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

> *"When the church canonizes a person it declares that the saint is a standard of Christian principles and values whom the faithful may confidently imitate," explains Father Robert L. Kinast. While Christians, since the early church, are quick to name certain people saints, official declarations come more slowly, he adds.*

As it now stands, the canonization process begins when a petitioner writes to the local bishop recommending that a particular person be declared a saint. The bishop appoints someone to investigate the person's life. This person, technically called a postulator (presenter), examines all the evidence, including alleged miracles, and makes a report to the bishop.

The bishop, or his delegate, questions witnesses and examines the person's writings, consulting with others who can shed light on the person's life. When this inquiry is completed, all the information (called "The Acts of the Cause") is sent to the Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

The congregation next may declare the candidate venerable on the basis of the information submitted by the local church. Then it begins its own investigation of the individual's life and writings. The purpose is to determine whether the person exhibited a heroic level of Christian virtue and practice.

As part of this inquiry, one miracle involving the person's intercession must be verified. When this evidence has been collected and documented, it is presented to the pope.

If the pope is convinced that the person's life is truly outstanding, he issues a declaration of beatification, which includes a prayer composed to the one called "blessed." This means that the person is considered worthy of imitation and praise but is not yet added to the list (canon) of saints the whole church honors liturgically.

A beatified person is not considered for canonization until at least one additional miracle has been alleged, investigated and proven. Then the process culminates in a solemn declaration of sanctity extending veneration of the person to the whole church.

This process is obviously slow and rigorous. It relies on miracles through the intercession of the candidate because miracles are the clearest sign of God's testimony about the individual. Everything else is based on human judgment which can, of course, be mistaken.

Interest in canonized saints has fluctuated in church history. The greatest interest tends to appear when people's lives are most threatened — by war, famine, sickness or a decline in morals and religious practice.

Interest in the saints today is also stimulated for some people in society by a cultural fascination with the paranormal and mystical. The primary reason for canonizing a person a saint, however, is not to feed curiosity. It is to offer faithful people a list of holy men and women whose real lives can be imitated with confidence and commitment. ▼

Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.

Food for Thought

During the first century of the next millennium - say 30, 50 or 75 years from now - some people alive in the world today will become canonized saints. What kinds of people?

It is said that saints serve as signs that it is possible to follow Jesus Christ even when faced with the special struggles of one's own era. What are the struggles of our era?

- Some say that making and keeping commitments is a challenge for lots of contemporary people. Will a holy married couple or priest be canonized in the year 2040 because in the face of serious, maybe painful, obstacles they survived and thrived in their commitments?
- Some say depression as an illness is rising to epidemic proportions in these times. Will a contemporary of ours who demonstrates that God's gifts can yield hope against all odds be canonized in 2025?
- Again, violence threatens peace alarmingly nowadays. Will someone, or some group, be canonized in the next century as a sign that even where violence appears in command, God can creatively craft peace?

What kinds of people do you see as the saints of our times?

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive! Upcoming Edition

An upcoming edition asks:

Describe a situation in which you believe inspiration from the Spirit - the breath of God - moved someone you know to do something valuable.

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

"They should regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. The first requirement of a steward is that he prove trustworthy." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Bishop's Financial Stewardship Report

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the People of God in the Church in western North Carolina, for the proper stewardship of our financial resources. Therefore, I am pleased to once again present to you the annual financial report of the Central Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 1998.

I encourage you to review the financial information contained on the following pages. The report shows that the Central Administration of your diocese is financially healthy. I am grateful for this report and for the good works which have been accomplished during the past year. The countless numbers of parish outreach programs throughout the diocese have touched the lives of our brothers and sisters in ways that words cannot adequately express. These good works are the result of your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

Throughout this past year, diocesan educational ministries have been a major focus. Diocesan officials and parish representatives have been involved in studying the need for new schools in the Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point areas. On August 22, 1998, I dedicated a new 36,000 square foot addition to Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte. The campus ministry program is also being expanded for the 1998-99 school year to include campus ministers, interns or parish representatives at all 30 college campuses.

During this past year, we have made tremendous strides in addressing issues of social justice. Bishop Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh and I jointly sponsored a pastoral letter to the Catholics of North Carolina, Of One Heart and One Mind, *to address the economic disparities that exist in our state today, especially among the working poor. I also commissioned a study to identify specific social and economic needs in the four counties which comprise the Smoky Mountain Vicariate. I look forward to receiving their report in early 1999. As a result of a recent study of senior Catholics, Catholic Social Services is coordinating a new parish-based ministry to meet the needs of our growing elder population.*

Our diocese continues to grow in number and need. While much is being done, the future will present new challenges as we strive to serve all God's people. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to continue to expand our ministries and open new churches and schools in response to continued growth here in western North Carolina.

I am very grateful for your support. I am aware of the tremendous sacrifices made by so many to support the Church. Your gifts to your parish, to the Diocesan Support Appeal and to special appeals directly support the ministries of the Church. I beg your continued assistance as, together, we build the Kingdom of God.

Remembering your needs in my daily prayer, I am

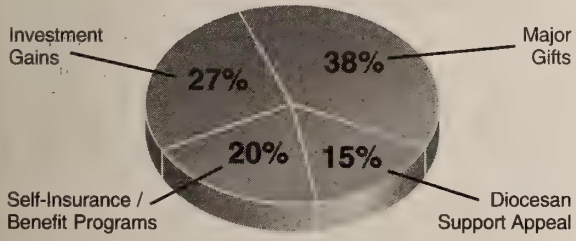
Devotedly in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Report from Chief Financial Officer

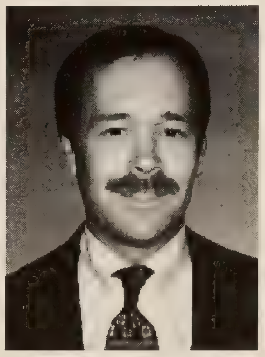
I am pleased to once again report that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The Central Administration of the Diocese, the administrative arm of the Catholic Church here in western North Carolina, completed the year ended June 30, 1998 with an increase in net assets, before the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle, of approximately $1,952,000. Included in this increase is $767,000 which has been restricted by donor imposed stipulations, as follows: (a) $690,000 represents an increase in permanent funds, primarily perpetual trust funds of which the diocese is an income beneficiary, but never receives the assets held in trust; and (b) $77,000 represents an increase in net assets whose use is limited by donor imposed restrictions which are temporary and had not been satisfied as of June 30, 1998.



The remainder of $1,185,000 represents an increase in unrestricted net assets. This increase is primarily attributable to special purpose activities which, in turn, affect how and when these surplus funds should be spent. These activities are as follows:

- *Self-insurance and employee benefit programs - The amount by which these revenues exceeded claims and other expenses ($240,000) has been designated as additional insurance reserves for future contingencies.*
- *Receipt of major gifts ($450,000).*
- *DSA contributions - Included in current year revenues are those funds which exceed the current year program budget and, thus, are for use next year ($180,000).*
- *The balance of the increase in unrestricted net assets ($315,000) is attributable to investment gains not allocated to current year programs.*

As a result of a recent change in accounting principle required by the new American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations, *we have changed our method of accounting for beneficial interests in perpetual trusts. The adoption of this change had no impact on cash flow, but resulted in a one time cumulative increase in net assets of approximately $4,295,000. Under the terms of the perpetual trusts, we will receive the income earned on the trust assets, but will never receive the assets held in trust. As such, these assets are classified as permanently restricted.*



The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility. We have established and maintain a system of internal control that provides reasonable assurance that Church assets are safeguarded and that transactions are properly authorized and recorded. The Diocese recognizes its responsibility for monitoring the system of internal control and fostering a strong ethical climate. This responsibility is reflected in management's procedures and in the financial policies of the Diocese.

The financial statements of the Central Administration for the year ended June 30, 1998 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

William G. Weldon

William G. Weldon, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

The Central Administration of th

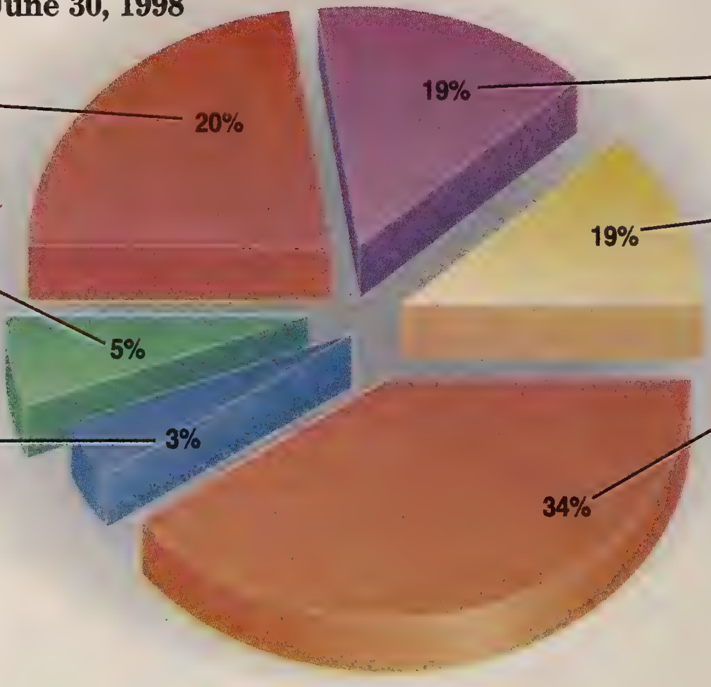
Financial Highlights

Sources of Revenue – Year ended June 30, 1998

Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) .... $ 2,760,000
Represents funds raised for use during fiscal 1998-99

Support of the *Catholic News & Herald* ...... $ 650,000
Primarily represents parish support of the newspaper

Catholic Conference Center Revenue .... $ 384,000
Primarily represents fees for use of the Conference Center



Investment Income .... $ 2,588,000
Represents interests, dividends, realized and unrealized gains

Other Sources .... $ 2,640,000
Represents gifts, donations, grants, collections, program and other fees, and rental income

Assessments .... $ 4,607,000
Assessments on diocesan parishes, schools and agencies to support administrative services, the property/liability insurance program and employee benefit programs

Total Revenue .... $ 13,629,000

Uses of Our Resources – Year ended June 30, 1998

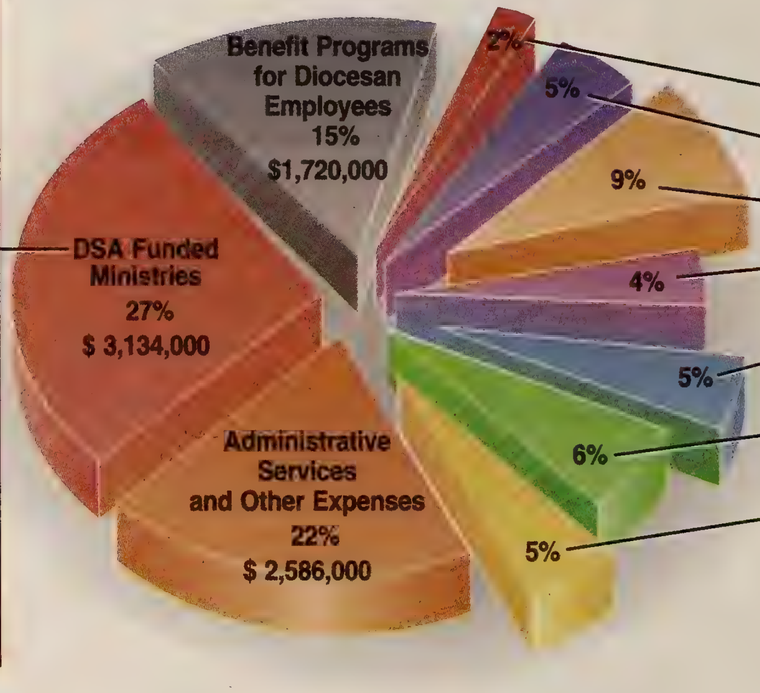
DSA Funded Ministries

(unaudited) *amounts in thousands*

Grants to Catholic Social Services		$ 939
Multicultural Ministries		281
African American	16	
Hispanic	167	
Vietnamese	29	
Hmong	27	
Montagnard	13	
Native American	29	
Educational Ministries		1,325
Faith Formation	268	
Catholic Schools	361	
Campus Ministry	351	
Evangelization	23	
Liturgy and Worship	1	
Lay Ministry Training	43	
Media Resources	61	
Vicar's Office	47	
Youth Ministry	170	
Vocations		589
Permanent Diaconate	75	
Seminarian Education	514	
Total Expenditures		$ 3,134

Note: Funding sources for above programs:

1997 Diocesan Support Appeal	2,473
Program specific support (fees, etc.)	244
Grants	124
Collections for seminarian education	82
Friend to Seminarians Appeal	101
General Central Administration support	110
Total	3,134



Grants and Subsidies .... $ 186,000

Chancery and Tribunal .... $ 625,000

Continuing Care of Clergy $1,064,000

Catholic Conference Center Operations .... $ 480,000

Publication of the *Catholic News & Herald* .... $ 638,000

Property / Liability Insurance Program .... $ 668,000

Interest Paid on Parish Savings .... $ 576,000

Total Expenses .... $ 11,677,000

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin,

Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statements of financial position of The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. (the Central Administration) as of June 30, 1998 and 1997, and the related combining statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Central Administration's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Central Administration as of June 30, 1998 and 1997, and the combining results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, the Central Administration changed its method of accounting for beneficial interests in perpetual trusts in accordance with the new American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Charlotte, North Carolina,
August 28, 1998.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Financial Statements

Combining Statement of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:				
Contributions-				
Diocesan support appeal (DSA)	$ 2,760,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,760,000
Other support - DSA programs	243,581	8,512	-	252,093
Assessments	4,607,094	-	-	4,607,094
Fees	236,712	-	-	236,712
Gift income	507,746	101,000	-	608,746
Catholic Conference Center	383,943	-	-	383,943
Cathedral Publishing, Inc.	649,900	-	-	649,900
Collections	-	361,807	-	361,807
Grants	-	206,000	-	206,000
Rental income	730,244	-	-	730,244
Interest and dividend income	836,109	-	141,142	977,251
Net realized/unrealized gains on long-term investments	1,061,691	-	549,265	1,610,956
Other	193,405	50,961	-	244,366
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions	651,715	(651,715)	-	-
Total revenues and other support	12,862,140	76,565	690,407	13,629,112
Expenses:				
Program-				
Educational ministries	1,325,138	-	-	1,325,138
Multicultural ministries	280,964	-	-	280,964
Vocations	588,739	-	-	588,739
Contributions and grants:				
Catholic Social Services	938,975	-	-	938,975
Other	186,407	-	-	186,407
Clergy continuing care program	1,064,167	-	-	1,064,167
Employee health benefits program	1,101,139	-	-	1,101,139
Property and liability insurance program	668,210	-	-	668,210
Lay employee retirement and disability programs	618,762	-	-	618,762
Cathedral Publishing	638,361	-	-	638,361
Catholic Conference Center	479,664	-	-	479,664
Tribunal	160,646	-	-	160,646
Total program expenses	8,051,172	-	-	8,051,172
Administrative-				
Chancery	464,617	-	-	464,617
Development, planning and communication	390,579	-	-	390,579
Finance administration	649,674	-	-	649,674
General administration	572,800	-	-	572,800
Rental property expense	329,033	-	-	329,033
Interest - Parish savings and investment programs	575,769	-	-	575,769
Depreciation	427,246	-	-	427,246
Other	109,139	-	-	109,139
Total administrative expenses	3,518,857	-	-	3,518,857
Fundraising	106,633	-	-	106,633
Total expenses	11,676,662	-	-	11,676,662
Change in net assets before cumulative change in accounting principle	1,185,478	76,565	690,407	1,952,450
Cumulative effect of change in accounting for beneficial interests in perpetual trusts (Note 2)	-	-	4,294,717	4,294,717
Change in net assets	1,185,478	76,565	4,985,124	6,247,167
Net assets, beginning of year	14,461,826	1,093,087	1,399,255	16,954,168
Net assets, end of year	$ 15,647,304	$ 1,169,652	$ 6,384,379	$ 23,201,335

Combined Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 1998

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,592,628
Accounts receivable-	
Pledges, net of amounts due parishes	640,465
Assessments	471,768
Bequests	20,000
Other	233,450
Prepaid expenses and other	435,744
Advances to parishes, net of discounts and allowances of $924,000	789,612
Notes receivable, net of discounts and allowances of $77,000	3,025,437
Investments	10,702,843
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust (Note 2)	4,861,805
Property and equipment, net	12,988,491
Total assets	$ 35,762,243
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 697,683
Accrued health claims	311,219
Accrued pension expense	265,390
Custodial obligations	10,882,439
Unearned revenue - Assessments	404,177
Total liabilities	12,560,908
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	15,647,304
Temporarily restricted	1,169,652
Permanently restricted	6,384,379
Total net assets	23,201,335
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 35,762,243

Combining Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended June 30, 1998

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	$ 6,247,167
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities-	
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	(4,294,717)
Depreciation expense	427,246
Gain on beneficial interest for perpetual trusts	(567,088)
Gain on disposition of property	(111,086)
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Increase in pledges receivable, net of amounts due parishes	(50,786)
Increase in assessments receivable	(150,714)
Decrease in bequests receivable	600,000
Increase in other receivables	(54,851)
Increase in prepaid expenses and other assets	(171,759)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	84,025
Increase in accrued health claims	75,966
Increase in accrued pension expense	28,858
Increase in unearned revenue - Assessments	13,747
Increase in custodial obligations	1,072,426
Net unrealized and realized gains on long-term investments	(1,610,956)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,537,478
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,745,248)
Proceeds from the disposition of property	241,068
Issuance of advances and notes	(348,630)
Payments received on advances and notes	1,637,573
Increase in discount on advances and notes	54,558
Sale of investments, net	215,829
Net cash used in investing activities	55,150
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,592,628
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	0
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 1,592,628

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Notes to Financial Statements — June 30, 1998

1. Organization:

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Central Administration provides diocesan entities with business and administrative services including: Administering a savings and investment program wherein all funds on deposit along with the associated accrued interest are reflected as custodial obligations of the Central Administration; arranging financing for diocesan entities; sponsoring a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan and a tax-deferred annuity plan covering substantially all lay employees; and providing medical and dental insurance coverage for employees. The Central Administration assesses the diocesan entities on a monthly basis to cover the costs of these benefits. In addition, the Central Administration oversees the operations of Cathedral Publishing, Inc., publisher of the *Catholic News and Herald*. The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as "the Central Administration."

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Central Administration are maintained on the accrual basis. The Central Administration complies with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Central Administration considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Central Administration has designated $215,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 1998:

	1998	Life (in years)
Land	$ 5,273,000	N/A
Buildings	7,186,000	30
Improvements	2,019,000	10
Equipment	504,000	10
Vehicles	290,000	5
	15,272,000	
Less - Accumulated depreciation	2,284,000	
	$12,988,000	

Tax-exempt Status

The Central Administration is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Assets

The Central Administration's net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Central Administration which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The officials of the Central Administration may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Central Administration is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Central Administration. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the combining statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Central Administration is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

Change in Accounting Principle

The Central Administration changed its method of accounting for beneficial interests in perpetual trusts as required by the new American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations. Under the terms of the perpetual trusts, the Central Administration has the irrevocable right to receive the income earned on trust assets, consisting primarily of government notes and bonds and various equities, in perpetuity, but never receives the assets held in trust. These assets are included as permanently restricted on the accompanying statement of financial position. The adoption of this change had no impact on cash flow, but had a one time cumulative effect on the change in net assets of approximately $4,295,000 in fiscal 1998.

Reclassifications

Certain 1997 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 1998 presentation.

3. Advances to Parishes:

The Central Administration maintains a revolving loan fund which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 1998 totaled approximately $1,713,000. These advances are long term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $790,000 in the accompanying combined statement of financial position at June 30, 1998.

4. Pledges and Assessments Receivable:

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 1998, approximately $640,000 in pledges out of a goal of $2,760,000 had not been collected.

The Central Administration assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and the *Catholic News and Herald*. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 1998 were approximately $472,000.

5. Notes Receivable:

The Central Administration has various notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 1998. These notes bear interest at rates ranging from prime minus 1.25% to prime plus .25%. A summary of notes receivable is as follows:

	1998
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools	$2,373,000
Parishes	450,000
Other	202,000
	$3,025,000

6. Investments:

Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the combining statement of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 1998 are summarized below:

	1998	
	Cost	Market
Common stocks	$5,000,000	$ 5,964,000
Bonds	4,057,000	4,220,000
Cash	492,000	492,000
Other	27,000	27,000
Total investments	$9,576,000	$10,703,000

7. Parish Savings and Investment Programs:

The Central Administration administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at 4% for the savings program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time and investment program funds may be withdrawn the first business day of each month subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $10,790,000 at June 30, 1998 and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statement of financial position.

8. Pension and Retirement Plans:

Lay Noncontributory Deferred Benefit Pension Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The net periodic pension cost of the pension plan is as follows:

	1998
Service cost on benefits earned during the year	$621,000
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	599,000
Actual return on plan assets	(654,000)
Net amortization and deferral	28,000
Net periodic pension cost	$594,000

The actuarial present value of benefit obligations and funded status is as follows:

	1998
Benefit obligations-	
Vested benefits	$ 6,805,000
Nonvested benefits	248,000
Accumulated benefit obligation	$ 7,053,000
Projected benefit obligation	$(8,905,000)
Plan assets at fair value	9,254,000
Projected benefit obligation less than plan assets	349,000
Unrecognized net (gain)	(924,000)
Unrecognized net transition obligation	310,000
Accrued pension cost	$ (265,000)

Assumptions used in developing the projected benefit obligation, are as follows:

	1998
Discount rate	7.5%
Rate of increase in compensation	4.5
Rate of return in plan assets	8.5

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Employer matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of contributions.

Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred annuity plan. Also, the diocesan assessment for lay employees' benefits is 4% of lay employees' salaries.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Central Administration sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide retirement benefits for priests within the Diocese. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within the temporarily restricted fund. Effective May 1997, the Central Administration transferred assets of approximately $2,471,000 to Wachovia Bank of North Carolina, N.A., as trustee of the Clergy Retirement Trust. Therefore, at June 30, 1997, there is no Clergy Plan obligation reflected on the combined statements of financial position. Contributions to this plan were approximately $302,000 in fiscal 1998.

An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for clergy retirement and other clergy benefits. Effective with fiscal 1998, each parish is assigned 3% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish.

9. Credit Arrangements:

The Central Administration maintains an approximate $202,000 unsecured, irrevocable standby letter of credit with a bank in order to guarantee payments to the third-party administrator of its medical self-insurance program. At June 30, 1998, no amount was outstanding under this arrangement.

10. Employee Health Benefits:

The Central Administration administers medical and dental insurance coverage for the employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Central Administration charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Central Administration has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental plan. The organizations pay their premiums directly to the third-party administrator who retains approximately 20% of the premiums submitted for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages. The remaining portion of the premiums are paid back to the Central Administration. The Central Administration is billed on a monthly basis for actual claims processed by the third-party administrator. The Central Administration has specific stop-loss coverage at $40,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 110% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $40,000. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $1,101,000 during fiscal 1998.

11. Contingencies:

The Central Administration is subject to various legal proceedings, which have arisen in the ordinary course of its business and have not been finally adjudicated. It is not possible at this time for the Central Administration to predict with any certainty the outcome of such litigation. However, management is of the opinion, based upon information presently available, that it is unlikely that any liability, to the extent not provided for through insurance or otherwise, would be material in relation to the Central Administration's financial position.

What the saints are all about

By SISTER THERESA SANDERS, RSCJ
Catholic News Service

Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement and a fierce advocate for the poor, once said she never wanted to be called a saint: "Don't dismiss me so easily!" she protested.

Day's point was that when most of us think of saints, we picture people whose eyes gaze constantly heavenward. We picture robes and halos, not men and women with real struggles, sins, doubts and limitations.

But if the saints were (and are!) in many ways like us, why venerate them?

One answer is that the saints serve as irrefutable evidence that it really is possible to live as Jesus taught.

In our world it is easy to become cynical. It is easy to dismiss any form of idealism as at best overoptimistic and at worst hopelessly naive.

But the saints refuse to let us give up so easily. Their lives challenge us really to hear the message of Jesus and allow it to change us.

CNS photo by Bill Wittman, Oct. 26, 1998

Second, the saints serve as models to imitate. The life of Francis of Assisi, for example, has inspired countless men and women to offer themselves in solidarity with the poor. The brilliant scholarship of Thomas Aquinas; the pioneer spirit of Philippine Duchesne; the courage of martyrs around the world: These provide patterns for us to follow.

However, the importance of the saints is not only that we should do what they did, but rather that we should be as faithful to God in our own lives as they were in theirs.

Every saint is an experiment. Every saint is a risk. What the saints have in common is that they take their lives in their hands and offer those lives to God, often without knowing in advance what will be asked of them.

When we venerate saints, we too take a risk. We risk being touched by God as deeply as they were. And who can say what might then be asked of us?

> *"When we venerate saints, we too take a risk," observes Sister Theresa Sanders of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. "We risk being touched by God as deeply as they were. And who can say what might then be asked of us?"*

Thus, in venerating saints we are not turning away from God but rather turning toward some of the clearest manifestations of God's work in the world.

In the eyes of saints we see God's compassion for the sick, God's love for the poor, God's care for creation and sometimes God's anger at the sins of humanity.

In a world where so many feel lost and alone, where so many starve for food, knowledge or simple kindness, the saints are God's signs of encouragement and hope.

How can you learn more about saints? You might begin by looking around you.

— Whose life inspires you?

— Whose love calls you to greater compassion for others?

If we start by looking for God's work in the people around us, we might be able to relate more easily to saints who lived far away in another country or another century.

Another good place to begin is the video store. The movies "Something Beautiful for God," "Romero," and "Entertaining Angels" depict the lives of Mother Teresa, Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador and Dorothy Day, respectively. All these figures lived in the 20th century, and though none has been formally canonized, their lives have inspired millions.

And there are many good books on saints in any Catholic bookstore. The encyclopedic Butler's Lives of the Saints is a standard reference, but there are numerous works for both adults and children seeking more information about holy people. ▾

Sister Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, teaches Christian theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

In a Nutshell

- The saints are God's signs of encouragement and hope in a world where many feel lost, alone; where many starve for food, knowledge or simple kindness.
- The saints also are role models for Christian living.
- "Canonization" adds a person to the list of holy women and men the church honors in the liturgy.

Why do we still need saints?

"Because saints are like friends and we all need friends. Saints are like spiritual friends. You can ask them to help you and to pray for you, just as you would a friend here on earth."
— *Neilia Mendez, East Lansing, Mich.*

"For me saints are models of Christian living. They're examples that somebody can do it, that real-life people in real-life situations are able to follow Jesus."
— *Sherie Berg, Indianapolis, Ind.*

"They're important because they're role models, people to emulate, for us to know that it's possible to follow God in the face of all odds. Again, we as the people of God all need each other, those who have gone before and those who are here now. It's not time-limited."
— *Mary Langguth, Washington, Iowa*

Immediate openings for role models

By FATHER LAWRENCE E. MICK
Catholic News Service

Role models are important for adults as well as children. We all need people to emulate, examples of how to live well.

The church has held up — canonized — certain people in every age to be role models for Christian living. Christ, of course, is our primary role model. We are called to shape our lives on his example.

The saints show us how that can be done in a wide variety of circumstances. They make the idea of imitating Christ concrete in every age.

If we imitate the saints, we imitate Christ.

In the course of the liturgical year, the church celebrates feast days of numerous saints. Some are well known and popular, like Mary and Joseph and St. Patrick. Others are obscure enough that most Catholics might not even recognize their names, like Sts. Nereus and Achilleus and Pancras, all martyrs whose memorial is observed May 12.

Even a cursory scan through the calendar of the liturgical year reveals the diversity of those recognized as saints over the centuries. You will find royalty like Stephen of Hungary (Aug. 16) and Louis of France (Aug. 25) along with peasants like Blessed Juan Diego (Dec. 9). You will see single people like Cecilia (Nov. 22) and married couples like Isidore and his wife Maria de la Cabeza (May 15).

The list includes those who attained great age like Pope Pius X (Aug. 21) and those who died very young like the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28). It encompasses those who led a wild youth like Augustine (Aug. 28) and those who died to preserve their innocence like Maria Goretti (July 6).

You can find great intellects like Teresa of Avila (Oct. 15) and the academically challenged like John Vianney (Aug. 4).

No matter who we are, we can find one or more saints whose example can be applied to our own lives and challenges.

The reform of the liturgical year following Vatican Council II gave primacy to the celebration of Sunday as our most basic feast. Thus, saints' feast days rarely displace the Sunday celebration. That means that saints' days are celebrated mostly by those who participate in daily Mass or in morning or evening prayer on weekdays.

The saints' feasts are not limited to the liturgy, however. We can celebrate any saint on his or her feast day in personal prayer, with a special meal, by recounting the saint's life at the dinner table or by highlighting an image of the saint in our homes.

Honoring the saints is a good way to keep healthy role models in mind in striving to live the Gospel in our own time. ▾

Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.

All contents copyright 1998, Catholic News service

FAITH alive!

Book Review

“Hesburgh: A Biography”

Theodore M. Hesburgh is one of the great figures of American Catholic history.

Reviewed by **JOSEPH R. THOMAS**
Catholic News Service

A reading of “Hesburgh: A Biography” by Michael O’Brien, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin and the author of books on such disparate topics as McCarthyism and Vince Lombardi, leaves no doubt that Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh is one of the great figures of American Catholic history.

That there is no need to identify him immediately as the former president of the University of Notre Dame is but one measure not only of his fame but of an impact that extends far beyond his co-religionists, going to the great issues of American life and international affairs.

“Hesburgh: A Biography,” by Michael O’Brien. Catholic University of America Press (Washington, 1998). 348 pp., $34.95

Driven, somewhat vain, an intellectual, a visionary, a doer with an enormous capacity for work and at every moment very much the Catholic priest, Father Hesburgh (“Father Ted,” as he prefers to be called and as O’Brien generally refers to him even in the most formal circumstances) has been friend to students and co-workers, presidents and popes, the rich and the poor for more than 50 years. In the process he made thousands of friends and few enemies, although he was seldom without critics.

Just to list the public and private boards and commissions he served on over the years would exhaust the space available for a review, but they ran the gamut from the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Rockefeller Foundation and the board of Chase Manhattan Bank.

While at times he may have been viewed as a token appointee by those making a particular appointment, the fact is he never accepted an assignment unless he thought he could make a contribution to the work at hand, and he threw himself into such work with so much abandon that he quickly became an authority on whatever subject the group had been organized to address.

All this, of course, was in addition to the demands of leading what many consider to be the world’s foremost Catholic university during a period of immense religious, social and moral change. That he could adapt to change in such a way that his fellow academic professionals, both within and without the Catholic community, often looked to him for leadership is a tribute to the skills that saw him challenge threats to academic standards from forces as diverse as athletic bureaucrats, the Vatican, mindless student activists and conservative alumni.

A brilliant administrator, he was assigned to teach at Notre Dame in 1945 against his wishes and ascended to the presidency within seven years, continuing to serve in that position for another 35.

Although O’Brien’s book is pricey and lacks an index, it is a thorough, well-organized, evenhanded and fascinating examination of the Hesburgh era and his towering legacy of service to his church, his country and his fellow citizens. ▼

Thomas is a free-lance book reviewer and retired publishing executive.

“Hesburgh: A Biography,” by Michael O’Brien. Catholic University of America Press (Washington, 1998). 348 pp., $34.95

Word to Life

November 1. Feast of All Saints. Cycle C. Readings:

1) Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalm 24:1-6
2) 1 John 3:1-3
3) Matthew 5:1-12a

By **BOZENA CLOUTIER**

While in England this past summer I visited the Benedictine Abbey of Downside where years ago my brother had gone to school. I was struck there by the sense of continuity in the generations of monks and students. This was heightened for me a few days later when I read a short homily that a former abbot had preached on the feast of All Saints.

He said that today’s feast celebrates not so much “the greats” of the church calendar, but rather the millions and millions of ordinary men and women what are just like we are. These people committed sin, they prayed distractedly and maybe infrequently; they felt resentments, they were sorry for their sins — at least some of the time; they were selfish at times; they may have received the sacraments in a perfunctory manner; and their knowledge of God was no deeper than ours.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

— Matthew 5:7

The abbot’s reflections and today’s readings reminded me of the ordinary, holy people who have been saints for me. There is my father-in-law who, on a dark, inhospitable railroad platform, welcomed me into the family with outstretched arms; there is my late husband who loved me so faithfully and well for so many years; my dear friend Abby who tells me at the low times: “I always want to be there for you”; the flight attendant who brought me a blanket and a brandy when, cold and desolate, I flew to my sister’s funeral; there is my young grandson who, while riding in the car with me, reminds me “It’s a beautiful world out there, Nana”; my priest friend Father Oliver who never fails to express his respect for me, even at those times when I lack it for myself; my friend Ann who, because I live alone, calls to check on me each morning; and on and on. These are just a few of that vast throng marked with the seal of the living God.

We too are marked with that seal; not because we are particularly good or worthy, but because we are loved by God, chosen to be God’s sons and daughters and washed “in the blood of the Lamb.” ▼

Questions:

Who have been the saints in your life? Is it difficult for you to believe that you too are chosen by God and marked with God’s seal? Who or what helps you to believe that?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 1 - 7, 1998

Sunday, Revelation 7:2-4,9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday**, Romans 5:5-11, Luke 23:33,39-43; **Tuesday**, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday**, Philippians 3:3-8, Luke 15:1-10; **Friday**, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday**, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

If you embrace all things in life as coming from the hands of God, and even embrace death to fulfill his holy will, assuredly you will die a saint.
— *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD’s, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

MODULARCORP
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

TV Review

"A Knight in Camelot" is colorful comedy

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A research scientist's experiment lands her back in the time of the legendary King Arthur's Court in "A Knight in Camelot," airing Sunday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m. EST on ABC.

The colorful comedy is an updated adaptation of Mark Twain's classic, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

Strutting her stuff with attitude to spare is Whoopi Goldberg as sassy scientist Vivien Morgan, who finds herself catapulted back in time to sixth-century England when her experiment goes madly awry.

Dragged before King Arthur (Michael York) and haughty Queen Guinevere (Amanda Donohue), the oddly dressed, dreadlocked woman is deemed an ogre and sentenced to a public execution the next morn.

Her quick thinking — and a convenient solar eclipse — combine to convince Arthur that she is a powerful sorceress, so instead he honors her with the title "Sir Boss" and gives her a trusty assistant, Clarence (Simon Fenton). Merlin (Ian Richardson) is jealous, Lancelot (James Coombes) suspicious, and villain Sir Sagramour (Robert Addie) downright hostile.

Meanwhile, romance brews when Sir Boss hires fetching Sandy (Paloma Baeza) as her cook and Clarence likes more than her vittles.

Alas, Camelot could use a lot of improvements decides Sir Boss. Spurning the accepted practice of slavery, she pays the serfs to construct a steam engine, but her workers bristle at her take-charge manner.

She concludes she needs to mix with the peasants to gain the common touch, and Arthur decides it would be a lark to join her disguised as a commoner. Rounded up as slaves, their fate seems sadly sealed, all the more so when Guinevere is fully prepared to make Lancelot her new king.

Goldberg claims center stage most of the time, making the story a vehicle for her comic talents. Parents may or may not be amused by her use of slang, which sharply contrasts with the king's English.

Shot in Hungary and England's Alnwick Castle, it's a picturesque period piece, but the characters are mostly stick figures. When taking on social issues such as the class system the movie loses its light touch and the script also has to strain to keep the comedic elements afloat.

A jousting match between Sir Boss and the villain of the piece is played for slapstick fun as she rejects awkward armor in favor of martial-arts smarts.

Positive points are made about freedom, friendship and honor and while it qualifies as family entertainment it just isn't an especially memorable production. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"A Knight in Camelot" airs Nov. 8 on ABC.

TV programs of note — Week of November 8

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Nov. 8:

Sunday, Nov. 8, 7-8 p.m. EST (NBC) "Mummies: Voices from the Grave." A "National Geographic" special looking at mummies as time travelers who in death can still speak volumes about the mysteries of our past, as demonstrated by Egyptian mummies, an Iceman found in the Alps and Peruvians frozen high in the Andes.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 8-10 p.m. EST (A&E) "In the Name of God: Cults and New Religions." Documentary examines the growth of new religious movements and sects, and questions what motivates people to join unconventional religious groups, and why some sects go mainstream while others become narrowly bizarre in their focus.

CNS photo from Miramax

"Life Is Beautiful"

Giorgio Cantarini (left), Roberto Benigni and Nicoletta Braschi star in "Life Is Beautiful." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

New at the box office

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Bride of Chucky"

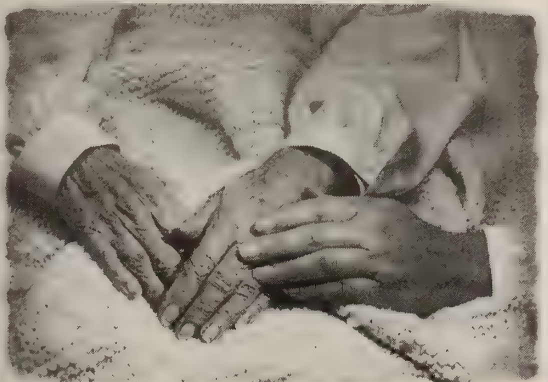
Mindless horror sequel in which the title killer doll (voice of Brad Dourif) and his nasty doll girlfriend (voice of Jennifer Tilly) seek to take human form in the bodies of two teenagers. Directed by Ronnie Yu, the result is a tiresome hodgepodge of gruesome killings depicted in grisly fashion intended to evoke laughter from immature viewers. Excessive gory violence, sexual situations, a flash of rear nudity, rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"John Carpenter's Vampires"

Trashy horror flick about contemporary mercenaries (James Woods and Daniel Baldwin) hired to slay vampires led by a centuries-old vampire priest under the protection of a corrupt cardinal (Maximilian Schell). Carpenter's nonsensical gorefest wallows in brutal violence, misogyny and cynical disdain of religion. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Pleasantville"

Empty-headed comic fantasy in which two contemporary teens (Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon) are zapped into a 1958 black-and-white family sitcom where their free-wheeling attitudes start changing everything in previously perfect Pleasantville. Writer-director Gary Ross sets up some amusing if obvious culture clashes. Implied infidelity, masturbation and teen sex, fleeting violence, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Murder charges filed against priest in bishops' killing

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A public prosecutor formalized murder charges against a priest in the killing of a Guatemalan bishop after a judge rejected the defense's petition for the priest's immediate release.

The attorney general's office said it has sufficient evidence against Father Mario Orantes to accuse him of the April murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City.

After a week of deliberation, Judge Isaias Figueroa of the first penal court ruled Oct. 21 that there has been no fresh evidence presented that merits releasing Father Orantes, arrested July 22 in connection with the murder.

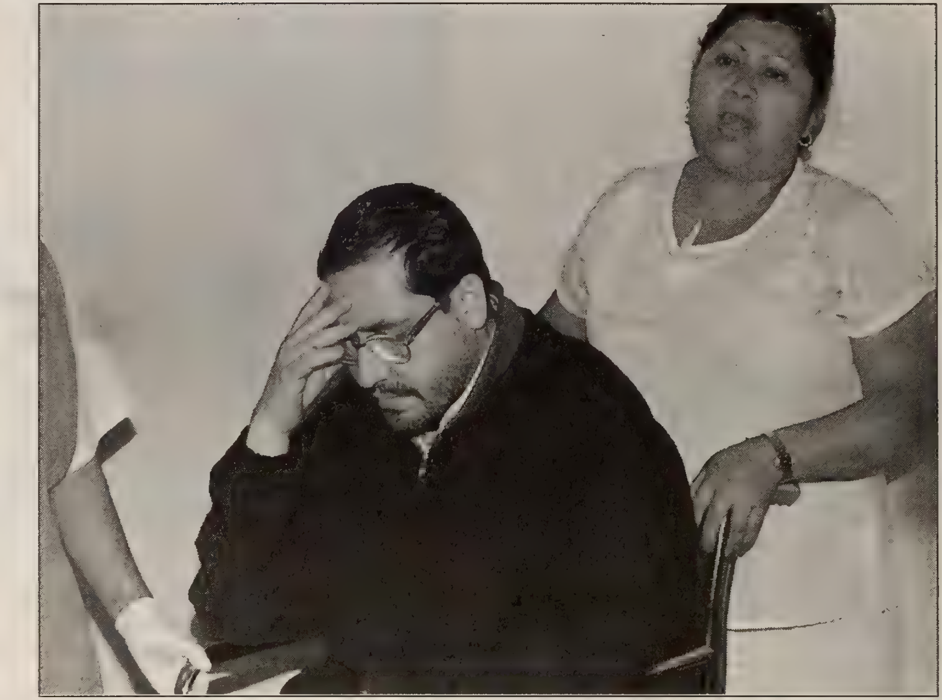
The judge said his decision was made after studying conflicting evidence from the prosecution, which claims the existence of dog bites on the dead bishop's body, and from defense experts, who say there were no dog bites. The bites, allegedly made by Father Orantes' pet German shepherd, are considered to be the key prosecution evidence linking the priest to the crime.

Minutes after the judge announced his decision to keep the priest in jail, prosecutor Otto Ardon presented a formal petition to open trial proceedings, accusing Father Orantes of having killed Bishop Gerardi by his own hand.

Figueroa has 10-15 days to rule on the petition.

The aging dog, named Baloo, was detained along with his master and is now under observation at a private clinic in the capital. Father Orantes and Baloo shared a parish house with Bishop Gerardi at the time of the murder.

Father Orantes was the first person to come upon the corpse in the early hours of April 27. The 72-year-old bishop had been attacked and killed the previous night in the garage of his house, his head crushed with a concrete block.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A nurse escorts Father Mario Orantes into San Juan De Dios Hospital in Guatemala City Aug. 6. The priest was formally arrested and charged with the April murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera on Oct. 21.

Church sources told Catholic News Service that they were not surprised by the judge's latest ruling.

"We expected the decision ... since what's at stake are not just legal considerations, but political ones," Father Mario Molina, associate secretary of the Guatemalan bishops' conference, said in an Oct. 22 telephone interview.

While careful not to throw its whole weight behind Father Orantes, the church is still highly critical of the official investigations, said Father Molina, in particular the failure to pursue possible leads that might implicate members of the military.

"More and more we see that the investigations are not going in the right direction," said Father Molina.

"The church believes that the murder ... must be resolved, whoever might be involved, but we cannot accept a make-believe resolution to the case, or that Father Orantes is accused with evidence that does not prove a thing," he said.

A second autopsy on the bishop's body was carried out in August to investigate whether dog bites exist, but forensic experts failed to agree on the findings.

For Father Molina, the prosecution's case against Father Orantes "lacks clear credibility."

He added that the longer the present line of inquiries continues, the less legitimacy it has.

"The long-term effect is that Guatemalans are losing confidence in the country's institutions," he said.

The prosecution still has not revealed the priest's possible motives for the killing. Many observers share the church's opinion that Bishop Gerardi was killed for political reasons, in reprisal for his long record of human rights work. Just two days before his death he released a comprehensive report saying that the military committed most of the atrocities during Guatemala's long civil war that ended in December 1996.

In mid-October, Jean Arnault, the head of the U.N. peace mission in Guatemala, gave further credence to that theory when he said that given the country's past, Guatemalans were justified in suspecting a political motive. ▼

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY
CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.

Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding. Some restrictions apply

Pope beatifies Mother Theodore Guerin, three priests

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified a French nun noted for her missionary work in the United States and three priests who worked on behalf of women's causes.

The four newly beatified "are for us examples to imitate and witnesses to follow," the pope said in his homily at the Oct. 25 beatification at St. Peter's Square. "Their existence demonstrates that the strength of the meek is prayer."

"It is faith," he added, "and not presumption, which feeds the courage and faith of the disciples of Christ."

The only woman among the newly beatified was the French-born Mother Theodore Guerin, who in 1840 overcame illness and self-doubt to travel to Indiana to establish a motherhouse for the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, as well as schools and orphanages throughout Indiana staffed by the order.

Pope John Paul said the life of the newly beatified nun "continues to teach Christians to abandon themselves to the providence of our Heavenly Father and to be totally committed to doing what pleases him."

"The life of Blessed Theodore Guerin is a testimony that everything is possible with God and for God," he continued. "May her spiritual daughters and all who have experienced her charism live the same spirit today."

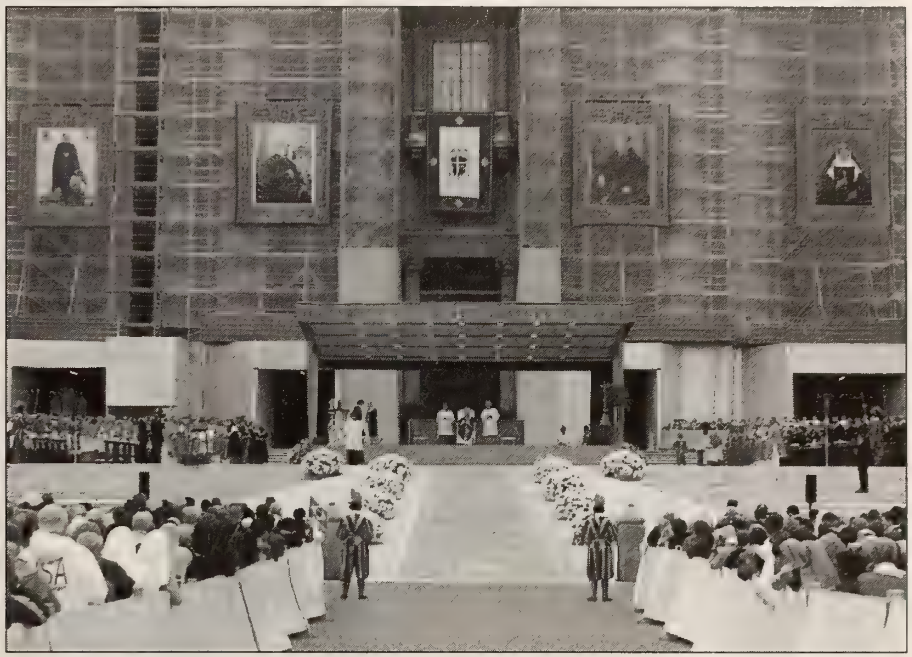
The pope also praised the works of Blesseds Zefirino Agostini, Antonio de Sant'Anna Galvao and Faustino Miguez, all of whom undertook projects to advance women in religious life or in education.

As a priest in Spain in the late 1800s, Blessed Faustino Miguez started an advanced school for girls at a time when such education was limited almost exclusively to boys. A member of the Order of the Pious Schools, or Piarist Fathers, he taught a variety of subjects and wrote numerous textbooks.

He also honed an interest in botany which led him to find a cure for a professor so ill that he was thought to be beyond hope; the professor went on to head the University of Seville, Spain, and people came from all parts of the country seeking relief from their sicknesses through the then-Father Miguez.

Blessed Zefirino Agostini, a 19th-century Italian parish priest, concentrated on evangelizing women and founded an order for female religious. He is also credited with turning his parish church into a hospital for the wounded during the Italian war of independence.

And Blessed Antonio de Sant'Anna Galvao, a Franciscan father in 18th-century Brazil, was instrumental in the founding of a community of Carmelite nuns. ▼



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II sits under tapestries of Spanish Father Faustino Miguez (left), Italian Father Zefirino Agostini (second left), Brazilian Father Antonio de Sant'Anna Galvao (second right) and French-born Mother Theodore Guerin as he leads their beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square Oct. 25. Beatification is a step toward sainthood.

Pope congratulates Peru, Ecuador at signing of peace treaty

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lasting peace between Peru and Ecuador will require cooperation and prayer on both sides of the border, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope congratulated the presidents of the two South American countries for signing an agreement Oct. 26 aimed at ending some 170 years of disputes over their common border.

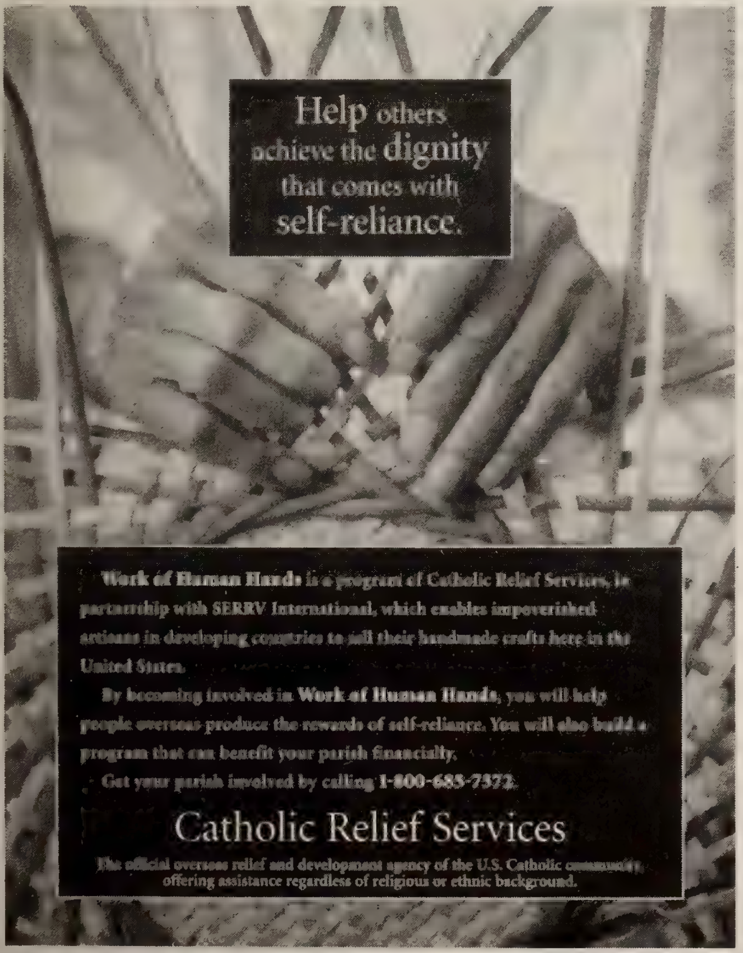
His message was delivered by Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, who was the pope's representative at the signing ceremony in Brasilia, the Brazilian capital.

Pope John Paul said he shared the joy of the Peruvian and Ecuadorean peoples, "who are united by many common bonds of Christian faith and culture," and who rejoice that "a painful chapter of the history of their relations is closed and lasting prospects for peace are opened."

The pope offered special thanks to Brazil, the United States, Chile and Argentina who helped mediate the peace talks and who signed the agreement as guarantors.

The Catholic Church was actively involved in promoting the peace talks. Pope John Paul, in meetings with the countries' ambassadors to the Vatican and in public appeals, repeatedly urged a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

According to the agreement, a final demarcation of the border between Peru and Ecuador will be made within 30 days. But the agreement also calls on the two countries to cooperate in administering several large tracts of land set aside as parks, to build a road linking their nations and to ratify a trade agreement. ▼


Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling **1-800-685-7572**.

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768

Mercy Sister Mary Vincent Spencer dies at 96

Mercy Sister Mary Vincent Spencer

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Vincent Spencer died Oct. 17, 1998, at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 96 years old and in her 75th year as a Sister of Mercy.

The rite of gathering was held Oct. 19 at the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Oct. 20 in the chapel. Burial followed at the Belmont Abbey cemetery.

Born Sept. 20, 1902, in Baltimore Md., she was the daughter of the late John Louis Spencer and Katherine Kidd Spencer. Her birth name was Margaret Katherine Spencer, and she took the name Sister Mary Vincent upon entering the Sisters of Mercy. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Sister Mary Vincent and her family moved to Charlotte when she was 12. She entered the order of the Sisters of Mercy on Dec. 8, 1922, and was received by the Sisters of Mercy on Dec. 27, 1923. She took her temporary vows on July 19, 1925, and made her perpetual profession of vows on July 19, 1928.

Sister Mary Vincent was a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy and Junior College. She graduated from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, having received her R.N. degree in 1928. She also attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

She held numerous positions at both St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, and at Mercy Hospital, Charlotte. Her lengthy ministry at Mercy Hospital gave her the opportunity to spread the charism of Mercy throughout the Metrolina area. She ministered to the surgical units of both hospitals, and prior to her retirement, was operating room supervisor at Mercy Hospital. Known for her sweet demeanor and sense of humor, Sister Mary Vincent made for many a smile from her patients, as well as anyone else she came in contact with.

On Sept. 24, 1995, Sister Mary Vincent and her dearest friend, Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon, were honored by their religious community for their long years of devotion to nursing at Mercy Hospital during a liturgy held at Sacred Heart Convent. The pair, who entered the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina on the same day, were recognized again at a Dec. 8, 1997, liturgy to honor their 74th jubilee celebration.

Sister Mary Vincent remained active in her prayer ministry after her retirement from nursing.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 100 Mercy Dr., Belmont, N.C. 280012-4805. ▼

Ultreya to be held Nov. 10

GREENSBORO — The first Ultreya for the Cursillo community in the Greensboro area will be held at St. Pius X Church on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. in the parish center.

Please attend to support the new Cursillistas from that area, and re-establish the movement in that area. For more information, call Tommy Barnhart, (336) 766-0377, or (336) 856-1929.

Conference on Chiapas set for Nov. 14

CLEMMONS — A conference to explore the impact of United States policy on the Mexican state of Chiapas will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.

The guest speaker will be Lucila Herrera, a sociologist and human rights activist at the Fray Bartoleme Human Rights Center in San Cristobal, Chiapas. A video and small group discussions will follow.

The conference is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call (336) 463-5533.

Dual Celebration

Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sister Jay McCann and her dog Sapphire recently celebrated birthdays — Sister Jay, her 75th; Sapphire, her 13th. The birthday celebrants were joined by 110 parishioners and friends at St. Luke Parish in Mint Hill on Oct. 10 for special festivities. The celebration honored Sister Jay's life of service to others. She served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1944-46 in San Francisco, and also was a missionary in Ghana and Ethiopia for 16 years. Sister Jay served as a missionary in Mississippi for 13 years as well. She also taught in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Sister Jay took her first vows in 1952, and her final vows in 1957. She will celebrate her golden jubilee in 2002. The evening's festivities also honored the late Sister Alma Cornely, a fellow Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sister, who taught with Sister Jay in Africa. (Photo by Steve Uzzell)

Domestic Violence, from page 1

and enacting of abuse, as well as follow-up sessions focusing on the effects of violence on both its victims and perpetrators.

Although men are often reluctant to discuss domestic violence and get involved in the issue, Marinello and Thomason said, there still strongly exists in society a male-oriented disposition that validates domestic violence against women.

They were quick to add that defining domestic violence is no longer bound by physical abuse. Laws in the '90s have expanded that definition to include, among others, emotional abuse, intimidation and communicating threats.

Antonio's guilt, like that of many other offenders, was multi-layered. "I have called her everything — but a child of God," he said, adding that breaking promises and trust can cause as much damage as breaking bones. Now separated from his wife, he devotes his time and energy trying to earn back that trust while continuing to renew himself.

It's a learning process that Antonio is taking day by day. "I'd been throwing rocks and hiding my hands for years," he said.

The personal relationships he formed with Marinello and his classmates led to "a bond that nobody could break up," Antonio said.

"By the time he was in the (NOVA program's) 18th week, he was kind of a group leader in the class," Marinello said of Antonio, who guided new classmates to own up to the same offenses he had committed. Antonio now calls himself an advocate for the end of domestic violence.

"What's in me is in all of us, because we're all human," he said. "Emotion is emotion. We can learn from each other ... and I want to help. I want to educate." ▼

For more information on the NOVA program, call (704) 336-4344. For more information about The Shelter for Battered Women, call Paula Irby Thomason at (704) 336-8129.

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years
Mon.-Fri. — 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. — 9:30am - 3:00pm
Books & Gift Items
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Mums
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

"Finding the Pulse of the Spirit in the World Today"

Conference assists with preparation for the third millennium

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — In preparation for the Christian third millennium, Pope John Paul II designated 1998 the year of the Holy Spirit. To help achieve the Holy Father's desire for "a renewed appreciation for the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit," the Charlotte Diocese's Office of Evangelization joined efforts with priests from the Congregation of the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) to conduct a series of conferences beginning Oct. 23.

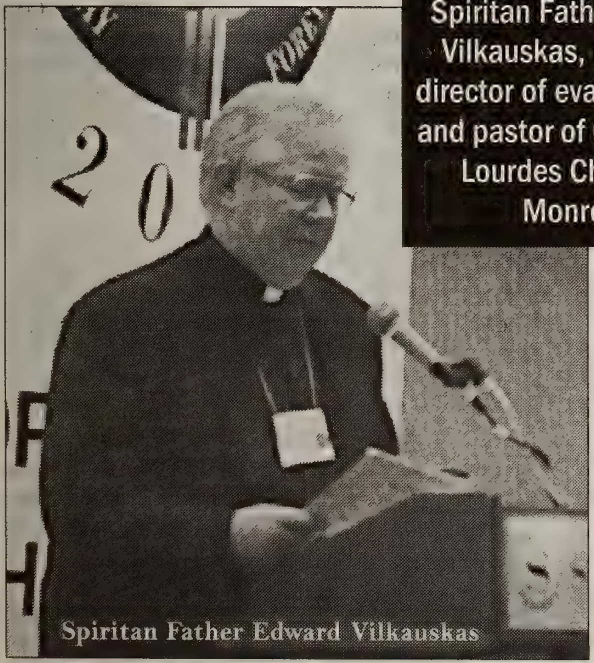
The Spiritans, who also have brothers and lay membership, are people devoted to the call of the Holy Spirit, seeking out the marginalized and assisting overseas.

"May this conference be a catalyst, helping all of us live the fullness of our Catholic faith as we reach the new millennium," said Spiritan Father Edward Vilkauskas, diocesan director of evangelization and pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, to participants of the three-day conference titled, "Finding the Pulse of the Spirit in the World Today," held Oct. 23-25 at the Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel in Charlotte.

Father Vilkauskas, millennium officer for the diocese, helped coordinate two other events at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory: one for those in professional church ministry and the other for clergy.

The conferences were tailored to the audiences, and talks varied on the theme of the complex role of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of the individual and the world. "Each speaker gave us a piece of the puzzle helping us to recognize the work of the Spirit," said Dorothy King, parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Monroe.

> "May this conference be a catalyst, helping all of us live the fullness of our Catholic faith as we reach the new millennium," said Spiritan Father Edward Vilkauskas, diocesan director of evangelization and pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe.



Spiritan Father Edward Vilkauskas

One of the speakers, Father Sean Kealy, professor and department chair of theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., has been published in numerous religious journals throughout the world. In his presentation, "The Spirit Gives Life," he emphasized how everyone should ask the question, "Are we alive?", while reflecting on what it means to be alive in the Spirit. "If God shapes your life, it will not be centered on yourself but on others," he said, using St. Paul's popular passage on love as the blueprint for people to try to follow.

Spiritan Father Vincent Donovan, who serves as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, is the author of "Christianity Rediscovered," a book which continues to be reprinted and translated in other languages. During the conference, he shared his unique insights about evangelization based on 17 years as a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa, as well as other missionary assignments.

His presentation, "The Holy Spirit, Lord Giver of Life: Evangelizing Our Culture," began with the problems often experienced in evangelization. "We sometimes see evangelization as convert-making or sheep stealing, but evangelization is not geared for individuals," he said, adding, "the Holy Spirit works to form community — the body of Christ."

PHOTOS BY KATHY SCHMUGGE

Spiritan Father Donald Nesti of Houston, Texas, and Michael Ryan, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, discuss one of the workshops held at the Holy Spirit Conference Oct. 23-25 in Charlotte.

According to Father Donovan, one challenge when approaching a different culture with the Gospel is to try and strip it of one's own cultural interpretation. "We are called to put flesh and blood on the Gospel message," he continued, stressing the need to be sincere and respectful of others.

When he addressed American culture, Father Donovan mentioned its strengths but also pointed out that evangelization is necessary.

"When we evangelize a culture, something will live and something will die if the Gospel is received," said Father Donovan, referring to the need to end the racism, materialism and individualism prevalent in today's society.

Joan Moran, a member of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, was encouraged by Father Donovan's approach to other cultures. Her parish works with a growing number of Hmóng and Lahu people who have joined the church. "We have been welcoming and respectful of their culture as Father Donovan has suggested," she said.

Father Vilkauskas reminded the participants of how Pope John Paul II has called for a new evangelization, "living out the faith in a radically different way," which is what speakers urged of participants.

Three lay speakers also gave presentations relating the Holy Spirit in their lives. Anthony Franchina, Dr. George Worgul and Dr. Marie Baird spoke to the larger group in Charlotte, imparting a message of listening to the Holy Spirit and trusting God.

Like all the speakers, Father Vilkauskas hopes that such events will assist people in the diocese during the years leading to the millennium so that they will be prepared for the abundant graces and unknown challenges the church faces following the Great Jubilee Year of 2000. ▼

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Church Secretary: Regular part-time position, Tuesday through Friday (5 hours daily) To provide and maintain administrative support to the pastor and priests of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Charlotte. Responsibilities: provide secretarial services including answering telephones, directing calls, and taking messages. Transcribe and type letters, sermons, and related documents. Maintain correspondence. Set up and maintain filing system. Assist in the use of office equipment (copier, fax, computer). Inform the pastor and priests of scheduled events. If interested, please bring or mail your resume and salary requirements to: St. Peter's Church, 507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Resumes may also be faxed to the Parish Office at (704) 358-0050.

Housekeeper: Housekeeper needed for priests' residence, part-time position: 6 hours every Tuesday. To clean the priests' residence. Responsibilities: clean, vacuum, dust, mop (maintain a clean and tidy home.) No cooking or laundry involved. Please send your information and salary requirements to St. Peter's Church, 507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Information may also be faxed to the Parish Office at (704) 358-0050.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. D.L.

Day of reflection attracts 140 seniors

21 parishes represented at event

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

HICKORY — *"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

Maxine Nann wore a refreshed look on her face after recently reflecting on that passage with other diocesan seniors at the Catholic Conference Center. As someone looking for spiritual direction and a way to connect with other elders in the church, the 65-year-old found it that day.

"We really have a God that loves us, that's for sure," said Nann, a parishioner at Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain. "This is the first time I've attended a CRISM (Catholic Retirees in Special Ministries) event, and it was well worth it."

Her comments were made after taking part in "A Fall Day of Reflection" led by Father Anthony Marcaccio. Sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's elder ministry program, the Oct. 14 retreat drew more than 140 seniors from 21 parishes.

Father Marcaccio presented a spiritual message filled with encouragement, humor, hope and a challenge for elders to assess their relationship with God. During the daylong retreat, Father Marcaccio focused on Romans 8:28 and other Scripture passages. He also asked the seniors to evaluate their faith journey.

"Familiarity can breed dullness, and we can start to take things for granted. The good news is at the very heart of God is a relationship. We call it Trinity," he said.

"We are unique in having a God who desires an intimate relationship with us. A relationship of love personified in Jesus, who teaches us to love and live", Father Marcaccio added.

PHOTO BY MIKE KROKOS

Our Lady of the Assumption parishioner Mary Finlayson served as music minister at the CRISM "Day of Reflection" held Oct. 14 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Here she is shown leading a rendition of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling".

In his homily, Father West asked seniors to recognize the presence of God in one other. He also encouraged them to follow the examples set by Jesus Christ in his teachings.

Unlike the CRISM Spring Fling (an annual event which focuses primarily on fun and social activities), the day of reflection was a chance for seniors to come together and get in tune with their spiritual side, said Sandra Breakfield, program director for the diocese's elder ministry.

"It was a place (for seniors) to get away from the rush of demands, a quiet time to be with God, to really listen and share with others," she added.

For Kay and Ray Cuzzone of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, the day of reflection was a chance to renew old friendships as well. "This is a great opportunity for older people to come together, and spend time with one another," said Kay Cuzzone, who has been involved with the diocese's CRISM program since its inception over a decade ago.

The day concluded with a Mass concelebrated by Father Marcaccio and Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. In his homily, Father West asked seniors to recognize the presence of God in one other. He also encouraged them to follow the examples set by Jesus Christ in his teachings. "We've got to allow those words to touch us, guide us, to move us to action," he said. "We must translate those words into faithful action."

When people center their lives on Jesus, a marvelous conversion occurs, Father West added. "We then become the guests and he becomes the one who serves us at the banquet of eternal life," he said.

In closing, the chancellor encouraged the elders to open their hearts more and more to the will of God. "Believe it, trust it, and act on it," Father West said. ▼

T&T Quality Fencing
Do not pay more!
Get a Quality Fence for a lower price!
FREE ESTIMATES
567-4021
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

************3-DIGIT 275
S300 F1
42,083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 6, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 10

Inside

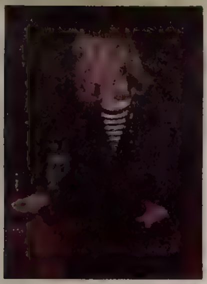
Jesuit House of Prayer dedicates chapel

...PAGE 16

African American Affairs Ministry to host Martin Luther King Jr. celebration

...PAGE 3

Local News



Speaking the language of love

...PAGE 15

Part 2: CCHD's Helping Empower Local People

...PAGE 13

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

Staff changes announced at The Catholic News & Herald

See story ... PAGE 3

Goodbye column from departing editor ... PAGE 4

Pope calls for profound social change in care of elderly

BY LYNNE WEIL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II advocated profound social change in caring for the world's growing population of elderly people.

Speaking at the conclusion of an Oct. 29-31 Vatican conference on aging, the 78-year-old pope said society "must regain solidarity between the generations; it must regain the sense and the significance of old age in a culture which is overly dominated by the power of productivity and physical efficiency."

Repeating one of the meeting's main themes, Pope John Paul pointed out that statistics indicate dramatic growth in the number of people living to old age in the coming decades.

To compensate for this change, he said, the world needs "to redesign society and to discuss again its economic structure, as well as how the life cycle and interactions between generations are regarded."

"It is a real challenge posed to society, which reveals the extent of its justness in the way it responds to the needs of all of its members," he continued. "Its degree of civility is proportionate to the protection afforded the weakest parts of the social fabric."

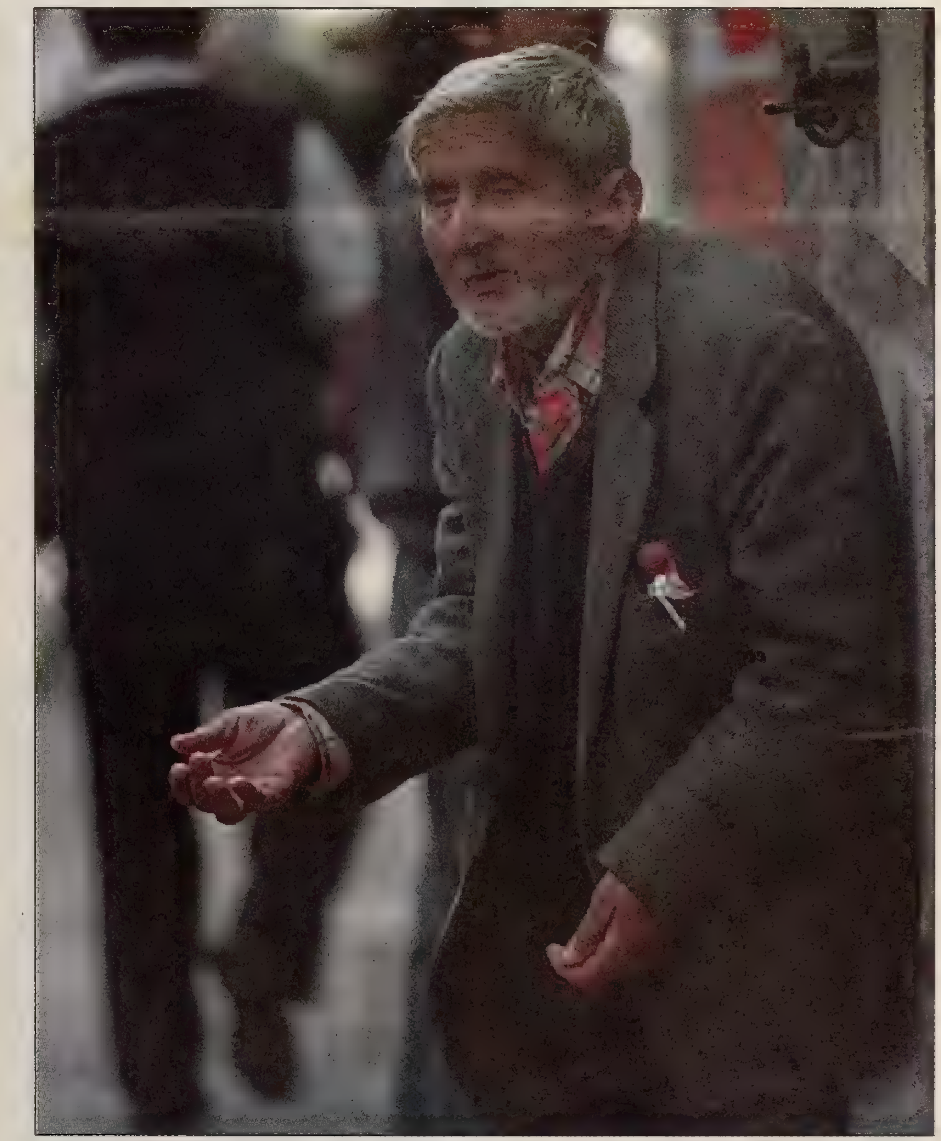
But the pope warned that "the old person is not to be considered only an object of attention" because each person "has a precious contribution to offer to life. Thanks to the rich patrimony of experiences acquired through the years, he can and must be a dispenser of wisdom, a witness to hope and charity."

Pope John Paul noted that "the Old Testament promises people long life as a reward for fulfillment of God's law," and added that "we must regain also this value in a society which often seems to speak of old age only in terms of problems."

The pontiff decried euthanasia, saying it was "an attack on life which no human authority can legitimize."

"Confronted with a secularized mentality which does not have respect for life, especially when it is in a state of weakness, we must underline that (life) is a gift of God which we are all entrusted to protect," Pope John Paul said. "This duty affects, in particular, health care workers, whose specific mission is to be 'ministers of life' in all its phases, especially in those which are marked by weakness and by illness."

The conference, organized by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, brought together doctors, nurses, demographers, sociologists, priests and religious to discuss issues related to the elderly.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

An elderly man begs in downtown Santiago, Chile. At the conclusion of a Vatican conference on aging, Pope John Paul II advocated profound social change in caring for the world's population of elderly people.

In three days of presentations and discussion, they touched on topics ranging from the elderly's role in the family to the administration of retirement homes. Euthanasia and its social roots repeatedly came under examination, as did nations' social security systems which, conference speakers insisted, will have to be overhauled to accommodate growing numbers of the elderly.

Inspirational examples of older people were also offered — Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, praised 77-year-old astronaut John Glenn, the U.S. senator who was launched into space on Oct. 29, the conference's opening day.

"Just think of it," the archbishop said the next morning. "A man as old as the pope is now orbiting the world." ▾

Aid being collected to help Hurricane Mitch victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, relief agencies were collecting donations and other kinds of aid for the storm's Central American victims. An estimated 7,000 were feared dead after mudslides and floods followed rainfalls exceeding two feet and high winds as the stationary hurricane pummeled Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Reports said one mudslide covered an area of 50 square miles, and that the limbs of many killed in the slides could be seen sticking up from the mud. *(To assist, see CSS ad, page 15)*

Papal primacy is matter of faith, says Vatican congregation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The real and effective primacy of the pope over the whole church is a matter of faith and not simply a convenient way to govern the church, the Vatican's doctrinal congregation said. The papacy "is not a coordinating or presiding office, it cannot be reduced to a 'primacy of honor,' nor can it be understood as a monarchy of a political kind," the congregation said in a document published Oct. 30 at the Vatican. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued its document, described as "considerations," in connection with the Vatican's publication of papers prepared for a 1996 symposium on "The Primacy of the Successor of Peter in the Mystery of the Church."

Vatican officials say church looks critically at Inquisition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials opened an unprecedented symposium on the Inquisition, saying the church was not afraid to look critically at this historical chapter of religious intolerance. At the same time, Vatican organizers suggested that the approximately 50 experts convened for the Oct. 29-31 symposium could help erase popular "myths" about the Inquisition, a series of church tribunals that tried heretics from the 13th to the 19th centuries. The meeting was called at Pope John Paul II's request to shed light on one of the darker pages of church history, in view of a "request for pardon" which the pope is expected to pronounce in the year 2000.

CNS photo from Reuters

Tomb of Christ

A woman helps her daughter light a candle on a marble and silver shrine in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. Below the shrine lies what scholars believe to be the remains of Christ's tomb.

Bishops to elect new president, vice president Nov. 17

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two weeks after the national elections, the U.S. Catholic bishops will hold their own elections. On the second day of their fall meeting in Washington Nov. 16-19, they are to vote for a new president and vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference. They are also to vote for new chairmen or chairmen-elect of nine NCCB committees and two USCC committees. The term of all offices is three years.

New view of aging needed, say authorities at Vatican conference

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Society must start to regard aging differently, because soon there will be dramatic growth in the number of the elderly, authorities on health and demographics said at a Vatican conference. The Oct. 29-31 meeting, arranged by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, was to address various aspects of aging and to propose solutions to economic, social and theological challenges that aging populations pose. Demographer Alexandre Kalache of the U.N. World Health Organization presented the basic facts of the expected changes in a graphic way: Using an overhead projector, he juxtaposed two charts showing the world distribution of people according to age now and in the future, with infants at the bottom of the chart and people over 80 at the top.

U.S. bishops to discuss theology mandate in Catholic colleges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. Catholic bishops meet in Washington this November they will try again to deal with the thorny issue of church authority over who can teach theology in the nation's Catholic colleges and universities. At their annual fall meeting Nov. 16-19 they are slated to discuss — but not vote on — a new draft text of U.S. norms implementing locally the church's worldwide norms for Catholic higher education. The universal norms are contained in the 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic colleges and universities, "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church"). The new text, about three times the length of an earlier version rejected by Rome, includes two pages of detailed norms on the diocesan bishop's granting, withholding or withdrawing a theology professor's ecclesiastical mandate to teach in a Catholic institution.

Philippine church stresses disaster preparedness after typhoons

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A church official in the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Philippines, said a church-run center has developed a disaster-preparedness program in the aftermath of two devastating typhoons that hit the Philippines in two weeks. Father Deogracias Galang, acting director of the social action center in San Fernando, Pampanga province, 40 miles northwest of Manila, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that the center has adopted a policy of "pre-disaster intervention" to help prepare people for the typhoon season. "We have disaster preparedness seminars for people so they'll know what to do. We also distribute posters and brochures with the information," he said. Pampanga is one of 22 provinces ravaged Oct. 22-23 by Typhoon Babs. The typhoon, the ninth to hit the country in 1998, left 189 dead and 145 injured.

S. African leaders commit to moral renewal of country

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South African religious and political leaders committed themselves to moral renewal of the country at a summit in Johannesburg. Most political party leaders, including President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, and 38 leaders of different faiths, including Catholic Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenberg of the Southern African bishops' conference, signed a code of conduct Oct. 22 committing themselves to principles such as incorruptibility, integrity, openness and respect. An "ubuntu" (humanity) pledge, drawn up by the National Religious Leaders' Forum, was also distributed, calling on citizens to "do good and be good."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
November 6, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 10
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Michael Krokos
Associate Editor: Joann Keane
Staff Writer:Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 8
2 p.m.
25th and 50th wedding anniversary celebration
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Charlotte

November 9
11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Diocesan Pastoral Center
Charlotte

November 9-11
Covenant Committee Meeting of the Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference
Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

November 12
7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Gabriel Catholic Church
Charlotte

November 13-14
Day of Renewal
Catholic University of America/
Theological College
Washington, D.C.

November 16-19
Meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

November

8 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. Call Josie for details at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today at 2 p.m. in St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane.

9 CLEMMONS — A charismatic healing Mass is today at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Call (336) 778-0600 for details.

10 GREENSBORO — The first Ultreya for the Greensboro area Cursillo community is today at 7 p.m. in the parish center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. For details, call Tommy Barnhart at (336)

Staff changes announced at The Catholic News & Herald

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin announced staff changes for The Catholic News & Herald Oct. 30, several days after accepting the resignation of editor Mike Krokos.

Krokos, hired as editor in January 1996, has taken a position with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Krokos, who will be a senior writer for The Catholic Spirit, enters his new position Nov. 23.

"I am deeply grateful for Mike's many fine accomplishments while he served the diocese as editor of The Catholic News & Herald," said Bishop Curlin, publisher of the diocesan newspaper. "Our prayers go with him.

> **"I am deeply grateful for Mike's many fine accomplishments while he served the diocese as editor of The Catholic News & Herald," said Bishop Curlin, publisher of the diocesan newspaper. "Our prayers go with him."**

"We look forward to continuing the ministry that The Catholic News & Herald affords the Diocese of Charlotte."

Associate editor Joann Keane has been appointed as editor, and staff writer Jimmy Rostar as associate editor. Their assignments begin Nov. 9.

Keane began her career in the Catholic press with the North Carolina Catholic (now NC Catholic) in May 1988. She has been with The Catholic News & Herald since its establishment in 1991. Rostar has served as staff writer at The Catholic News & Herald since July 1996.

"I welcome Joann as the new editor of The Catholic News & Herald," Bishop Curlin said. "For nearly a decade, she has generously used her many talents in helping the newspaper be a tool of evangelization."

"Likewise," the bishop added, "I welcome the appointment of Jimmy as the assistant editor. His writing skills have proven invaluable during the past two years he has served as staff writer."

In addition to her tenure as associate editor, Keane concurrently served as diocesan communications director. Communications efforts of the diocese, including external media relations, will be handled by the newspaper staff effective Nov. 9.

Keane and her husband, Jim, are members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Charlotte. They have three sons, Daniel, 10, Paul, 12, and Chris, 14.

Keane has received six Catholic Press Association awards for writing and photography, a certificate of excellence from the Catholic Communications Campaign and a photo commendation from the Catholic Extension Society. Additional writing and photography have appeared in a number of publications.

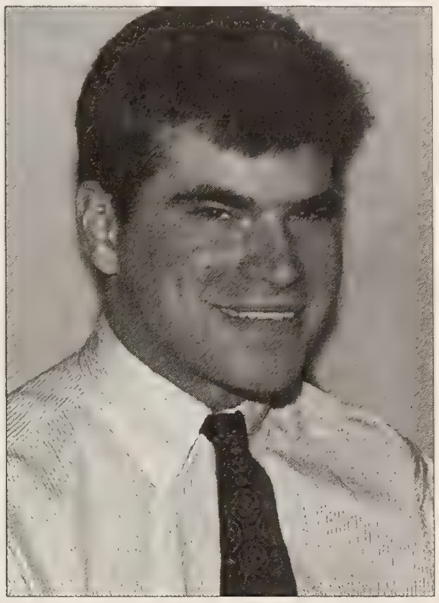
Prior to his work with The Catholic News & Herald, Rostar served as an assistant editor for The North Carolina Literary Review, a staff writer for The East Carolinian newspaper and copy editor for The Greenville Independent newspaper, all in Greenville, N.C. His writing has appeared in several other regional publications as well.

As staff writer with The Catholic News & Herald, he won a Catholic Press Association award in June 1998 for a personality profile on Asheville singer-songwriter Jimmy Landry.

Rostar and his wife, Lynda, are parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"This is an exciting time for The Catholic News & Herald," said Keane. "Our recent redesign has certainly caught the eye of our readers, and we will continue moving forward." ▼

Joann Keane


Jimmy Rostar

African American Affairs Ministry plans annual King celebration

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry hosts its annual celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, Jan. 16, 1999, at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Charlotte.

The theme of the upcoming celebration is "Building Bridges Through All Stages of Life." Registration will begin at 9 a.m. the day of the event, and Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is encouraged and may be made by sending a check and number of attendees to African American Affairs Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

The registration fee is $10 per person, $20 for families of four or less, and $25 for families of five or more. Materials and meals are included in the admission cost.

During the celebration, the ministry will present for the first time the Glenda Rollins-Gaither/John A. McDonald Service Award. The late Glenda Rollins-Gaither was one of the guiding forces involved in the founding of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, and was an active parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church. A community activist, the late John A. McDonald was also a faithful member of Consolation, as well as the founder of the McDonald's Cafeteria and Hotel in Charlotte.

Anyone wishing to nominate an individual for consideration for the award may obtain a nomination form by calling Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd at (704) 370-3339. The form includes the criteria for consideration. Nominations must be received no later than Dec. 15, 1998. ▼

766-0377.

11 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets at 11:30 a.m. today for a Thanksgiving covered dish meal. A $10 payment for the Christmas dinner is due at this meeting. Also due is the last payment for the Myrtle Beach trip. Call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745, for details.

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School's annual open house is today from 7-9 p.m. for all interested students in grades 8-11 and their families. Open house admission is free. For details, call (336) 725-4247.

12 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre premieres the musical "The 1940s Radio Hour" today at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theater. Cost is $10. Encore performances are Nov. 13-14 and 19-21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10. A matinee performance is Nov. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Cost is $8. For tickets, call (704) 825-6787.

14 BOONE — Parish implementation of the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," in the Boone Vicariate is discussed today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Joanne Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace, facilitates. Bring a bag lunch; drinks are provided. Admission is free, but reservations are required by calling (704) 370-3231.

CLEMMONS — A conference exploring the impact of U.S. policy on the Mexican state of Chiapas is today from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Guest speaker is Lucila Herrera, a sociologist from Chiapas. Also included are a video presentation and small group discussion. Admission is free and open to the public. For details, call (336) 463-5533.

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Lutheran Synod and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte sponsor "One Faith, One Lord, One Baptism," an event for adults who work with youth, today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 2210 North Elm St. The seminar includes a keynote speech, prayer and a variety of workshops. Cost is $15. For registration information, call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 West Hamlet Ave., hosts a chili cook-off today at 6:30 p.m. Come with your pot of chili and/or $3 for "tasting privileges." For ticket information, call the parish office at (910) 582-0207.

HENDERSONVILLE — The sympto-thermal method of natural family planning is taught by the Couple to Couple League beginning today from 7-9 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. For details and to register, call Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., hosts a holiday bazaar today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sale items include gifts, ornaments and baked goods. Call (336) 996-5109 for details.

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts a jubilee celebration of Jesuit Father William Lynch's 50th anniversary of priesthood today after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Festivities, including a buffet dinner, take place at First Presbyterian Church, 243 W. McClelland Ave. Call (704) 664-3992 for details.

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Albert Winn, author and president emeritus of Louisville Theological Seminary, facilitates a study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. today in the Msgr. Newman Center of Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. Informal discussion follows (bring a bag lunch). A donation of $15 is asked for. For more information, call (336) 722-7008.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says Holy Spirit gives immortality to soul

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just days before the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Pope John Paul II said it is the Holy Spirit which continues to give life to each human soul even in the period after death before the final resurrection.

The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of life not only in all phases of earthly existence, but equally in that state which, after death, precedes the full life which the Lord has promised for our mortal bodies as well," the pope said.

Continuing a series of audience talks about the Holy Spirit, the pope said Oct. 28 that Christians have "the certainty that their life-giving relationship with Christ cannot be destroyed by death, but continues beyond it."

The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of All Saints Nov. 1 and the feast of All Souls Nov. 2.

While Jesus' promise of eternal life will reach its culmination only at the end of time with the resurrection of our bodies, the pope said, "one need not think that life beyond death begins" only after the final judgment.

Pope John Paul, quoting a 1979 statement from the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, said there is an "intermediate phase" when the "the decomposition of the body corresponds to 'the survival and continuing existence of a spiritual element, which is gifted with awareness and will, in such a way that the human "I" remains although it is lacking the complement of its body.'"

In other words, he said, the human soul is immortal.

"The church gives expression to this conviction which she invokes the saints and prays for the dead not yet purified of their sins," the pope said.

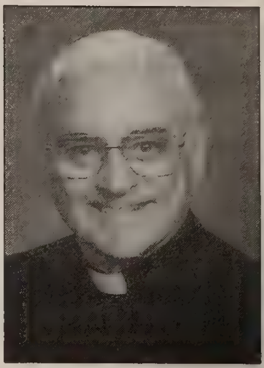
During the audience, Pope John Paul asked Catholics to remember in their prayers "several intentions which are particularly close to my heart": success of a dialogue between Eastern-rite Catholics and Orthodox in Romania; an end to the four-month-old conflict in Guinea Bissau; and an end to the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has involved neighboring countries as well.

After the audience, the pope formally accepted and blessed a red fire truck which Austrian firefighters had donated to the Vatican fire department.

Pope calls for new efforts in interreligious dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged new efforts in dialogue with non-Christians around the world, saying the approach of the year 2000 called for increased cooperation between religions. The pope made the remarks Oct. 30 to members of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, which was preparing a major interfaith encounter in 1999 to welcome the new millennium.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

The presence of God

The saints knew that prayer is much more than the mere words we recite. Prayer is the whole complex of thoughts and feelings we experience when we stand before the living God. The depth of our prayer is related to the degree of our awareness of God's presence. Sometimes we feel a deep sense of reverence, at other times we feel nothing.

The good news is this: It doesn't matter. When it comes to prayer, you never have to force any feelings at all. Pure prayer is in the will to give yourself to God. The will simply says yes or no. You can give yourself to God by simply willing it. "Here I am, Lord."

There are times when your level of faith is dim, and your feelings are numb. Even so, God is always present. At such times your awareness of God may be cognitive, but it lacks any emotional depth. You know God is present, but you feel nothing. In this state, simply give yourself to God just as you are.

When I experience this spiritual dryness, I just turn my life over to the Lord and thank him for being there whether I feel his presence or not.

Sometimes I ask him why he is so distant, so silent. But when I think about it and see a magnificent sunset or an oak tree dancing in the wind, I realize my questions are irrelevant. God is visible in all of creation.

Walt Whitman once wrote, "A single mouse is miracle enough to convert a thousand infidels."

In some cultures people acknowledge God's presence in their daily greetings. For instance, Hindus bow to one another with both hands joined below the chin. This is their way of saying, "I greet the divine presence living in you."

This is a lovely gesture, but not everyone is consciously thinking of its meaning. The reverent gesture is like a genuflection made in an automatic way. The person bows even when the feeling of reverence is absent. The absence of feelings does not negate the greeting.

The Bible teaches that we must love God with our whole heart, mind and soul. This seems to suggest that we should have an intense emotional experience in our prayer life. Not so. It would be impossible to love God to the maximum limit every time we pray.

Many people have no real feeling for God on a personal level, but they pray well nevertheless.

If you fall into the category of those who pray without much feeling, put your mind at ease. It doesn't really matter. Your union with God depends more on his love for you than on your love for him. He loved you with an infinite love before you were conceived in your mother's womb, and he has loved you ever since with an infinite love.

This divine love for you continues whether you feel anything or not.

God is unchanging love. We don't understand it, and we don't deserve it. We don't even know how to respond to it adequately. All we need to know is that God is present at all times, loving us and sustaining us in all that we do.

This is the good news of the Gospel.

Editor's Notebook

MIKE KROKOS
Editor

It's been a great three years

They say all good things come to an end. For me, a *great* chapter in my life closes today.

This is my last day on the job as editor of The Catholic News & Herald. I have accepted a position with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

My ministry as a member of the Catholic press began in January 1996, when I took on the challenge of moving to the Queen City and overseeing The Catholic News & Herald. I now move on to new challenges, although a part of my heart will be embedded in this diocese forever.

What has transpired at the newspaper over the past 34 months is a tribute to the people I have been associated with during my tenure here: the Joann Keanes, Jimmy Rostars, Julie Radcliffes, Jane Glodowskis, Cindi Feericks, and Luis Wolfs of the world who are consummate professionals, yet also able to make each day truly enjoyable, even under the stress of weekly deadlines.

We, as a staff, I believe, have accomplished many things, most notably updating the layout, design and content of the newspaper with a redesign implemented in September. With the assistance of all priests and religious serving the diocese, a select group of households, a focus group of concerned parishioners and our editorial board, the staff was able to produce a new, improved, more reader-friendly newspaper.

As you see elsewhere in this issue, the newspaper is in capable hands, with Joann and Jimmy taking over as editor and associate editor, respectively. They and their team will no doubt continue to lead the publication in a positive direction as it continues to be the diocese's primary tool of evangelization.

Saying goodbye from a personal perspective is not easy by any means, either. I was blessed with many gifts during my years in Charlotte, among them a group of people at St. Patrick Cathedral who, like me, were young professionals looking to get involved in their parish. The resulting friendships will be treasured forever. To Sheri, Amy, Jim, Steve and the rest of the gang, know that I believe I am a better person, a better Christian because of the gift of faith that each of you so unselfishly shared with me.

I would be remiss if I did not offer a special thank you to Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest-secretary to Bishop Curlin, and Father Mo West, chancellor and vicar general of the diocese. Both always offered their support and encouragement, and served as the staff's spiritual advisors in times of distress (at no charge I might add).

My biggest debt of gratitude, though, goes to our chief shepherd, Bishop Curlin. He served as a constant reminder that Christ exists in every person — the poor, the lame, the ill, the oppressed; he also taught me that the greatest gift we can receive is Jesus Christ in the daily Eucharist.

Finally, I want to thank you, our readers. Know that I truly appreciated your support and encouragement — and criticism. Your feedback (positive and negative) helped us strive to become a better publication.

I will always keep the people of the Diocese of Charlotte in my prayers. I ask that you do the same for me and my family.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Veterans Day: Trying to find the words

Every year at this time I join columnists and journalists throughout the country who try to summon up words that honor all the women and men who have served America in its armed forces. Wars end. But veterans who live among us as neighbors, friends and loved ones as well as the graves of the fallen beckon us to remember their sacrifice and that of their families.

To commemorate this Veterans Day I turned to my brother for guidance. For the better part of 20 years, Col. Dennis McSweeney served in the artillery, and for several additional years in Army Intelligence. After a three-month retirement, he was rehired as a civilian to work at the Pentagon in the Inspector General's Office.

My brother and his wife managed to raise three bright kids while he served two stints in Vietnam, commanded bases in Europe, taught military science at our hometown college, and briefed officials at highest levels of government. My sister-in-law also worked as a nurse in a variety of military settings.

His advice was to take in Steven Spielberg's latest movie, "Saving Private Ryan". He thought I should see it for two reasons: "First, I saw my soldiers put themselves in harm's way during the Tet offensive in Vietnam — this movie captures accurately the unbelievable violence of massive troop movements in a kill or be killed scenario. In the midst of such a confrontation, the rush of a thousand emotions — all of which have to do with their country, their families and their God — propels the soldiers forward. Spielberg got it right.

"Second, the plot involves another aspect of the Army which still persists today — taking care of soldiers. The idea that the Army would take such dramatic action to save a sole surviving son is a valid scenario and one which explains what being an 'American' is all about. It reminded me of an action we took with an infantry sergeant in Vietnam. Our leadership has always evidenced profound sensitivity to personal sacrifice in the defense of freedom."

My brother also spoke thoughtfully about one final perception he had. But it was one that he felt he should not disclose completely for fear of stealing some of the film's impact.

"In the midst of all the bullets and sentiment, Spielberg raises a question that emerges as part of the moral background in any war. It is a question that veterans and noncombatants alike must answer if they truly want to honor those who have laid down their lives for their fellow man."

I followed my brother's suggestion. Riveted to the screen, I found the experience to be everything he said it would be — and yes, there was the question: before the final credits, one character, now an old man, surveys the graves of those he fought beside and wonders how anyone could be deserving of such sacrifice.

He turns to his wife and pleads, "Tell me I've led a good life!"

However you decide to commemorate Veterans Day, I hope your heart is open to a holy and awesome awareness of the real people who die in war. War is ugly, devastating and brutal. And the only appropriate response is one of gratitude.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The apostle whom Jesus loved

Q. There are several places in the New Testament where one of the apostles or disciples is referred to as "the one Jesus loved." Who was this? And why is his name never mentioned?

A. The Beloved Disciple — or "the disciple whom Jesus loved," depending on the translation — is referred to often in the fourth Gospel.

This person, the most intimate friend of Jesus according to that Gospel, became the source of Christian belief in what is called the Johannine community, the community (or communities) of John, out of which came the Gospel According to John.

We know from that Gospel, and from the letters of John, that this group of believers in Jesus underwent many crises and conflicts. Some were caused from outside their community.

The Gospel reveals, for example, the mounting tensions between those Christians and the leaders of Judaism. In Chapter 9 we hear the story of the man born blind, whose sight is miraculously bestowed by Jesus.

That passage refers explicitly to a major event in the final separation of the Johannine Christians from their Jewish connections, the decision by Judaism, somewhere around the year 90, to eject from the synagogue anyone who professed Jesus as Messiah (9:22).

Other tensions, the most bitter ones it seems, developed inside the community. In the First Letter of John we find extremely harsh denunciations, unequaled in the New Testament, of one faction by another.

In the course of their censures, they describe forcefully what true followers of Jesus Christ should believe and how they should act. The Beloved Disciple was their inspiration and authority for all this.

Even after his death (see 21:23) his teachings continued to inspire their development of the lofty theology about Jesus, which makes the fourth Gospel so unique.

Who this mysterious, anonymous figure is, no one knows for sure. For a long time it was thought to be John the apostle, son of the fisherman Zebedee.

For several good reasons, which we cannot enter into here, it seems more probable that it was someone else. To whomever it might have been, Christianity will always owe an immense debt of gratitude.

Postscript on largest church

Q. In response to your answer a few weeks ago concerning the largest Catholic church, I must communicate the fact that Pope John Paul II did in fact consecrate the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast (West Africa), Sept. 9, 1990.

He did so preceding a meeting of the pre-synodal council for the Special Assembly of Africa (Rome).

A. I am grateful to the priest from the office of the Synod of Bishops for this information and for additional facts concerning this cathedral.

Apparently the piazza in front of the new basilica is larger than that of St. Peter's, but its 272 columns are 12 less than those around St. Peter's Square. The seating capacity of Our Lady of Peace is 7,000. St. Peter's can accommodate about 10,000.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Results of family life rise from broken dreams

In a letter to a young activist, Thomas Merton said, "Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no worth at all, if not, perhaps, results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results, but in the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself. And there, too, a great deal has to be gone through, as gradually you struggle less and less for an ideal, and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, and it gets more real. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything."

What the mystic says holds as true for leaders of families as it does for an activist. We begin with a noble dream. We connect with an ideal, a vision of family, and little by little we, so to keep our sanity, reset our focus to better deal with the unplanned, unexpected, undesired, not-so-ideal issues that are thrown at us.

To stay healthy, families have to let go of the leftover baggage of broken dreams and disappointments. And it is true that some of the best efforts to reach our goals result in just the opposite of what we want. Holding on to broken dreams makes for poor relationships. We can have our hearts fixed on the spouse of our dreams, the child of our dreams, family of our dreams, and not fully engage in the relationships with the real people with us.

Married couples struggle early on to find what's real for them. The disillusionment from discovering the brokenness of the other sometimes leaves them in despair and eventually to dissolution of the marriage. But those who weather the storm discover in their brokenness new beginnings. From the fragments of shattered dreams rise new visions.

This is especially true with parenting. Our children have dreams of their own. Our dreams for them have to die so that theirs may come to life. And even theirs have to die so that God's way will direct them.

But what about all our effort for the family of our dreams? "The range tends to narrow, and it gets more real" as we sift through the messiness of family living. Emerging through broken promises, broken dreams, the fear of wasting our lives, we "settle for" imperfection. "In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything." In the faces of those we are with, we see the results and know that this is the greatest and holiest thing we could have done with our lives.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Bishop says U.S. has 'unjust amount of wealth,' calls for change

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — The bishop who violated a U.S. law to help take medicine into Iraq earlier this year told an audience at Erie's Mercyhurst College that the United States has "an unjust amount of wealth in the world and we have to change that." Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit and founding president of Pax Christi USA, presented a critique of globalization from the perspective of the poor titled "Globalization: Whose World Is It Anyway?" In an interview prior to his Oct. 20 talk, Bishop Gumbleton said Americans have a moral responsibility to reduce the growing gap between rich and poor.

Pope, Carter had secret correspondence, says former aide

PARIS (CNS) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secretly corresponded with a newly elected Pope John Paul II on arms control, Soviet policies and Catholic missionaries in China, a former Carter aide said. The "Vatican hot line," as it was called inside the White House, was established soon after the pope's election in 1978 in the belief that the Polish-born pontiff would be a major player on the world stage, said James M. Rentschler, a staff member of the National Security Council at the time. Rentschler described the situation in an article appearing in the Oct. 30 International Herald tribune, published in Paris.

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

EPS Service Award

U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs (right) receives the first EPS Service Award from EPS president Sister Mary Ann Cook Oct. 28 at Trinity College in Washington. The award recognizes a lay person living out the ideals and practices of his or her Catholic faith.

Boggs says pope still has strong physical, mental presence

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — By virtue of her position and her 82 years of age, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Corinne "Lindy" Boggs feels confident she can give a reliable report on the vigor of Pope John Paul II, who at 78 has been slowed in recent years by physical problems. But while the pope's "steps are measured and sometimes his voice is not as strong as at other times," Boggs sees a man who still has a powerful physical and mental presence, someone calling on all of his strength to continue leading the world's 1 billion Catholics into the millennium. In an interview in New Orleans with the Clarion Herald, archdiocesan newspaper, she ticked off the pope's Holy Week schedule. "Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Vigil, Easter Sunday. Those were four days, and the ceremonies were at least three hours long each day. He went to the Colosseum for the Way of the Cross."

Retired Argentinean bishop answered pope's call to Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — After Pope John Paul II's January visit to Cuba, retired Bishop Dante Sandrelli of Formosa, Argentina, decided to leave his native country to serve as a missionary on the Caribbean island. "I assumed in first person the call of the pope to send missionaries to Cuba, but ... I didn't have any missionary other than myself," he said on a recent return visit to Argentina. He said he plans to remain a missionary among Cubans "as long as God gives me life." After requesting permission from the pope, who encouraged him to go to Cuba, Bishop Sandrelli offered himself to the Cuban bishops, who assigned him to the national Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of Cobre, 600 miles east of Havana in the old copper mining town.

Cultural pluralism is central to church, canon lawyers told

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Diversity in the church is not a bad thing, and homogenization and centralization in the church are not always tools for unity, Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland told a group of canon lawyers. Recognizing that the church of the future will be marked by "cultural pluralism" was one thesis highlighted by Archbishop Weakland of Milwaukee in his address on "Structuring 'Communio' in the Church Formed of Many Cultures." The archbishop served as keynoter to the 500 participants gathered for the Canon Law Society of America's 60th annual meeting, held in Orlando Oct. 12-15. Archbishop Weakland said economic globalization is a fact of life. The phenomenon is characterized as the economic state of one nation or sector of the world affecting national economies across the globe.

With cardinal's help, Yankee's family allowed to visit from Cuba

NEW YORK (CNS) — With New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor's intervention, Cuban President Fidel Castro agreed to let the family of Yankees pitcher Orlando Hernandez visit him in the United States. At the cardinal's Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Oct. 25, Hernandez was sitting in a front pew with his daughters, Yahumara, 8, and Steffi, 3; his mother, Maria Julia Pedroso Cruz; and his former wife, Norma Alvira Manso.

Chilean refugees depart Montreal church after parish request

MONTREAL (CNS) — Chileans refugees who occupied St. Jean de la Croix Church in central Montreal left after requests from the parish board of directors and from a support committee formed on behalf of the refugees. Meanwhile, leaders of the Chilean families issued a statement accusing the support group, led by Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte of Montreal, of having abandoned them. "We won't give up our struggle," said spokesman Mario Valenzuela, who vowed they would seek another organization to offer them refuge. The Chileans, most of whom have received deportation orders from the government, occupied the church in mid-September when immigration officials stepped up raids to arrest and deport illegal immigrants.

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131
HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

ModularCorp
*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

The word brought to the screen

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with national wire stories, along with articles like the following from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

CNS PHOTO FROM GRAMERCY PICTURES

Susan Sarandon stars as Sister Helen Prejean, SSJ, in a scene from the film "Dead Man Walking."

By MARY BRESLIN

There's religion on the screen, but not a lot of it, according to church movie critics.

In recent years, notes Henry Herx, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting, Hollywood producers make no apologies for the fact that motion pictures are secular entertainment.

People still can find Gospel-inspired films, however.

"Theatrical motion picture is not the only game in town," said Herx. "Families are not fully dependent on what's playing at the local Bijou or what's on cable or network television." He cited the increasing volume of videos dealing with religious topics in a completely religious way, allowing some thoughtful choices about what to show on the VCR.

Generally, films with strong Christian themes don't do well at the box office.

"Religious films deal with questions of sanctity and religious virtue that the secular world finds unfamiliar or difficult to comprehend," Herx said. He mentioned two contemporary examples, "Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story" and "Romero," as films that were not blockbusters with mainstream film viewers but found an audience on video.

People searching for Gospel-centered choices at the neighborhood cinema these days will find "there's not terribly much out there, with the possible exception of 'The Apostle,' about a Pentecostal preacher," Herx said. The movie addresses elements of faith, the notion of sin, human flaws and good works, but he believes Roman Catholics would find it an emotional, shallow expression of religion. The redeeming message has merit, he said. "It does focus on a man striving to do good and reform a flawed friend."

St. Anthony Messenger's film and TV critic James W. Arnold said he qualifies films as having Christian values if "they suggest or show that God loves us and has redeemed us and has prepared an eternity for us."

He cites two categories of Gospel-centered films. The first contains films that are explicitly religious and often about a priest, nun or the life of a saint. The second category includes "parable films that depict signs of grace."

On Arnold's top-ten list of explicitly religious films, he places "Dead Man Walking" among the top three, remarking that it belongs among the elite of religious films. "The image of Christ that Sister Helen Prejean projects is fantastic," he said. "And it speaks to contemporary and cutting-edge concerns as well."

"The Gospel According to St. Matthew" is an extraordinarily wonderful work, says Arnold. "It is a classic work using imagery and music." He also gives high marks to "A Man For All Seasons," about St. Thomas More. "It's been overlooked in recent years, but deserves to be re-examined as one of the best religious films."

Arnold listed a second set of top films from the category that he calls "parable films." In that list he included "Cool Hand Luke," "Forrest Gump," "Schindler's List," "La Strada," "Grand Canyon," "Stolen Children," "Babette's Feast," "Chariots of Fire," "Whistle Down the Wind," and "Night of the Hunter."

While these are not obviously religious in their content, each has a character with a strong element of grace, as in "Forrest Gump," or people's response to grace, as in "Grand Canyon" and "Stolen Children," or the bringing of hope and faith in a metaphorical way, as in "Cool Hand Luke," Arnold said.

Some films never make a top-ten list, according to Arnold, yet they merit mention in the company of films with Christian values.

From Herx's list of all-time great films with Christian themes, he gave top honors to "The Passion of Joan of Arc," a 1928 silent film by a Danish filmmaker, calling it "a powerhouse of spiritual experience." Herx said the film provides a cutaway view of the woman's soul, "exploring the inner struggle between human frailties and spiritual strength."

A 1986 release, "The Mission," gives high visibility to the issue of social injustice in colonial America, according to Herx. He said the film "provides a context for current Latin American struggles." Another of Herx's top choices, the 1966 drama "A Man for All Seasons," showcases a public figure's unwillingness to compromise his conscience, even when the reward for unwavering morality was a death sentence for King Henry VIII's chancellor, Thomas More.

Herx also lauded the TV dramatization "Jesus of Nazareth," directed by Franco Zeffirelli, as being "entirely faithful to the Gospel account."

"The result achieves a spiritual dimension uncommon in most such works," he noted. ▼

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Catholic Heritage Society
Could You Be Eligible For Membership?
The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.
For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

Remember His Will In Yours.
"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin
You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Communion of saints: All of Jesus' followers

By SISTER THERESA SANDERS, RSCJ
Catholic News Service

Mother Teresa once said that there are thousands of people in our cities starving for a piece of bread, but that there are thousands more starving for a little bit of love. Loneliness literally plagues our streets.

In our culture, it is easy to feel very lost and very alone.

This is true especially when someone we love has died and left us behind. Then we can feel utterly bereft, cut off from the joy and affection that that person brought to our lives.

Yet, what we proclaim each Sunday when we recite the Profession of Faith is that no one of us is ever truly alone. No one of us can ever be truly forgotten. Each of us, whether living or dead, is a member of the body of Christ, or what the Profession of Faith calls "the communion of saints."

"The communion of saints": What is it? The words roll so quickly off our tongues as we recite them each week that we probably don't give them a moment's thought. But those few words speak volumes about who we are as Christians and how we see ourselves in relation to one another and to God.

> *"What we proclaim each Sunday when we recite the Profession of Faith is that no one of us is ever truly alone. No one of us can ever be truly forgotten," says Sister Theresa Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. "Each of us, whether living or dead, is a member of the body of Christ, ... the Profession of Faith calls 'the communion of saints."*

The word "saint," of course, refers to a holy person the church has proclaimed worthy of universal veneration. But in Christianity's earliest days, "saints" did not mean merely a few extraordinary people singled out for special recognition. The term meant all the followers of Jesus — all those struggling to live as he had taught.

So, for example, when St. Paul wrote his letter to Corinth's Christian community, he addressed it "to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In that sense, then, all Christians are saints in that all have been called to holiness. The good news of Jesus is that our membership in the community of saints does not end with our deaths.

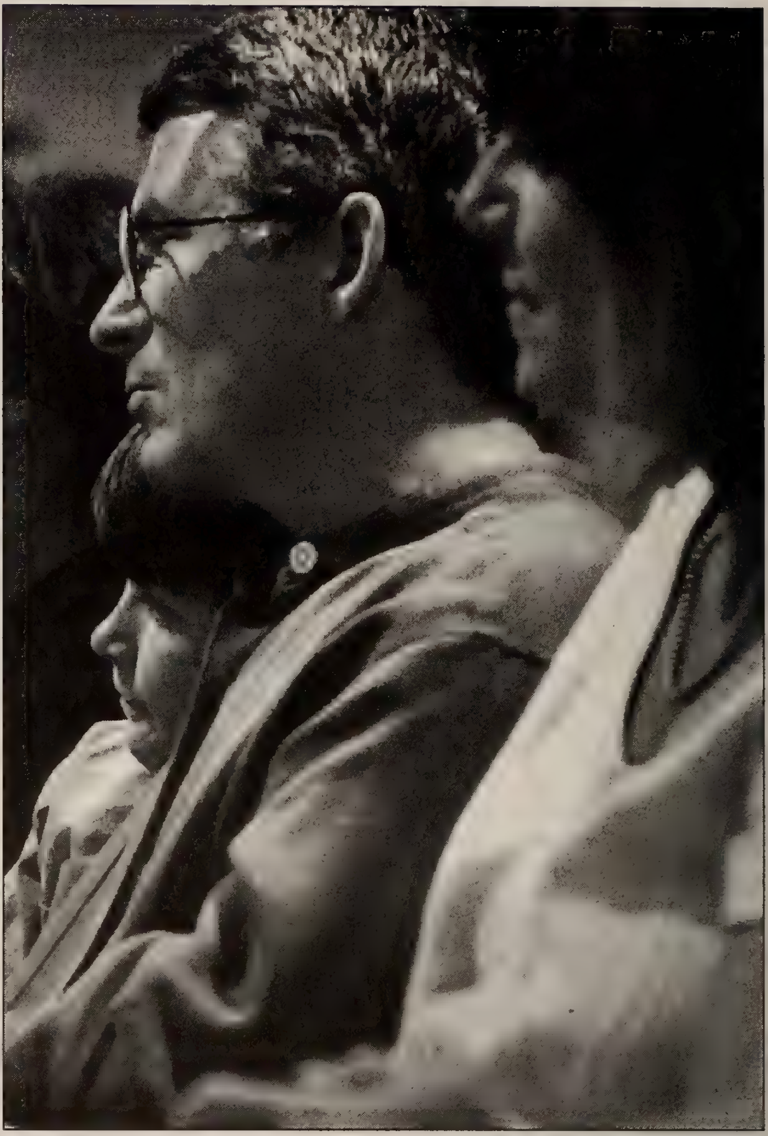
Those who have died have a full and ever-deepening share in the life of Christ. Far from being cut off from us, they become part of our lives in a different way.

That's why St. Dominic, at his death, told his followers not to weep; he would be able to help them more effectively from heaven than he ever could on earth. And St. Therese of Lisieux, dying a slow death from tuberculosis, vowed, "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

How can the dead still be part of our lives? According to a very old tradition of the church, some of the faithful who have died are still continuing their journey toward God; they are still in the process of being purified. Others are already in the full light of God's glory. Yet all share in the same love of Christ. And just as we ask our friends and relatives to pray for and with us in this life, we can ask them to pray for and with us in the next.

Christ's love endures through, beyond and despite the powers of death.

But when we think of the communion of saints, we shouldn't think only of communion with those who have died. Every week in the Sunday liturgy Catholics live out their communion with one another by breaking bread together in the eucharist. They share their faith through Scripture readings, and they ask prayers from one another.


CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

When death comes for one member of the body, the others share grief and offer each other strength through the rites for the dead. At baptisms and weddings they celebrate together, offering gifts and food and laughter. As St. Paul writes, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

So when one person struggles with alcohol or drugs or family violence, when one member feels her faith slipping away or no longer feels the will to live, when one member is anxious or overwhelmed by daily life's pressures, the communion of saints pulls together to offer whatever it can: compassion, strength or simply a listening heart.

Membership in the communion of saints demands that we care for each other's physical needs with generosity as well. When St. Paul was writing to the Christian community in Rome, he told them he was taking a trip to deliver aid for "the poor saints in Jerusalem." Over and over again we see Paul urging his fellow Christians to look out for each other's physical needs so that no one would be cold or hungry or destitute.

If we really believe that we are united with each other through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we have to put that love into action. If we truly lived our membership in the communion of saints, the starving in our streets that Mother Teresa spoke about would find bread, and those hungering for our love would be filled as well. ▼

Sister Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, teaches theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

Faith in the marketplace

Tell of a saint you recall in a particular way and for a particular reason in your spirituality.

"The person I remember is my uncle Bob. He seemed like a saint to me. He was a mentor, a protective presence in my life. Many times what he said left a big impression.... He was an ordinary person, but to me he was really extraordinary — and even now I imitate his life as a guide in living my life."

— *Dave Clark, Derby, Kan.*

"St. Jude.... I've been having some children problems that sometimes seem impossible, and I've been praying to St. Jude, and recently things have started to turn around. We've had some good news, and I believe praying to St. Jude is a big part of it."

— *Carole Knightley, Wichita, Kan.*

"St. Andrew appeals to me. He wasn't a preacher; he is only mentioned three times in the Bible, and each time he is bringing someone to Jesus. I remember Andrew's quiet gift of introducing people to Jesus as an example for all of us to follow."

— *Rosalie Weskamp, McCook, Neb.*

FAITH alive! Upcoming Edition

An upcoming edition asks:

What can/should the people of God offer to the world in the year 2000?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Death no obstacle to communion among saints

By FATHER W. THOMAS FAUCHER
Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church is old and wonderful, a splendid mix of God's divine presence and 2,000 years of human eccentricities.

We have traditions and rituals steeped in deep theological understandings and profound mystery, such as the grace of the sacraments. And we see customs that challenge good sense, such as burying a statue of St. Joseph in the back yard to sell a house.

Whenever time is taken to go through this ancient church for spring cleaning, as happened at Vatican Council II, we end up sorting out those traditions and rituals which should continue to be a living part of the church from practices which should end up only in the history books.

It takes time to do that, and sometimes it also takes a few years before even very essential things are restored to the prominence they deserve.

Thus, only now after some 30 years are we beginning to see attention turning again to the importance of the communion the saints. We are finding the saints more essential than ever to our understanding of God and the church.

To understand saints we have to understand how God relates to us and what God's church is.

Catholicism is a communal faith. God's grace comes to each of us directly, but we also share that grace with one another. We are bound together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, and we support, sustain, encourage, challenge and give life to each other.

For Catholics, the saints are our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who have successfully completed life on earth and are in heaven, but who remain our family. Just as those living now are tied to us as church, so those who have died and are in heaven have not lost those ties.

At Mass we "join with the saints" in praising God, and we ask the saints to help and accompany us. In private devotion we talk and even listen to the saints.

Dying does not mean that someone leaves the church or stops caring about what happens to us. The bonds of church are much too strong for that. We don't understand all that happens in heaven, but we do know that while the saints are in God's presence, they still care about us.

We once referred to this reality by three names: the Church Militant, Church Suffering and Church Triumphant — all one church. The titles may need some adjusting, but the reality behind those titles is still accurate.

It doesn't have to be the big or famous saints to whom we pray and whose presence we feel. It might be Aunt Helen or Uncle Ron, grandmother or old Father Antonelli. It can be our patron saint who takes on a special responsibility for us as we move ourselves under his or her protection. We can feel the presence of the patron of our parish in its activities.

I feel the presence and power of saints often. My favorites are my own patrons (from my names and birth date), and wonderful St. Winefride from Wales, a sixth-century martyr.

St. Winefride is a favorite of mine. I found her shrine in North Wales, by the way, to be one of the most inspiring places I ever visited with its 1,500-year history, the beauty of its location and, above all, the feeling when you walk into it that this is a place where God lives. ▼

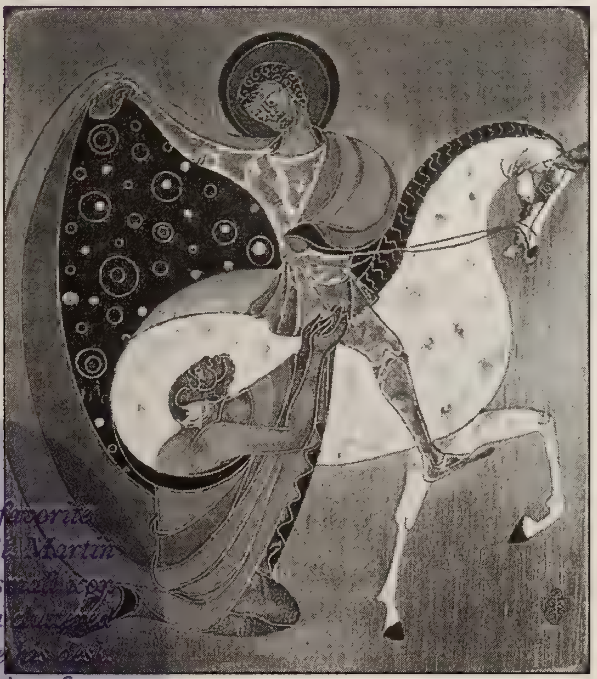
Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.

St. Martin: Patron for Christians on the run

By STAN KONIECZNY
Catholic News Service

Although he first won my admiration by bribery of sorts, St. Martin of Tours has been one of my lifelong heroes. As a student at St. Martin of Tours Grade School, I and my classmates always anticipated a mid-November free day to mark the feast of our patron.

St. Martin of Tours, a fourth-century bishop and man of great prayer, is best remembered for a defining moment in his early life. While a Roman soldier and a student Christian, Martin met a poor beggar shivering in the cold outside the city gates of Amiens, France. Martin halted, considered the poor person's plight and in an act of tremendous charity divided his own cloak to help the beggar ward off the chill.



Stan Konieczny's favorite depiction of St. Martin of Tours is a small icon enshrined on a cluttered bookcase beside his desk. "The patron saint of my commute reminds me that it is OK to be on the move," he writes, "but I need to be aware of others."

That night Christ appeared to Martin wearing the beggar's half of an army cloak.

In my limited sphere of faith and influence, I have declared St. Martin of Tours the patron of my daily commute. During the time spent driving to and from work each day, it seems appropriate to recall that Martin met Christ on the road.

It was while on the road that Martin had his unforgettable meeting with his poor neighbor and ultimately with his Savior.

The patron saint of my commute reminds me that it is OK to be on the move, but I need to be aware of those around me. I must watch for opportunities to be kind and compassionate.

Over the years, I have stopped along the way to contemplate Martin's legendary act of charity toward the beggar captured by various artists. From the unsigned works of stained-glass artisans to the bold depiction of Martin by El Greco, I have considered this tableau of love and sharing.

My favorite depiction of the scene is a modernistic painting of Martin not tearing his cloak but wrapping it around both himself and the beggar. That small icon is enshrined on the cluttered bookcase beside my desk and sometimes catches my eye as I look up from my computer.

An impressive aspect for me of St. Martin of Tours' witness of great charity is the reality of a responsible person putting aside "corporate culture" and other dictates in favor of the Gospel. Martin made a Gospel decision to stop and share his cloak with the beggar of Amiens.

Yet, acting on a charitable impulse of the Spirit, Martin put the Gospel in an ordinary life situation. ▼

Konieczny is director of communications for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ruma, Ill.

In a nutshell

- **"Communion of saints" means communion in holy things and among holy people, says the catechism (No. 948).**
- **St. Paul called all church members saints. The good news is that membership in the community of saints does not end with death.**
- **St. Paul wrote, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."**

Food for thought

A Vatican commission currently is collecting the names of 20th-century martyrs — people who gave their lives for religious principles. Already thousands of names have been proposed to the Commission for New Martyrs.

It is preparing for an ecumenical service May 7, 2000, in Rome's Coliseum. Then, as part of church observances for the start of the new millennium, the pope and other religious leaders are expected to hold the lives and deaths of the new martyrs up as signs that Christianity survives and thrives despite efforts taken to extinguish it.

Actually, it is an ancient belief in the church that, paradoxically, the blood of martyrs nourishes fresh vitality in the church.

Within the communion of saints, martyrs continue to "spread light" and "inspire hope," Pope John Paul II suggested recently in beatifying Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac in Croatia. Cardinal Stepinac and other martyrs of that region "bore an extraordinary witness," and as time passed that witness "lost none of its eloquence," the pope said.

He explained that the cardinal, who died in 1960, "did not shed his blood in the strict sense.... His death was caused by the long suffering he endured" under communist rule.

The pope compared that martyrdom to the Gospel seed: "As a grain of wheat, the cardinal 'fell into the earth ..., and by dying bore fruit, much fruit.'"

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

All contents copyright 1998, Catholic News service

FAITH alive!

Book Review

Positive reactions to new Edith Stein books

REVIEWED BY **EUGENE J. FISHER**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

At the outset, I should acknowledge that I have short pieces in both of these works. So this article may be considered more of a book notice than a book review.

Waltraud Herbstrith's "Never Forget," originally published in German to mark the beatification of St. Edith Stein, collects the reflections of over 50 European Catholics and Jews: scholars, religious and cultural leaders, friends and members of the Stein family. To these the American edition has added helpful informational essays on the canonization and its process by Carmelite Fathers John Sullivan and Kieran Kavanaugh, and on the Edith Stein Guild by Victor J. Donovan, along with two trenchant and incisive articles by Rabbis Nancy Fuchs-Kriemer and Daniel Polish.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, in a recent advisory sent to the U.S. bishops in his capacity as episcopal moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations, noted two central concerns in Jewish responses. First, the long history of attempts to convert Jews — too often by force, even though this was officially banned by the Church — leads Jews to question whether the canonization and subsequent veneration of a Jewish convert will lead to similar proselytizing attempts with their tragic consequences.

The second, Jewish fear arising from the canonization is that it represents an attempt by the church to "take over" the Holocaust, by casting a Catholic in the role of victim. The bishops' statement of 1987 was quite clear. Veneration of Edith Stein, they declared, should lead to contemplation on the sins of Christians against Jews over the centuries, especially considering the fact that her murderers, while hardly practicing Christianity, were baptized and raised as Christians.

The Jewish and Christian essays collected in "Never Forget" provide not only an invaluable personal, historical and theological set of insights into Edith Stein and her times, but also a sensitive and complex legacy that the church, in preserving her memory in this way, sets as a challenge for all future generations of Christians.

Susanne Batzdorff, the author of "Aunt Edith," is an observant Jew. What she gives us here is truly remarkable and precious. It is the story of a woman of greatness and spiritual humility, a detailed biography of her aunt, whom she knew and remembers. Edith Stein died in Auschwitz before a book she had been working on, "Life in a Jewish Family," could be published. The book was designed to break down the anti-Semitic stereotypes then rampant in Europe. The saint's niece not only fulfills the hopes of her aunt for our times, but gives us an invaluable look at the remarkable Jewish family that produced a Catholic saint and remains Jewish to this day. ▼

Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and consultor to the Holy See's Commission on Religious Relations With the Jewish People.

"Never Forget: Christian and Jewish Perspectives on Edith Stein," by Waltraud Herbstrith, OCD, translated by Susanne Batzdorff. Institute of Carmelite Studies (Washington, 1998). 304 pp., $11.95.

"Aunt Edith: The Jewish Heritage of a Catholic Saint," by Susanne Batzdorff. Templegate Publishers (Springfield, Ill., 1998). 237 pp., $14.95.

Word to Life

November 8. Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C. Readings:

1) 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
2) 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
3) Luke 20:27-38

BY **JEAN DENTON**

It was sunny, cool and dry, a beautiful Sunday morning for soccer. My 13-year-old son warmed up on the field with his teammates as I found my seat in the stands with the other moms and dads. All of us were excited for our boys who had made it to the tournament semifinals.

"Where's Michael?" a parent asked, noticing that one of the boys was missing.

"Michael doesn't play on Sundays," replied the coach's wife. "His parents won't allow him to play on Sunday. It's a religious thing," she explained to the group.

I couldn't listen silently. Michael was my son's best friend, and our families were close. On any other soccer day Michael's dad's booming voice was the most encouraging sound coming from the sidelines. But on Sundays he was ushering or teaching Sunday school or driving the elderly to church.

"It's not so much their church's strict rules," I said. "This is something they as a family have chosen to do. They dedicate Sunday totally to God and family. It is simply what they do, and it's a discipline they've taught their kids since they were little."

I didn't take the conversation further. After all, my son and I were there, having hurried away after the Saturday game to get conveniently to a vigil Mass, so we could make it to Sunday's matches.

Although Michael's family hasn't had to endure more than verbal persecution for their acts of faith, they are much like the family in this week's Old Testament reading. Living for Christ, not for the things of this world, is the center of their lives. They know, as Paul mentions in the second reading, that "not everyone has faith, and there are "confused and evil men" trying to change their minds.

Their decision to give themselves totally to God for one day every week does not fit with modern American culture. But they know that this life passes away, so they stand firm in their loyalty to God.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 8 — 14, 1998

Sunday, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Luke 20:27-38, or 20:27,34-38; **Monday,** Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12, 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17, John 2:13-22; **Tuesday,** Titus 2:1-8,11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday,** Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday,** Philemon 7-20, Luke 17: 20-25; **Friday,** 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday,** 3 John 5-8; Luke 18: 1-8

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets

A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.

155 Jonestown Rd./
Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799

Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

RESPECT LIFE

The Healing Journey ... After Abortion
By Theresa Karminski Burke, Ph.D.
Friday, November 13, 1998
Winston-Salem, NC

A powerful & equipping seminar on post-abortion healing for physicians, nurses, therapists, lay counselors and clergy.

Call Dr. Martha Shuping (336) 659-1342

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Video Reviews

Out on video

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Butcher Boy" (1998)

Darkly disturbing tale of a 1960s Irish lad (Eamonn Owens) veering into murderous madness following his mother's suicide, the death of his alcoholic father (Stephen Rea) and what he perceives as his only friend's betrayal. Director Neil Jordan captures the youth's psychic pain as well as the inability of family, clergy or professionals to redirect his volatile rage before tragedy results. Some gory violence, sexual situations, intermittent profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (1966)

Widowed inventor (Dick Van Dyke) takes his two children and girlfriend (Sally Ann Howes) on a magical mystery tour of the imagination involving an evil baron (Gert Frobe), a cavernous castle in the air, the rescue of imprisoned children and the strange flying car of the title. Though adults may be disappointed by the indifferent lyrics and lackluster special effects of this musical fantasy directed by Ken Hughes, there is still more than enough good fun for the young and uncritical. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Clockwatchers" (1998)

Office drama in which four temporary secretaries bond, then are gradually torn apart when they come under suspicion after other employees' personal items begin disappearing. Sexual references, a few profanities and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Into Thin Air: Death on Everest" (1997)

Fact-based TV dramatization of an ill-fated 1996 expedition to scale Mount Everest which costs eight climbers their lives when they are enveloped by a fast-moving blizzard. Directed by Robert Markowitz from the book by Jon Krakauer, who was one of the survivors, the production has some awesome footage of the Austrian Alps as well as of the doomed climbers' desperate struggle to survive the savage storm, but the individuality of the characters gets lost behind hoods and snow masks. Life-threatening situations and the lethal power of nature. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Million Dollar Legs" (1932)

Zany comedy opens in the depressed country of Klopstokia where an American salesman (Jack Oakie) falls for the daughter (Susan Fleming) of its president (W.C. Fields), then discovers all its citizens are superathletes and brings a team to Los Angeles to compete in the Olympics. Directed by Edward Cline, the funny business includes some hilarious sight gags and Fields shines both as an Olympic weightlifter who overcomes the efforts of a siren (Lyda Roberti) hired to demoralize the team. Mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

"Living Out Loud"

Holly Hunter and Danny DeVito star in this new comedy-drama. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

charlotte celebrates its celtic traditions

CELTIC FESTIVAL
Uptown in Founders Hall, connecting to the Performing Arts Center
November 14 • 11:30am – 8:00pm

Before or after the "Riverdance" performances, join the community for a Celtic Festival, a free, fun, family event! Featuring "The Thistle and Shamrock" creator, Fiona Ritchie, who will be visiting from Scotland.

11:30 *Charlotte Children's Choir*
12:15 *Rince na h'Eireann and Ceol na h'Eireann*
12:45 *Fiona Ritchie*
2:15 *Celtic stories & music by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*
3:30 *The Ruffians*
4:30 *Festival Singers*
5:15 *The Ruffians*
6:15 *Festival Singers*
7:00 *Queen City Brass Band*

Plus food and crafts!
Bistro 100 will serve a special Irish Prefixed menu with seating available from 4:30-7:00pm. For reservations, call John Doyle at 331.0078.

CELTIC HOTLINE: 704.379.1300
Visit our Website: www.celtic-celebration.org

NORTH CAROLINA Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
9 WSOC-TV CHARLOTTE
The Charlotte Observer
WFAE 90.7fm
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Retired?
Have some free time?
Looking for fun ways to share life's experiences and learn from others at the same time?

We know you have a lot to offer and we need **YOU**...

*The **Catholic Conference Center** will be offering educational adventures to seniors through partnerships with area colleges and universities. If you have a special talent you would like to share or just love learning with others... call to become a part of this exciting program. We also need qualified volunteers to teach and facilitate.*

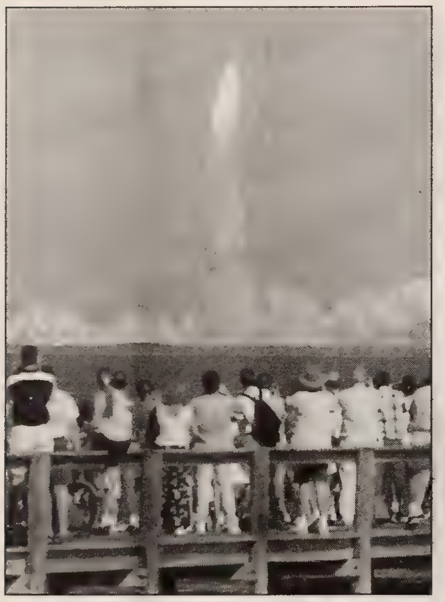
Call the Center today for more information.

The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory NC
Phone: **(704) 327-7441** or Toll-Free: **(888) 536-7441** or E-mail: **ccc@twave.net**
Visit our website! **CatholicConference.org**

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Spectators watch as space shuttle Discovery launches from Cape Canaveral, Fla., Oct. 29. The shuttle carried astronaut John Glenn into space for the second time. He made his first trip in orbit 36 years ago.

Glenn's mission draws admiration of Vatican conference

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Astronaut John Glenn, the former U.S. senator who has fascinated the world by undertaking a space mission at age 77, drew the admiration of a Vatican gathering on the church and the elderly.

Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, referred to the septuagenarian spaceman in his opening remarks at the Oct. 29-31 meeting.

"Just think of it," the archbishop said Oct. 30, the morning after the launch. "A man as old as the pope is now orbiting the world."

The conference brought together experts in health, theology, economics and demographics to address various aspects of aging and to propose solutions to financial, social and pastoral challenges that aging populations pose. ▼

Colchester Place

GARDENS & NURSERY

- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

Employment opportunities available

10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

ABLE AIRE

24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948

A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company

Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands

Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary

5% off parts with this ad

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that ***your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.***

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. ***You can literally change a life!***

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But ***most important***, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."

Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship

414

Yes, I'll help one child:

☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need

My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______

I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually

☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)

CNH11/98

☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ______ Exp. Date ______

☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ______.

☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.

FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ______
(please print)
Address ______
City/State/Zip ______
Phone (____) ______

Send to:
Christian Foundation for
Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax deductible

PART 2: Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Better Job Strategy helps empower local people

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the American bishops' anti-poverty program. The 1998 CCHD collection will be held Nov. 21-22. Earlier this year, the national CCHD committee awarded a $35,000 grant to a Charlotte organization. The following story is the second of a two-part story on how that group is using CCHD funds.

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

CHARLOTTE — Empowering people means, among other things, helping them find good jobs. The group Helping Empower Local People (H.E.L.P.) in Charlotte is doing just that.

H.E.L.P. has united Charlotteans around basic issues including decent jobs. H.E.L.P., an offshoot of the Industrial Areas Foundation, is a community organizing group.

Supporting H.E.L.P.'s efforts is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The American bishops' anti-poverty campaign has, for the second year in a row, awarded H.E.L.P. a $35,000 grant.

H.E.L.P.'s Better Job Strategy unites industries, job training organizations and neighborhoods in an effort to hire people for jobs paying a living wage. Here's how the strategy works:

> **H.E.L.P.'s Better Job Strategy unites industries, job training organizations and neighborhoods in an effort to hire people for jobs paying a living wage.**

Industry clusters

H.E.L.P. asks industry leaders to project over a two-to-three year period, job needs in positions that pay at least $8 an hour with benefits. Job needs and skills are then publicized. Job-training programs prepare people who, upon successful completion of their training, would receive at least three job interviews from the industries seeking their skills. Thus far H.E.L.P. has lined up several companies to link with job training programs.

Job training certification

H.E.L.P. asks that training programs be certified to train in the skills areas cited by the industries. H.E.L.P.'s job training audit measures the success of training in the certification process. H.E.L.P. is in the process of bringing 50 people through the Job Link Center to see if it is accomplishing its goals. The results of that audit will be publicized later this month.

Community college support

H.E.L.P. endorses Central Piedmont Community College's more than 40 training programs which have enabled graduates to qualify for $10-an-hour jobs. In addition, CPCC offers advanced career training. H.E.L.P. is encouraging industries to link with CPCC.

Neighborhood learning centers

H.E.L.P. wants Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to set up neighborhood or regional adult learning centers. The first center, they recommend, should be set up in the area of highest unemployment. People coming to the centers would receive skills assessments, specific job availability data, information on certification training, and access to job clubs and support.

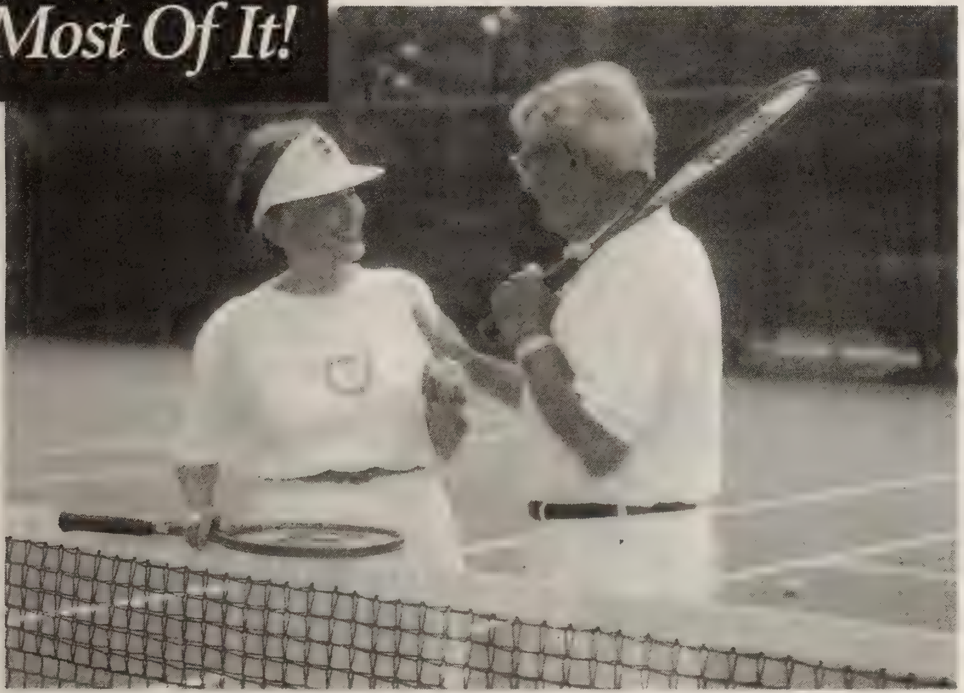
H.E.L.P. also recruits volunteers to sign up families for the North Carolina Health Choice program. This new initiative provides health and dental insurance to working poor families.

"We were impressed with the scope of H.E.L.P.'s job strategy plan," said Dr. Barney Offerman, director of the diocesan CCHD office. "Their efforts to bring people into the work force and provide them with good jobs and benefits, deserves the support of CCHD. It's a fine example of people coming together to help themselves, one another, and the community at-large." ▼

For more information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, call the diocesan office at (704)370-3234.

Mary Coyne Wessling is a free-lance writer who resides in Greensboro.

It's Your Life.
Make The Most Of It!



Perhaps you've heard about Belle Meade Retirement Resort, currently under development near the beautiful villages of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. When completed in 1999, it will be the premier full-service Life Care community in the Southeast.

Proposed Belle Meade Clubhouse

Learn more about Belle Meade's casually elegant lifestyle, attractive amenities, secured environment and extensive health care services including the resort's unique Life Care Plan. Simply call 800-343-7463 and ask to speak with Marketing Counselors Beth Corning or Myra Couch. They'll give you all the details.

BELLE MEADE
Retirement Resort
Member: Catholic Health East

95 Aviemore Drive • Pinehurst, NC 28374
800-343-7463 • 910-215-4535

Sponsor: St. Joseph of the Pines, Inc. - Pinehurst • Architectural services: Thompson, Hancock, Witte & Associates, Inc. - Atlanta • Feasibility consultation: KPMG Peat Marwick - St. Petersburg • Construction consultation: The Holcomb Group - Roanoke • General contractor: Rodgers/Hardin - Charlotte/Atlanta • Financial services: First Savings Bank of Moore County - Southern Pines & Wachovia Bank, NA - Southern Pines • Marketing consultation: Premark, Inc. - High Point • Senior Managing Underwriter: Merrill Lynch & Co. - New York • Certified member: Association of Retirement Resorts™ International

CN&H-98

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Parishioners bring Christ to those behind bars

Prison ministry active in Winston-Salem area

By **WESLEY YOUNG**

WINSTON-SALEM — Each Monday, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass takes place behind the prison walls of the Forsyth County Detention Center. It's one of the latest developments of prison ministry in the Winston-Salem area.

Parishioners of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church lead the ministry with the help of Catholics from churches in the area and as far away as Lexington. Volunteers work closely with the chaplains of the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry, trying to bring Christ to those behind bars.

"Those who work with prison ministry feel spiritually rewarded," said Mary Lib Daye, who has chaired the effort and coordinated volunteers for seven years. "Their spiritual life is enhanced by their interaction in this ministry. We are trying to bring Christ to them by the various activities, and find the inmates very receptive."

When Daye first became involved with prison ministry, there were no guidelines about what to do. Daye and the volunteers started using liturgical readings, and then added song sheets to give the inmates a chance to sing.

"I guess it was the Holy Spirit letting me know we needed something to go by," Daye said.

Every three months, volunteers meet with the inmates in a discipleship session that can include hymns, liturgical readings, prayers and Scripture readings. Men go to the men's section of the jail to meet with groups of inmates, and women volunteers gather with the female inmates.

Volunteers have furnished rosaries and Bibles periodically. During its Christmas Outreach, St. Leo Church provides articles of hygiene for the inmates. This spring, the parish's youth ministry group also donated articles.

When Mass is celebrated inside the jail, it may be in Spanish or in English. At present, about 20 inmates attend each Mass, and four to six prison ministry volunteers attend as well.

Once a month, Father Fidel Melo, parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Clemmons, administers the sacrament of reconciliation.

One thing prison ministry volunteers learn to leave behind is fear, Daye said. "We do not fear the inmates," she said. "On the contrary, there seems to be a friendly relationship between the inmates and volunteers. This is what makes the prison ministry volunteers return: a feeling of satisfaction and spiritual enhancement." ▾

Wesley Young is a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"Fire in the Mountains" to be held Nov. 21

By **JOANITA M. NELLENBACH**
Correspondent

LAKE JUNALUSKA — The Holy Spirit, Scripture and eternity are subjects of this year's "Fire in the Mountains" faith enrichment conference.

"What I want to talk about is how the Holy Spirit is the giver of life," said Father George Kloster, the featured speaker. "How are we to foster that Spirit in the church today? I plan to talk about the scriptural basis for us as the community of faith, and eternity as in the early church, not as individual judgment, but as community."

Kloster, who has been a priest in the Charlotte Diocese since its inception in 1972, is vicar of the Smoky Mountain vicariate and pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville.

"Fire in the Mountains" will be held in the Harrell Center's auditorium overlooking Lake Junaluska. The program, scheduled for Nov. 21, will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last until 3:30 p.m. However, Richard Wolf, faith formation coordinator for the Charlotte Diocese's western regional office, advises attendees to arrive between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., especially if they have not preregistered. Coffee and pastry will be available.

Participants can preregister until Nov. 14 by sending a registration form (available at churches) to Richard Wolf, 1000 Sand Branch Road, Black Mountain, N.C. 28711. Preregistration is encouraged, Wolf said, but attendees can also register at the door.

The $15 cost to attend the program includes lunch in the Terrace Hotel dining room, across the street from the Harrell Center.

Jane Keifer, former faith formation coordinator, started "Fire in the Mountains" six years ago as an annual adult faith formation event. Participants are mostly from the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates, but also from other areas of the diocese.

"Participants have commented that the environment, fellowship and recreation are appreciated, as well as the information involved," Wolf said. "Catechists and other lay ministers come away with material that can be practically applied, while others attend solely for their own spiritual enrichment."

A team plans the event to meet attendees' varied needs, Wolf added.

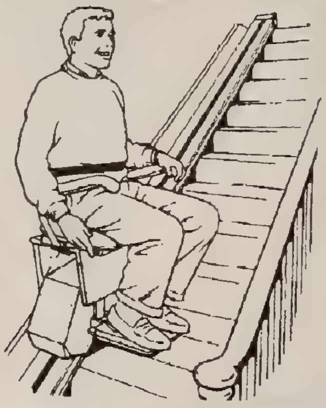
"If you want information, you can get information," he said. "If you want it to be a retreat day, it's a retreat day." ▾

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353



Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1998
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attend the BMHS Open House to learn about a proud tradition of educational excellence in the Triad. An informational presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by an opportunity to tour the school and meet students, staff and parents.

For more information, please contact:
Louise Sechler
Admissions Counselor
(336) 725-4247

BMHS

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School
Celebrating 40 Years of Quality Catholic Education in the Triad

1730 Link Road • Winston-Salem, NC 27103
Tel. (336) 725-4247 • Fax. (336) 725-6669 • E-mail: bmhs@ols.net

Speaking the language of love

Mary Beth Bonacci delivers powerful message to teens, adults

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — For Mary Beth Bonacci, "love" is a four-letter word that has serious connotations.

The internationally renowned speaker and author uses it to discuss her admiration for couples who enjoy healthy marriages, and to share her belief that teen-agers and adults must understand and respect God's gift of sexuality.

"Real love means wanting what is best for the other person (in a relationship), and recognizing the image and likeness of God in the other person," Bonacci told more than 400 people during her Oct. 26 visit to St. Thomas Aquinas Church. "It also means recognizing the image and likeness of God in yourself, ... and also respecting the dignity of every human being."

Her visit, sponsored by the parish's youth group, drew teen-agers, college students and parents from throughout the diocese.

"For some, love is only when they want you around, when it's good for them," Bonacci added. "Using people is wrong."

Bonacci, 35, speaks to audiences across the U.S. and internationally, addressing thousands of young people, adults and teachers each year about teen relationships and chastity. In 1993, she spoke to an audience of 75,000 at Mile High Stadium in Denver during World Youth Day.

A consultant to the national Teen Life program, she is featured in four videos and is the author of two books, "Real Love" and "We're On a Mission from God."

In her Charlotte presentation, Bonacci discussed love, dating, sexuality and marriage. "(Being) in love is a specific kind of love where a man and a woman look at each other and say, 'I want to give my love to you and only you. I want to give myself to you and grow old with you,'" she said. "It's not just a feeling. It's a life-long commitment."

According to Bonacci, the purpose of dating is two-fold: to figure out if you want to get married and if so, to whom.

"Dating is essentially interviewing. It's interviewing for the job of spouse," she said.

"The most important thing in dating is having the freedom to get out of a relationship," Bonacci continued. "Dating is about dumping. It just is. It is about rejection."

That freedom is needed, she added, to find real love. "If you hold out for someone who respects you, you've got a much better chance (to find that love)."

As part of her ministry, Bonacci challenges unmarried teens and adults to live chaste lives.

"Sex is good, holy and belongs in the context of permanence," she said. "It speaks a language. It speaks the language of 'I give myself to you forever.' It speaks the language of marriage. It will be the language you speak with your spouse."

"Chastity is a virtue," Bonacci continued. "It means understanding that sex speaks a language," and having a respect for that language. Living a life of chastity, according to Bonacci, means if you're not married, not having sex.

Although many unmarried adults and even teen-agers have entered sexual relationships, Bonacci told her Charlotte audience "we have a God of new beginnings" who forgives and heals and gives us a chance to start over. "Virginity refers to the past, and no one can change the past," she said. "Chastity refers to the future, and anyone can live a chaste future, regardless of the past."

Communicating with God is essential, she added, to live a chaste life. "Don't be afraid of confession," she said. "You absolutely must pray. Stay close to him in the Eucharist." ▼

For more information on Mary Beth Bonacci's videos and books, visit her website at www.reallove.net

Photo by Mike Krokos

Mary Beth Bonacci autographs copies of one of her books during her recent visit to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

Attention Parents!
Medical
Career
School Uniforms
*Uniforms Direct 2U offers a choice for your child's school uniforms and **SAVES** you **TIME** and **MONEY** with...*
- *A+ school approved uniforms in stock*
- *Competitive pricing*
- *Free delivery to your school*
Uniforms DIRECT 2U
18505 Statesville Rd., Suite A-5
Cornelius, NC 28031
(704) 895-7474
Toll-free Order Hot Line
1-888-895-0071

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Hurricane Relief
Catholic Relief Services is providing assistance in Central America.
Makes checks payable to Diocese of Charlotte — Hurricane Relief.
**Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund
c/o Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203**
For more information: (704) 370-3225

*Advent Calendars & Wreaths
Christmas Cards*
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Bishop dedicates new altar at Jesuit House of Prayer

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer Chapel's interior is airy — light from new windows playing across white walls.

That light filled the chapel Oct. 25 as Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a new altar. During an afternoon Mass, he poured chrism, shaping five crosses on the altar, then rubbed the fragrant oil into the dark wood.

It was the culmination of a yearlong renovation. Prior to the remodeling, the building wasn't used much, although services were held in a chapel in the adjacent retreat house.

"We felt this place needed a chapel," said Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia, the House of Prayer's director since 1989. "The house can be quiet, but not as quiet as that. We wanted a place where retreatants could really be quiet and pray."

Though known as the Chapel of the Redeemer, the little church is really called the Jesuit House of Prayer Chapel, Father Alagia said. He explained that it takes its other name from a part of the surrounding area's history. A nearby church, called the Chapel of the Redeemer mission, burned some years ago, and the mission congregation began worshipping at the Jesuit retreat center.

Before the renovation, the A-frame chapel, built in 1968, had no heat or air-conditioning and only one window. The wall behind the altar was painted burnt orange.

People attending the altar dedication described the former facility as a "cave," minimal, at best.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Jesuit Father Francis X. Reese and John Quigley dress the altar in preparation for the liturgy of the Eucharist. Bishop William G. Curlin, far right, dedicated the new altar Oct. 25.

Renovation planning began five years ago. The committee included Father Alagia and the retreat center's advisory board. A fund drive provided the money, some of which will be used for improvements to the retreat house.

The altar, its A-frame braces echoing the building's shape, was constructed of walnut from the old altar. The crucifix depicting the risen Christ also has been retained.

Although the building's A-frame walls are still dark, the brown now complements the white paint and blond pine which reflect the light from the six new skylights. Pale beige-gray carpet covers the floor.

The altar now stands at the other end of the chapel, beneath what was once the only window. Windows have been added in recesses flanking the altar area and at the back of the chapel. Each recess has a built-in bench, so retreatants can have extra privacy for meditation.

Or, they can open a door to the right of the altar, climb a short flight of stairs, and pass along a walkway above and behind the altar to a small meditation room in the new tower. The window there looks out on the wooded grounds. A single chair is invitingly draped with an afghan.

That comfort is representative of the reflection center's philosophy.

"We have a very strong ecumenical response here," Father Alagia said. "We're not geriatric. We have an awful lot of middle-aged and families, a lot of businesspeople. We have occasional youth retreats, and I'm very interested in that being developed."

Jesuits have been welcoming people to the House of Prayer since the retreat center opened in 1977. The first director, Jesuit Father Francis X. Reese, still ministers in the area. He participated in the altar dedication ceremony, along with Jesuit Father George Hohman, and Jesuit Father Joe McGovern, who along with Father Alagia, staff the retreat center.

Father McGovern celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination in September. Fathers Alagia and Hohman have been priests for 40 years. In addition to working at the center, they help out in nearby parishes as needed, and celebrate Mass twice a week at Mission St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville.

Father Reese said Jesuits have been in the Madison County region, at least part-time, since the 1920s. ▼

refugee, hispanic & immigration services — domestic & international adoption
counseling — material assistance — pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

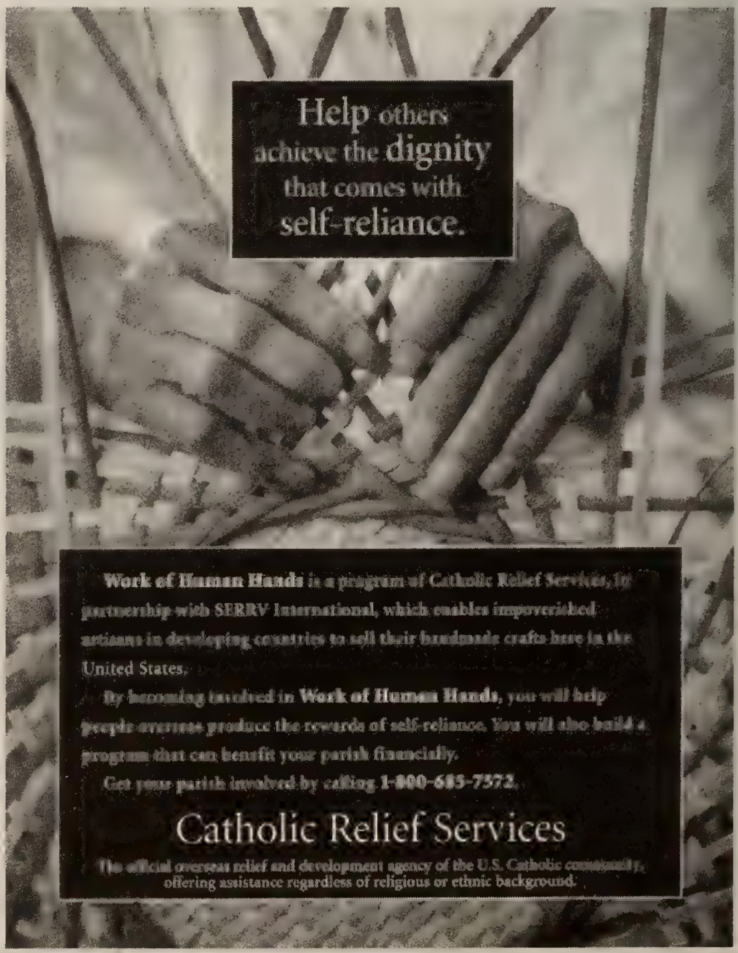
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003



Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling 1-800-685-7572.

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Work of Human Hands

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S299 F1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 13, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 11

Inside

Anniversary Mass
Couples gather at Charlotte parish to celebrate marriage
...PAGE 16

Campaign Religion
Should voters care who's more Catholic?
...PAGE 7

Papal U.N. ambassador urges support for Mideast peace agreement
...PAGE 13

Local News

Belmont Abbey Church made minor basilica
...PAGE 3

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
...PAGE 15

"God's Plan for Growing Up"
Child/parent family life program held at Basilica of St. Lawrence
...PAGE 14

Every Week

The World in Brief
...PAGE 2

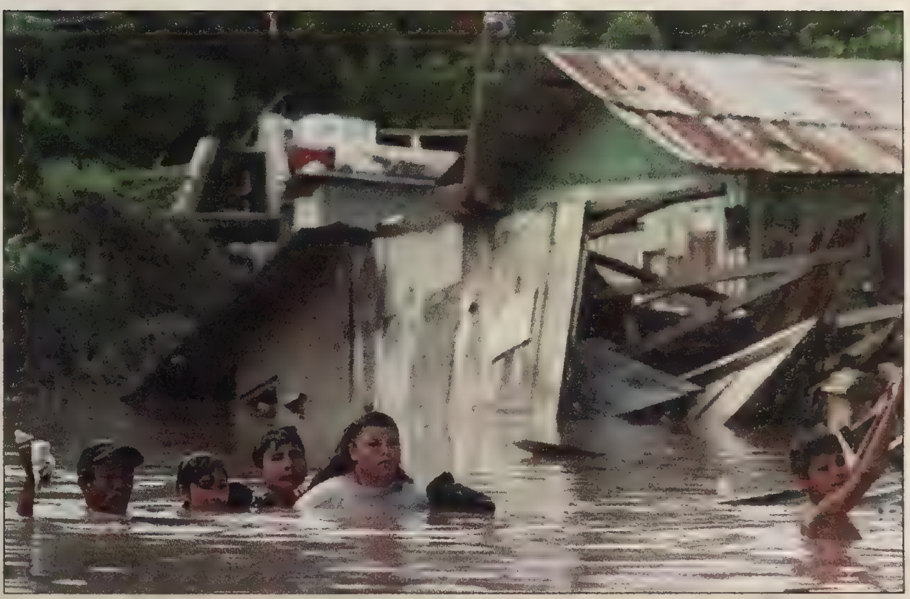
Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

Faith Alive!
...PAGES 8-9

Hondurans describe devastation after Hurricane Mitch washes away lives

By MIKE LANCHIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Residents of the town of El Progreso in Honduras wade neck-high in floodwaters to reach their homes Nov. 3. Pope John Paul II, international aid agencies and churches in Central America have appealed for aid to assist people in the area devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Angie Diaz, 20, and her five younger siblings could only look on and cry as the raging floods tossed their tiny wooden house and all their belongings into the swirling Choluteca River on its rampage through the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa.

"When we were told to evacuate the houses, as the waters rose I grabbed the smaller children and fled. Once up the main road we looked back to see our home floating like a paper boat on the huge river," Diaz said.

Hurricane Mitch swept through Central America in late October and early November, hitting hardest in Honduras and Nicaragua, killing thousands and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

"It was terrible, the worst thing I have ever lived through; I cannot find the words to explain how I felt as the waters converged on our house," said Diaz, who was in charge of her brothers and sisters because her mother was out of the country looking for work. "I thought that the world was coming to an end."

Diaz is from El Progreso community, one of hundreds of neighborhoods along the banks of the Choluteca literally wiped off the map in the early hours of Nov. 1, as the huge river burst into large areas of Tegucigalpa.

In a matter of hours, some 500 shacks in El Progreso had disappeared into the river as the steep slope above the community collapsed under the weight of torrential rains, sending bolders and rocks hurtling down.

"In our neighborhood there's now no trace that anything was once there," said Diaz.

> "It's not just a question of making sure people have got enough to eat, and where to sleep, but also how to overcome the psychological effects of the disaster."
>
> *— Alexis Ordonez*

Some 60,000 people were left homeless in Tegucigalpa by Hurricane Mitch. About 30 percent of the city's housing is calculated to have been destroyed or badly damaged.

Marco Antonio Mendoza, a carpenter from Tegucigalpa, said that he did not expect to find work soon, and that his first concern was to find a new plot where he could rebuild his house.

For at least eight days after the muddy waters of the Choluteca swallowed up his house, Mendoza and his family lived under a makeshift shelter of corrugated iron sheets beside the pile of rubble that was once home.

"We're staying here for the time being because we have nowhere else to go. I can't afford to rent somewhere," he said.

He said his wife continued to do laundry in the dirty waters of the Choluteca, which had subsided since the flooding, leaving odd remains of walls, roofs and doors jutting out from the mud swamp.

One woman, waiting in line to wash in the river, said, "The (government) water tanks came three days ago. There's lots of diarrhea and fever here, especially among the children."

Reconnecting the city's water supply has been one of the major problems facing the authorities. More than half the population of Tegucigalpa was still without water as of Nov. 8. The situation was particularly critical in many of the overcrowded shelters set up for the homeless and evacuees around the capital city.

"The lack of water has been a problem. We have it rationed out so it lasts," said Rosa Lidia Cruz of the community of Altos de San Francisco.

She spent at least eight days after the hurricane in the small local school that became home to 75 refugees, including 45 children.

In one classroom, three families of 14 children and four adults camped out on two worn mattresses and a wooden board for beds.

Cruz was in charge of cooking the daily rations, boiled rice and spaghetti. She spooned a mouthful onto each family's plastic plate.

"We only give out a small amount so that it all goes around," she explained.

Sixteen of the shelters around the city were being administered by a Honduran ecumenical group, the Association of Christian Youth.

"We need specialized medicine and drinking water — that's causing us lots of problems," said the association's director, Alexis Ordonez.

He suggested that there was also a need for mental health therapy, to help people get over the trauma of losing everything they owned.

"It's not just a question of making sure people have got enough to eat, and where to sleep, but also how to overcome the psychological effects of the disaster," Ordonez said. ▾

For information on how to contribute to the Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund, please see editorial, page 4.

Also see related story, page 12.

Catholic League satisfied with Fox apology over 'Ally McBeal'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Fox is officially saying "no comment," but the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights says it is satisfied with the apology it got from some network representatives over an episode of the comedy-drama, "Ally McBeal." Rick Hinshaw, a spokesman for the organization, said two officials from the Fox TV network's standards and practices department said they would monitor the show much more closely. The Fox representatives also told the Catholic League there were no attacks on Catholicism in future episodes they had seen. The flap began after the Nov. 2 episode in which a nun sued the church because she was dismissed for breaking her vow of celibacy.

Dialogue with other religions called part of church's mission

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Part of the church's mission is to be in dialogue with followers of other religions, Bishop Michael L. Fitzgerald, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said in a lecture in Washington. It is also part of the church's mission to draw others to "be freely converted to the Lord," he said. "But that is not the aim of dialogue as such."

Wanderer Forum speaker urges Catholics to 'stand up for faith'

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Helen Hull Hitchcock, founder of Women for Faith and Family, urged Catholics to "stand up for the faith" at the Wanderer Forum Oct. 31 in Milwaukee. The California-based Wanderer Forum Foundation, which sponsored a two-day gathering in Milwaukee, is an offshoot of a national newspaper based in St. Paul, Minn., that frequently criticizes U.S. Catholic bishops in its articles.

U.S bishops consider pastoral plan on adult faith formation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Helping adult Catholics deepen their faith is one of the topics the U.S. Catholic bishops will discuss during their annual fall meeting in Washington. During the Nov. 16-19 meeting the bishops were scheduled to discuss, but not vote on, a draft of "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," a proposed pastoral plan on adult faith formation developed by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Education.

CNS photo from Reuters

Violence in Jerusalem

Emergency workers cover the body of a man killed in a suicide bombing attack on a Jerusalem market Nov. 6. Two men in the car that blew up died and 21 other people were wounded. After the blast occurred, the Israeli government suspended plans to ratify the new interim peace agreement with the Palestinians.

New sex abuse lawsuits filed against Dallas Diocese

DALLAS (CNS) — The Diocese of Dallas reported Nov. 5 that it faces two new lawsuits filed by the law firm which earlier this year represented most of the plaintiffs in the largest-ever clergy sexual abuse settlement. Dallas attorney Windle Turley filed the two new civil suits Oct. 30. One, on behalf of two Ellis County men, names former Dallas priest Rudy Kos, currently serving a life term in prison, as the abuser. The other, on behalf of a Dallas County man, names former Dallas priest Robert Peebles as the abuser. Peebles was voluntarily laicized. Kos, who refused to seek laicization, was forcibly laicized.

CRS chairman says political, humanitarian aid needed in Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS)— An international effort involving political and humanitarian aid is needed to resolve the situation in southern Sudan, said Bishop John H. Ricard, president and chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services. "In my many years of travel in Africa and many other parts of the world, I have found the conditions in the South (of Sudan) are without parallel," Bishop Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., told journalists.

Recently married say Engaged Encounter helped them

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Most couples who went through a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend before being wed say it has helped them in their first year of marriage. Ninety percent say they would recommend it to friends preparing for marriage, and 85 percent say they have actually done so. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate reported those findings in a study released Nov. 3.

Australian bishops warn prelate's book may mislead readers

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — A retired Australian bishop's recently published book may mislead readers because it is "ambiguous" on certain church issues, said the Central Commission of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference. "From a strictly doctrinal point of view, it cannot be accused of explicitly deviating from any of the teachings of the church," the commission said about "The Love That Dares to Question: A Bishop Challenges His Church" by Bishop John Heaps. Bishop Heaps argues that the church should forgive priests who have married and welcome them back "to the priestly ministry or back to full union with the church without reservations or restrictions."

Catholic radio network to begin with fewer stations

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — A Catholic-oriented national radio network is now in business, with a new name and a scaled-down initial roster of stations, including one in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield. Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee has said he objects to the presence of the station in his archdiocese, citing fears the programming will have a one-sided, traditional orientation that would be divisive and cause confusion among Catholics about who speaks for the local church. But Jesuit Father Joseph Fessio, who heads Ignatius Press in San Francisco and originated the concept of a Catholic-oriented radio network, said that Catholic Family Radio is not an exercise in bishop-bashing and will not focus on controversies within the church.

St. Louis auxiliary bishop praises new catechetical directory

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — The new General Directory for Catechesis issued by the Vatican "may become the heart of the 'new evangelism,' of which (Pope) John Paul II speaks so passionately," said Auxiliary Bishop Edward K. Braxton of St. Louis. Speaking Oct. 20 in Orlando to 400 members of the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education, an affiliate of the National Catholic Educational Association, the bishop called the directory a "'radical' document because it addresses the very foundations of our Christian and ecclesial identity."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

November 13, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 11
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 13-14
Catholic University of America/
Theological College
Day of Renewal
Washington, D.C.

November 16-19
Meeting of the National Conference
of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

Coming next week!

Bishop Curlin's column in the Nov. 20 edition of The Catholic News & Herald.

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

BELMONT — Totus Tuus, a family-oriented group devoted to the magisterium of the Catholic Church, meets monthly for potluck dinners, faith sharing and fellowship. Single parents with children are welcome. For details, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action youth ministry of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is coordinating a Christmas wish tree program to benefit individuals staying at the Battered Women's Shelter. Donation of toys and toiletries are being accepted. For details, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

November

14 CHARLOTTE — The Men's Club of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., hosts its "Extravaganza" at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $25 per person; proceeds will benefit local charities. The event includes food, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and a raffle for $2,500. Call Bill Maryman, (704) 542-0351, for reservation information.

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church hosts a jubilee celebration of Jesuit Father William Lynch's 50th anniversary of priesthood today after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Festivities, including a buffet dinner, take place at First Presbyterian Church, 243 W. McClelland Ave. Call (704) 664-3992 for details.

16 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., hosts an evangelization program on more fully understanding God's love today through Nov. 18. Augustinian Father Anthony M. Genovese facilitates the sessions, which begin each day at 7:30 p.m. Baby-sitting is provided. For more information, call (704) 536-6520.

19 GREENSBORO — The Greens-

Belmont Abbey Church designated a minor basilica by Vatican

BELMONT — The historic Belmont Abbey Church, named in honor of Mary Help of Christians, has been honored by receiving minor basilica status from the Vatican.

The abbey church received basilica designation on July 27, 1998. A Vatican document, signed by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano and bearing the papal seal, calls the building "a source of spiritual life and of liturgy and ecumenical activity under the sway of the Benedictine spirit."

"The Roman Pontiffs have been accustomed to adorn with distinguished honors sacred buildings renowned in history and religion. To these should be added the abbey church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians in the city of Belmont within the diocese of Charlotte," it said.

The honor recognizes the abbey church's pastoral, historical and aesthetic distinction.

Built in 1892-93, the church was named the Abbey Church of Maryhelp, under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians. It popularly became known as Belmont Abbey Church because of its close proximity to the nearby town.

Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte noted the lengthy relationship between the abbey church and Catholics in western North Carolina. "During the past hundred plus years, the Benedictine community has gathered with our brothers and sisters in faith at the abbey church to be nurtured in word and sacrament," he said.

"It is my hope that this high honor will further enthuse the community of faith gathered at Mary Help of Christians to embrace the mission of our Lord, Jesus, for the next millennium," the bishop added.

Benedictine Abbot Oscar Burnett, a native of Savannah, Ga., has served as abbot of the monastery since 1991. He is also chancellor of Belmont Abbey College.

The appeal for basilica status started with assistance from Bishop Curlin's predecessor. In February 1993, then-Charlotte Bishop John F. Donoghue, now archbishop of Atlanta, petitioned for basilica status on behalf of the Benedictines.

"We're very honored by this kindness," said Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein, Belmont Abbey's archivist. "We've always felt associated very strongly with the development of the church in North Carolina."

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

The taller of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians' two towers is about 150 feet tall. At right is a photo of the venerated statue of Mary Help of Christians, imported to Belmont Abbey from Europe in 1877.

The abbey church joins St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville as the second basilica within the Diocese of Charlotte. The Asheville church was elevated to basilica status in April 1993.

The abbey church was constructed with financial assistance from Blessed Katharine Drexel, a Pennsylvania native. The heiress founded the Catholic religious order the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and gave funds to schools and missions for Native Americans and African Americans. Benedictine Abbot Leo Haid, Belmont Abbey's first abbot, had written to Drexel about his ambition to ensure that the abbey church would serve Catholics of all races.

The church was dedicated in April 1894.

From 1910-77, the abbey church held cathedral rank as the seat of a church jurisdiction called a "nullius." Because of the true missionary status of North Carolina especially in the early years of the century, the abbey was named by the Holy See an "abbatia nullius dioecesis," a Latin phrase meaning an abbey of no diocese. When the "nullius" was suppressed in 1977, the church's cathedral rank was removed.

Benedictine Abbot Walter A. Coggin consecrated the church in March 1965, following the building's radical interior renovation.

The church, now officially called the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A public celebration of the announcement is scheduled for March 22, 1999. ▼

Jimmy Rostar, associate editor of The Catholic News & Herald, contributed to this story.

boro Council of Catholic Women hosts a Mass honoring its deceased members, family and friends at 11 a.m. today at the Franciscan Center. Lunch will follow; cost is $6. To register, send checks to Rosemary Marsicano, 1805 Biscayune Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410. For more information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated at 7:30 p.m. today in the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

20 DURHAM — Parishioners in the Charlotte Diocese are invited to a Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites-sponsored silent retreat at the Avila Retreat Center today through Nov. 22 or 23. The theme is "Jesus said, 'Come and see, follow me, you lack no spiritual gift.'" Cost is $105 for three days, and $150 if you plan to stay an optional fourth day. Send registration information with a $15 check (payable to OCDS) to Kathy Smith, 3619 Courtland Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707. For more information, call (919) 493-2712.

WINSTON-SALEM — Students and faculty from Bishop McGuinness High School present the play "Our Town" today and Nov. 21 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. in Anderson Hall at Winston-Salem State University. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the door the day of the show, or in advance by calling (336) 725-4247. Senior citizen and group discounts are available.

21 CHARLOTTE — A holiday craft fair is today in the St. Gabriel Parish Hall, 3026 Providence Rd., from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Featured items include children's clothing, jewelry, silverware, stoneware, stained glass, handcrafted rosaries and more.

DENVER — Holy Spirit Church, on Highway 16 in Denver, hosts a Christmas bazaar today from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Raffles and food are also featured. More than 20 crafters will be present.

KERNERSVILLE — A "community night" for Marriage Encounter couples is today after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. Please R.S.V.P. to Scott or Elizabeth Thomas at (336) 996-0499.

LAKE JUNALUSKA — The Catholic understanding of the Bible as sacred Scripture is explored at this year's Fire in the Mountains, a faith enrichment gathering for adults and high-school teens, today from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Lake Junaluska Assembly. Father George Kloster facilitates. Call (828) 669-0524 for more information.

HAMLET — An ecumenical Thanksgiving service is at St. James Catholic Church, 1018 West Hamlet Ave., today at 7 p.m. Call (910) 582-0207 for more information.

22 CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., hosts a youth Harambe Mass at 11 a.m. in celebration of the parish's youth ministries, including Youth in Action, the Kabaka Dancers & Drummers, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and children's choir. A reception follows. For more information, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

CHARLOTTE — All Charlotte Catholic High School seniors and their families are invited to a senior family Mass and dinner at 5 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Call (704) 543-9118 for more information.

MOORESVILLE — All Marriage Encounter couples are invited to a potluck supper today at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., from 2-4:30 p.m. To R.S.V.P. and for details, call Paul or Kristy Michaels at (704) 849-2604.

24 WADESBORO — An ecumenical Thanksgiving service is at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 205 Rutherford St., today at 7 p.m. For details, call (910) 582-0207.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Holy Spirit will ensure resurrection of believers, says pope

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the end of time, the Holy Spirit will ensure that believers are resurrected in body and soul, Pope John Paul II said.

At his Nov. 4 general audience, the pontiff elaborated on a theme which he visited during several audiences in succession: the nature of the Holy Spirit.

"When we are raised from the dead, our bodies will be glorified, even if the manner of this glorification remains mysterious," Pope John Paul said.

"It is the Eucharist above all which teaches us about our destiny," the pope continued. In the Eucharist the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. So too the Holy Spirit will transform our mortal bodies and lead us — body and soul — into the glory of the risen Lord, he said.

"Our participation in the Eucharist gives us a foretaste of the transformation of our bodies by Christ," Pope John Paul said. "His flesh, vivified by the Holy Spirit, permits us already to participate in his resurrection and in his glorious condition."

The pope acknowledged that there are people who do not believe in the principle of resurrection, even though they have faith in "some sort of existence after death."

Pope John Paul said Christian teaching on resurrection is specific, and not "a vague sentiment" of the afterlife, nor does it concern reincarnation as taught by some other faiths. He added that the concept of reincarnation "does not guarantee the unique and singular identity of every human creature as an object of the personal love of God."

"Christian faith in the resurrection of the flesh has encountered incomprehension and opposition from the start," he noted, adding, "such difficulty also asserts itself in our own time."

The presence of six Russian cosmonauts at the audience on St. Peter's Square captured the attention of media from several countries, which reported that the group had brought an unusual gift for Pope John Paul: a space suit used aboard the space station Mir.

Pope calls for resolution of Guatemalan bishop's murder

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Finding out who murdered Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City is a test of the government's commitment to justice, reconciliation and lasting peace, Pope John Paul II said. Meeting Nov. 5 with Guatemala's new ambassador to the Vatican, Sergio Ivan Bucaro Hurtarte, the pope said, "the abominable assassination" of the bishop in April was a source of "deep pain" for the Catholic community.

Guest Commentary

MARK ZIMMERMANN
Guest Columnist

Godspeed, John Glenn

Thirty-six years ago, Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter uttered those words as John Glenn's spacecraft rocketed skyward from Florida, and Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. Last Thursday, Carpenter repeated those words as the space shuttle Discovery blasted off with the 77-year-old Glenn on board, and he soon became the oldest person to travel in space.

Among the millions of people worldwide who anxiously followed Glenn's historic flight in 1962 was Pope John XXIII, who prayed for the astronaut's success. And last week, during a Vatican conference on aging, Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, praised the Ohio senator and astronaut, who returned to space on the same day that the conference began. "Just think of it," the archbishop said the next morning, "a man as old as the pope is now orbiting the world."

At the conference, Pope John Paul II, who is 78, urged the world to respect the dignity of its growing elderly population. He called for increasing solidarity between generations.

And the pope noted, "The old person is not to be considered only an object of attention" because he or she is old. Each senior citizen, he added, "has a precious contribution to offer to life," and through his or her experience in life can be "a dispenser of wisdom, a witness to hope and charity."

Many news reports emphasize the pope's age and seeming frailty. But some church observers say the pope's continued dedication to his ministry, despite his sometimes apparent frailty, is perhaps one of the most powerful witnesses he has offered to the dignity of all human life. At an age when many retire, he continues to work tirelessly, and he hopes to lead the Catholic Church into the next millennium.

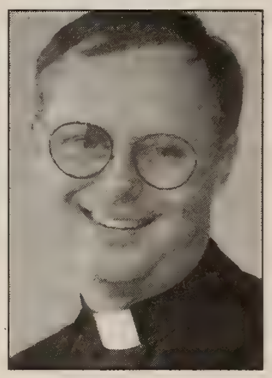
In space, Glenn has uttered some moving statements about God. On his fourth day in orbit, Glenn told reporters, "I pray every day. To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is, to me, impossible. It just strengthens my faith."

Just as they did 36 years ago, the people of Perth, Australia, turned on all of their lights as a signal of respect to the astronaut. The nighttime glow was recognized by the pioneer astronaut in 1962 and happily seen by him again last week.

May a similar light come to people around the world, who might recognize, by the examples of an aged pope and an elderly astronaut, the dignity and worth of all senior citizens. The elderly contributed to our community and world throughout their lives, and they continue to do so today.

"Godspeed, John Glenn." And godspeed, also, to Pope John Paul II, and to the senior citizens who may not gain headlines, but touch our lives every day.

Mark Zimmermann is the editor of The Catholic Standard, newspaper for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.



Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

Moving

After death and divorce, I think moving is the most traumatic event in life.

I've just helped my mother move out of her house. For the past 30 years it had been our family home. For 30 years it was the site of all our major and minor family events: the reception after my sister's wedding, the place we received callers after my father's funeral. It was our regular destination for the family feasts.

After 30 years in a place, it took on our character and taste. There was not one square inch that someone in the family had not hammered, painted, papered, sanded, scraped or plastered. When you live in a house for that long, your sweat is in the walls and floorboards.

When the place was nearly empty I took one last nostalgic walk around the seemingly larger rooms. I found my brother sitting in his now-barren bedroom, looking at the walls, lost in his thoughts. I couldn't speak.

But it was time to go. My mother had raised her family, and the season of life that called for a big rambling house for her eight children was over.

Americans move a lot, on average every four years. This sense of loss and new beginnings is part of our lives. My parish has its share of transplants, many having moved to this urbanizing rural county from nearby Washington, D.C. Others relocated to follow the expanding Navy bases at Patuxent River to our south. More than half the residents of my county have lived here fewer than 15 years. Many only stay a short while.

For all its spiritual trauma and sense of loss, there is also a spiritual value to moving.

First, if we take advantage of the opportunity, it gives us a sense of spiritual detachment. Once, when I entered the seminary at age 32, I had to move to Rome from Washington. I held a party the week before, and every one who came had to take something away. It was oddly liberating to start life again at age 32 with only a footlocker and a couple of suitcases full of things.

Second, it reminds us that we are only pilgrims in this world. No matter how permanent and fixed this life might seem, we only are passing through. A little mobility reminds us that this world is not our final destination, but a process of becoming.

A third value to moving is that it teaches us to make friends quickly and adapt to new environments. It makes us culturally flexible, especially when we move to a new culture and adopt a new language. It gives us the experience of being a child again full of wonder, discovery and the pain of learning things from scratch.

Finally, moving teaches us that it is relationships with people that are important. Not our stuff. When the moving van comes and hauls it all away, you realize what a humble collection of things it really is. Just as people who have lost their things in floods and hurricanes often observe, if all that stuff was lost on the way to the next house, it would not matter as long as the people you love were still in your life.

I don't wish moving on anybody, but there are some good things to be said for it. If approached in the right spirit, moving reminds us that we are the disciples of an itinerant preacher in Galilee who said, "Foxes have their lairs, birds have their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

The workable dream

So much had gone wrong. Three-hundred seventy-eight years ago this month, the Mayflower floundered across the Atlantic and landed at Cape Cod rather than Virginia. Disgruntled and exhausted, several pilgrims threatened to break away from the expedition and create their own rule.

Huddled together in the ship's main cabin, the passengers hammered out the Mayflower Compact. Neither a constitution nor a declaration of independence, it was simply a social contract to work together "for the general good" — but it became the seed of popular government in America.

Three-hundred twenty-eight years later, the members of the United Nations clustered together in the aftermath of the Second World War to adopt a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 1948 it has become the singular international document through which people from radically diverse political and cultural backgrounds could focus attention on the interdependence and dignity of today's pilgrims.

Like the Mayflower Compact, the United Nation's initiative is not legally binding. Its success depends on individuals who recognize that they must not leave to governments or institutions what they themselves can do in their daily lives.

In adopting the declaration, nations pledged to seek universal respect for the full body of human rights and accepted the primary responsibility to do so. Like those who disembarked from that ship in Provincetown harbor, they did not have a clue how they were going to enforce it. They had and continue to have only the "living" contract of their own personal commitment.

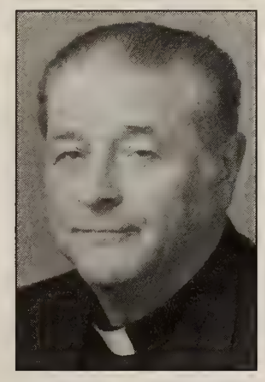
One such pilgrim is Nelson Mandela, who recently addressed the U.N. General Assembly for the last time as South Africa's president. South Africa's apartheid system was for years one of the world's most destructive affronts to human rights. Mandela, underscoring the hope he drew from the U.N. Declaration during that time, said: "History and the billions throughout the world proclaim that it was right that we dreamed and that we toiled to give life to a workable dream."

The fiftieth anniversary of the U.N. Declaration emphasizes the meaning and relevance this "workable dream" has for each of us in our daily lives. Eleanor Roosevelt, who helped shape the final draft, asked: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home — so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.

"Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks justice, equal opportunities, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Like those early pilgrims John Alden, Priscilla Mullens and Miles Standish, and their 20th century counterparts, each of us has the responsibility to speak up, to get involved, to work for the general good.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Miracles required for canonization

Q. I understand that miraculous cures are part of the Catholic Church process of canonization of saints. I'm not sure how that works, but am interested in an article about the canonization of the new saint, Edith Stein, a convert to the Catholic faith from Judaism, it said.

The article claimed that a miraculous cure occurred, through her intercession, on the daughter of a Catholic priest. How can that be? Is he Catholic or (as I'm betting) is he Orthodox? Also, how does the church know something like this is a miracle?

A. Some Catholics are still unaware that many Eastern churches are in communion with Rome and are properly called Catholic. These churches and their members are as fully Catholic as the Roman Catholic Church and its members.

Those Eastern churches not in communion with Rome use the name Orthodox, which means right belief, or, more loosely, in the tradition of the apostles.

The American priest whose daughter was cured is a Melkite. The Melkite Catholic Church traces its origins to the ancient Catholic Church in Antioch, though it now follows the Constantinople (Byzantine) ritual. It is one of the Catholic churches in the world.

To your second question, two miracles usually are required, one for beatification, an intermediate step in the process, and another for final canonization. (The word "canonization," by the way, means that the saint's name may now be placed in the Eucharistic Prayer, or Canon, of the Mass.)

A rigorous procedure is required for each miracle to prove 1) that it was accomplished miraculously by God and cannot be explained naturally or medically; and 2) that the miracle occurred through the intercession of the servant of God whose cause is under study.

Neither of those proofs is simple or brief. Specialists in every related medical field are consulted, individually and as a group, to establish the first.

Then theologians take over. They study, for example, the possibility that the miracle might have occurred through prayers also offered to another already recognized saint.

Obviously, all these steps take place in the context of finite human beings and knowledge. When positive judgments are reached, however, they are passed on to higher officials of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, which supervises the entire process.

This congregation evaluates the miracles and other factors (orthodoxy of teaching, for example, and holiness of life), with input and advice from other Vatican congregations.

The pope then makes the final and definitive judgment for canonization, that the individual is to be honored as a saint by the entire Catholic Church.

For the first 1,000 years or so, "canonization" was much less formal. It followed rather simply the age-old Christian axiom "lex orandi, lex credendi" (What you pray shows what you believe) and vice versa.

Names of martyrs and others who were honored and referred to as saints simply began to appear in prayers and at the celebration of Mass.

Since then, methods have become more formal, but popes, including Pope John Paul II, modify them often. Recognition of the sanctity of martyrs, for example, is reached much more readily today than previously.

Predictably, those modifications will continue into the future, as the church experiences new evidences of the holiness the Holy Spirit inspires in its members, and other people.

After the Storm

GERRY CARTER
Diocesan Director of Special Ministries

Seeking a brighter tomorrow for Central America

Hurricane Mitch pounded the eastern shore of Central America with such intensity that few people in its wake could safely escape from the force of the winds and waves. That so many lives were lost to Hurricane Mitch speaks more to the abject poverty found throughout this region than the speed and duration of the storm. Poor infrastructure and inadequate building practices made the people of these impoverished countries easy victims. Not only have thousands lost their lives, but food, medicine and essential telecommunications have been destroyed.

According to published news accounts, Honduran President Carlos Flores estimates that 60 percent of that nation's infrastructure has been destroyed. Development efforts have been set back 50 years by Hurricane Mitch.

Moving Honduras toward a future of decent housing, passable roads, universal education beyond the sixth grade, clean water and a reduction in infant mortality has been the focus of most recent Honduran administrations. Now, they struggle back to even the low standard of living of last month will take years.

Our own exposure to Honduras and love for that country has grown over the past 12 years, beginning with Eileen's service as a Peace Corps Volunteer, our travels in Central America, and continuing today through correspondence with friends. We are deeply aware of the magnitude of the problems faced by the entire region, for the already rampant poverty will only be exacerbated by Hurricane Mitch.

Hondurans live in a country of contrasts. One of the most beautiful places we have ever seen, it is equally one of the most disagreeable when considering the ugly reality of poverty so common among its people. Honduras is a country of people who work exceptionally hard to support families, care for their children, worship God — and typically die young. Only 4 percent of Hondurans reach their 65th birthday.

Continuing internal reform, further democratization and long-term development efforts are essential if a decent standard of living is to be experienced by the people in our own hemisphere. In the immediate and foreseeable future, the people of Honduras and Central America need to rely upon us to help them shoulder the burden of this natural disaster.

It is our sincere hope that all of us — parents, children, engaged couples, teen-agers, elders, singles, parishes, those in schools and diocesan offices — will respond generously with material and spiritual gifts to lighten the load carried by our sisters and brothers.

To contribute to the hurricane relief effort, make checks payable to the Diocese of Charlotte — Hurricane Relief and send to: Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund, c/o Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003. For more information, call (704) 370-3225.

Eileen Carter, an educator and former Peace Corps Volunteer, co-wrote this article with her husband, Gerry.

Archbishop McCarrick favors proposed U.S-Cuba commission

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A proposed bipartisan commission on U.S-Cuba relations could be the catalyst needed to bring about positive change, according to the chairman of the U.S. bishop's International Policy Committee. In a letter to U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., commended the senator and his colleagues for urging President Clinton to authorize the commission's establishment.

Vatican employees get bonus for pope's 20th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican employees got an unexpected bonus of about $600 to mark 20 years of working under Pope John Paul II. The Vatican announced Nov. 9 that "as a sign of his gratitude" to the workers in Vatican City State, the pope would give each of them 1 million lire — about $600 U.S. at the current exchange rate — while donating "a proper sum" to retirees.

Cardinal: Women should fill all church roles open to them

ROME (CNS) — Catholic women should occupy all of the offices and spaces which are open to them in the Catholic Church, then try to be patient, said Italian Cardinal Silvano Piovanelli of Florence. "The courage of farsightedness and patience for small steps is necessary," the cardinal told women theologians and theology students during a Nov. 6-8 conference in Rome. The conference, held at the Marianum Theological Faculty in Rome, looked at women in theology over the past century.

Priest urges support for 'forgotten' Christians in Holy Land

ROCKVILLE, Md. (CNS) — The "mother church" of the Holy Land is committed to encouraging Palestinian Christians to stay, despite oppressive conditions of Israeli military occupation, said a West Bank priest. Local conditions give Palestinians little hope for the future and burden them with economic and social hardships, said Father Emil Salayta, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Bir Zeit, West Bank, and director of the department of education for the Latin-rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem. "I'm sure that no one of you wishes to see one day the Holy Land as a museum of Christianity," he said in his homily at Mass Nov. 8 at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pinochet Vigil

Supporters of former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet place candles next to a small statue of the general in Santiago Nov. 5. Supporters and critics of Pinochet have staged separate demonstrations since his arrest in England Oct. 16. Spain is seeking his extradition to answer for alleged human rights violations that occurred under his rule.

Pope welcomes proposal for jubilee moratorium on death penalty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II welcomed a proposal for an international moratorium on the death penalty during the year 2000. The pope, who has strongly criticized capital punishment in the past, made the remarks Nov. 6 during a concert in his honor at the Vatican, sponsored by a multiparty group of Italian Parliament members. The group of legislators, in addition to promoting a death-penalty suspension, has called for a reduction in foreign debt payments by poorer nations during the jubilee year — an idea that originated with the pope.

Vocations abound, if you know where to look, bishop says

DOVER, Del. (CNS) — Vocations to the priesthood and religious life would be plentiful if church members knew how to uncover and nurture them, according to the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Vocations. Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Ogdensburg, N.Y., was the final speaker at the Wilmington diocesan Summit on Vocations in Dover Oct. 24. Bishop Loverde's talk — "How Do Dioceses Raise Up and Nurture Vocations to the Ordained and Consecrated Life?" — offered hope to the almost 300 priests, nuns and lay people gathered in Dover.

Priest criticizes Stations of the Cross dedication at Auschwitz

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish church spokesman criticized the dedication of Stations of the Cross at the former Auschwitz concentration camp, and warned that the priest responsible faces disciplinary action. "Publicly setting up Stations of the Cross needs a bishop's agreement. There was no such agreement, so this should be seen as a private initiative by lay people," said Jesuit Father Adam Schulz, spokesman for Poland's bishops' conference. The spokesman was reacting to the Nov. 1 dedication Mass for the stations.

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948

A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company

Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands

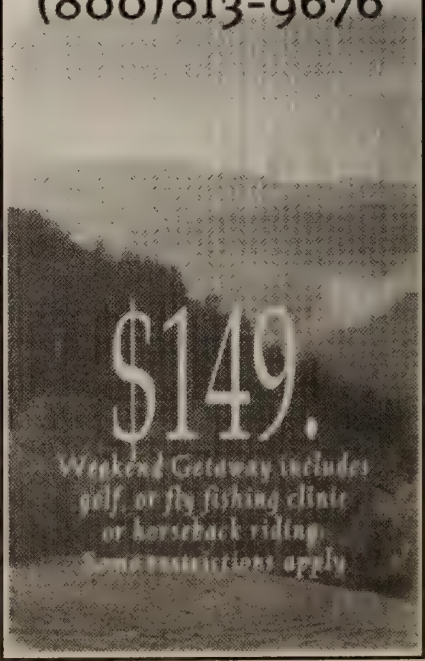
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary — *5% off parts with this ad*

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676


$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding. Some restrictions apply

CAMPAIGN RELIGION:

I'M A CATHOLIC
CATHOLIC ENOUGH

Should voters care who's more CATHOLIC?

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two races this year raised the question of whether there is a viable campaign strategy in a candidate being "Catholic enough."

Since Al Smith ran unsuccessfully for president in 1928, political analysts have debated whether a candidate being a Catholic matters to voters.

In Smith's case, a virulent anti-Catholic atmosphere is believed to have contributed to his defeat.

When John F. Kennedy ran for president in 1960, his Catholicism apparently did not matter much to voters. He was elected despite opponents' efforts to insist a Kennedy White House would have nefarious connections with the Vatican.

Though the question of whether Catholics should hold high political office apparently was settled with Kennedy's election, Catholic candidates today once again find their religion becoming an issue — at least when it comes to their stance on abortion.

In two prominent California races this year, the Republican candidates declared that, as Catholics, they could be counted on to vote against abortion.

Their Democratic opponents, also Catholics, defended their "pro-choice" positions as being based on the need in a pluralistic society to refrain from imposing their beliefs on the rights of an individual.

Abortion arguably was a low priority in most voters' decisions in the hotly contested races. Still, in these two races both candidates who campaigned on the basis of following the church's pro-life position lost.

Former Rep. Bob Dornan was defeated in his bid to retake a seat in Congress from Rep. Loretta Sanchez, and California Attorney General Dan Lungren lost to Lt. Gov. Gray Davis.

Both Dornan and Lungren made a point of aligning themselves with the church when it comes to abortion, and pointing out that their Catholic opponents hold positions the church condemns.

Dornan took his "I'm a Catholic" approach even further, including an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on campaign literature and distributing copies of a bishop's letter that chastised Sanchez for her support of legal abortion.

David Pollard, associate director for public policy for the California Catholic Conference, says the failure of both Lungren's and Dornan's "Catholic" appeal answers the question "does making an issue of being a Catholic matter in politics?"

"In a pluralistic society, the idea of beating your drum as a Catholic is just not a very effective strategy," Pollard said.

For one thing, candidates who may be right in line with church teaching on some issues invariably fall short on other areas of Catholic teachings, he said.

In the Lungren-Davis match-up, though Lungren was in line with the California Catholic Conference when it came to abortion, Pollard said, his positions on social and economic justice issues were much further off track than those held by Davis. And while Davis' social justice agenda more closely resembled that of the Catholic conference, both he and Lungren support the death penalty, which the conference opposes.

"There is just no way to put a 'Catholic' stamp on any campaign," given the modern political climate, Pollard said. "It would be a disservice to the church, to the American people and to the American political system."

Pollard's remarks were echoed by Jesuit Father Edward O'Brien, a Marquette University political science professor and director of the Washington-based Les Aspin Center for Government.

Father O'Brien said a Catholic candidate's alignment with church teaching — or lack thereof — rightfully has "hardly any significance" in voters' decisions.

Candidates like Dornan who present their view of what it means to be a good Catholic as a reason to vote for them offer only a narrow view of the faith, Father O'Brien said.

"They tend to use their traditionalist Catholicism view as the generic one," he continued. "I would not feel comfortable as a Catholic, especially as a Catholic priest, with having Bob Dornan held up as a representative of Catholicism."

Meanwhile, all the attention to the church's position on abortion overshadows public understanding of the many other political issues on which the Catholic Church takes a stand, Father O'Brien said.

Human rights, civil rights and social justice are significant concerns of the church which are rarely identified as "Catholic" issues, he said.

Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry of Massachusetts and Joe Biden of Delaware, for example, are often upbraided for their supporting legal abortion despite being Catholic, noted Father O'Brien. Yet when the same three Democratic senators accurately reflect the church's social justice teachings when it comes to caring for the poor or supporting human rights, the connection to their Catholic faith is never made, he said.

"For some reason, Catholics are identified only with the abortion issue," Father O'Brien said.

Pollard said the growing trend for Catholic parishes to conduct voter education campaigns on the range of issues that concern the church is the only practical approach to a political system in which no one party lives up to Catholic ideals.

In that way, voters can be given the information to make election decisions at the same time the importance of voting is reinforced, Pollard said.

"It sends a message to people that religious values are important in public laws," he said. "And also that we all have a responsibility to participate." ▼

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768

CNS Photo of musical group by Mimi Forsyth

The parish of the next millennium

By DAVID M. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

My dream is that the Catholic parish of the future will embody more of what we already do well, but do it even better. Then, in the year 2020, we will be able to say of ourselves:

"We are the best. Even better than the parishes in 1997 and 1998! But there remains room for growth."

Humility is the virtue of truth. It does not mean putting oneself down. If you are good, it is right and proper to admit it — and to remember who gives one the strength for this.

I am a student of the Catholic parish. I teach about parish life in our graduate program on community leadership at Regis University in Denver. I also work part time in a large parish. My background is in both theology and family studies.

There is a wonderful principle used in effective family therapy and it goes like this:

When there is a problem in the family, think of the family as an organic system, and try to help the strongest family member become even stronger. That is the surest way to solve family problems. The stronger member can most easily change. Healing comes through changing unhealthy systems.

Now I will make a bold and humble assertion. The parishes in the region of this globe that I inhabit are strong — very much so. So many people participate so enthusiastically in the sacraments.

I know that we are far from perfect. But we are very good in key areas, and from these strengths we will build our future.

There are two significant areas of parish life that I would single out:

— First, we enjoy a broad-based and exceptional level of participation in parish life.

— Second, we witness an unprecedented pursuit of deeper holiness and commitment to further learning among many parishioners.

Let's first examine participation.

To remain vital, growth must continuously occur. New groups must be started as needs and interests surface....The cost of vitality is never to think there is enough. There is always room for more, especially for those with new ideas on how to bring more vitality to the parish.

In the parish where I serve we have more than 100 active organizations. We have round-the-clock adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We support more than a dozen social-justice groups. All the educational programs are led by lay people. And our pastor is deeply involved.

Liturgies involve scores of parishioners. Whether it is music, greeters, readers or extraordinary ministers of Communion, it is a cast of many. Quite probably, Catholic parishes have never been more active.

To remain vital, growth must continuously occur. New groups must be started as needs and interests surface.

Our parish just launched a support group for the newly married. An energetic couple began the group, and after one month of recruiting they got one other couple. After two months, there were three couples. But they kept inviting.

It is now 18 months since the beginning and, you guessed it, 18 couples are now in the group.

The cost of vitality is never to think there is enough. There is always room for more, especially for those with new ideas on how to bring more vitality to the parish.

Action without spirit, however, can be shallow. So we need something else. Therefore, my second reason for applauding today's parish is its spiritual vitality. It has to do with the pursuit of holiness, and a desire to learn more about our faith.

The pastor of the church where I work is a diocesan priest. He sees his primary role in the parish as a spiritual mentor for others. He himself has taken the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius twice. I have taken them once, and I teach about them at Regis University, a Jesuit institution.

While we are not Jesuits, we have assisted more than 50 parishioners in taking the full Exercises of St. Ignatius. This is a sign that there is a pursuit of holiness and solid spirituality in our parishes. It's a strength that deserves even more encouragement.

Perhaps some creative publisher will come out with resources for spiritual and educational growth for the total parish, resources tailored for each and every learning group in the parish. During a given week every parish gathering would have a spiritual/learning dimension, each group touching on the same theme.

Let's say that the theme is "Reaching Out to the Stranger in Need." The Gospel that week might be the story of the Good Samaritan.

First, that theme would be developed in the Sunday liturgy — not just the homily but in the decorations, the bulletin, the music, in everything imaginable associated with the liturgy.

This also would be the theme in parish education at all levels. It would be part of the reflection which began that week's meeting of the finance committee, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus.

In other words, we'd get everyone in the parish reading from the same page! I see the parish of the future as a learning community. ♥

Thomas is the graduate professor of community leadership at Regis University, Denver, Colo.

Food for thought

In parishes of the not-distant future, people will "go out of their way to greet one another and be gracious," though this won't be done "in such a way that you feel one person is the host and another is the guest. Everyone is at home!"

That's how Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony envisions Sunday in the parish of the year 2000. In a September 1997 pastoral letter, he said that in this parish, people will be "intent on the hard work of liturgy, caught up in singing, procession and even silence....

"To be with them is to learn how to be in this world with reverence, with a love of God that is incarnate in how we speak to others, how we move amid the holiness of matter and of time."

In this future parish, the cardinal says, people know that:

"The songs are for singing, the Scriptures for listening, the silence for reflecting, the intercessions for pleading, the Eucharistic Prayer for immense thanksgiving, the communion for every kind of hunger and thirst satisfied in partaking together of the body and blood of Christ, and the dismissal for going out to love the world the way God does."

— David Gibson, Editor, *Faith Alive!*

FAITH alive! Upcoming Edition

An upcoming edition asks:
Tell of a Christmas custom in your home that helps to convey this feast day's meaning.

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

In the year 2027...

By FATHER W. THOMAS FAUCHER
Catholic News Service

Thirty years from now I strongly suspect that there still will be parishes. We won't witness their disappearance in the years ahead.

Parishes in the year 2027 will be a great deal like parishes today. In the parish of the future and the church of the future, there will continue to be growth, discussion, debate and movement. But there will be some important differences.

Five major categories of parish life often are utilized to characterize parishes. These categories encompass liturgical and spiritual life; education; physical and financial realities; community life; and the organizational dimension.

Starting with the last of these, I think that from an organizational perspective the parish of the future will be the center around which many smaller faith communities revolve. Most parishioners will belong to a small community, but all the communities will gather together for Sunday liturgy.

Parish life often may be managed - as already is the case in many parishes - by leaders who are not ordained priests. Councils, boards, committees and a parish staff will have become totally normal to parish functioning.

The role of the priest will have matured. Priests will serve as spiritual leaders and preachers of the Gospel. Catholic priests will be known for their homilies.

By the year 2027, the community life of the parish will have gone through a number of transitions, including the surge of baby-boomers and solutions to the gender issues we're familiar with now. Two groups still will have a hard time becoming part of parish life:

— Teen-agers, though efforts will be under way to help with that, and

— The poor, though there will be a push to make parishes more sensitive to them.

The physical and financial aspects of the Catholic parish will be very similar to what exists in 1997. Most churches will have been re-renovated to make them much more beautiful and even more able to accommodate the basic orientation of Vatican Council II's liturgical renewal.

CNS Photo of teenager by Bill Wittman

I predict that in the beginning of the 21st century, Catholic people will demand that Catholic churches be truly beautiful — that their design not be controlled solely by financial considerations.

And Catholics will become increasingly generous over the next three decades. By the year 2027, 10 percent tithing will be commonplace. Most parishes also will be generous and tithe 10 percent of parish money to poorer communities.

Most parishes will offer extensive adult education courses, often with credit from local Catholic universities and colleges. These colleges and universities themselves will have become smaller and more religiously oriented than in the past.

Almost every Catholic parish will define itself 30 years from now by the quality of its spiritual and liturgical life. The liturgical improvements envisioned by the bishops of Vatican II finally will have been universally implemented.

By the year 2027, increased respect for cultural groups will free black, Hispanic, Asian and other ethnic forms of Catholicism to be expressed in all their fullness. A surprising effect of that will be seen in a great improvement of all other liturgical celebrations as well.

Increasingly, the lines of ethnic division are being lowered, and the people of many different heritages are able truly to celebrate together.

Thirty years from now Catholic parishes will be communities of the highest standards where God lives. They will be known as houses of worship and prayer, and it will be known that they are open and welcoming. ▼

Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho., on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.

In a nutshell

- *The future parish may well serve as the center for many small faith communities. Its adult education may earn participants college credits.*
- *Some challenges of the future parish can be predicted: the need to serve teens better or to welcome the poor.*
- *But some challenges can not yet be known. For religion is a vital part of human culture, and cultures are not static.*

CNS Photo of homeless person by James Baca

Faith in the marketplace

How do you predict that parishes 30 years hence will differ from today's parishes?

"Here in the Northwest I think they will be priestless. They'll be clustered. There will be a group of parishes operating under the direction of lay ministers, who will work with a priest assigned to that cluster." — Marlene McGrath, Auburn, Wash.

"I hope that 30 years from now we will be more effective at reaching out to our young people and helping them stay in touch with God." — Candace Woods, Mankato, Minn.

"I'm involved in a movement called Small Church Communities. It's a way for individuals to develop small groups within a parish to share their faith and their lives together. My hope is that these kinds of small groups will revitalize parish life." — Kathleen Chroninger, Portland, Ore.

The road the church travels in culture

By FATHER JOHN J. CASTELOT
Catholic News Service

Today's Catholic parishes are quite differ ent even from those in the first part of this century. The Mass is in English; lay men and women read the Scriptures at the liturgy and distribute Communion. These are just a couple of the things people would have thought impossible in a former generation.

We are the product of almost 2,000 years of cultural challenges, positive and negative. Religion is a vital part of human culture, and cultures are not static. They constantly change, adapting to new circumstances.

The first Christians all were Jews, people accustomed to change. Throughout their history the Jews were never quite sure what tomorrow would bring.

At first it was the Canaanites, then the Philistines and other surrounding peoples whose cultures influenced their own. Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans: One never knew from day to day who would influence the lives of the Israelites.

Their Greek overlords launched a vicious persecution aimed at wiping out their religion just before the time of Christ. When the Romans took over they brought a measure of stability - an enforced stability that didn't last long.

The people rebeled in 67 A.D. and lost everything. In 70 A.D. Jerusalem fell along with the temple, the center of the Jews' religious life. Thousands fled to foreign lands and came into contact with strange customs and philosophies.

The fall of Jerusalem was catastrophic. The temple was a heap of rubble. But over the preceding centuries local centers of worship had grown up: the synagogues, completely lay organizations. Even the religious leadership had changed. The priesthood vanished with the temple, and leadership passed to the Pharisees.

Jerusalem also had been the center of Christianity. The head of the church there, James, had been martyred. Jewish Christians fled to other cities, especially to Antioch in Syria.

But when the refugees arrived, they were shocked to find Christian communities largely gentile in makeup. The Jewish Christians at that time no more would share in the Eucharist with gentiles than they would accept invitations to dine in their homes.

This gave rise to a famous tiff between Paul and Peter, who tried to straddle the issue (Galatians 2:11-14). Change and adaptation were the rule of the day.

The New Testament's Pastoral Letters (First and Second Timothy and Titus) give evidence of further development. With St. Paul martyred and no longer available for consultation, these communities became concerned with developing greater internal structures.

The great English cardinal, John Henry Newman, once remarked that to live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often. That is as true of institutions as of individuals. ▼

Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.

All contents copyright 1998, Catholic News Service

FAITH alive!

Book Review

Book gives message that life is search for affirmation

Reviewed by **FRANK ALLEN**
Catholic News Service

"Sabbatical Journey" is a spiritual diary showing how Father Henri Nouwen — accepting a vocation to live in a community of the afflicted — reached out to the world with a message that life is a search for affirmation.

Writing with poetic sensitivity, the educator-priest, who died in 1996, documents a final pilgrimage to become "more connected and inspired" in difficult postmodern times.

Born and ordained in Holland, well-educated (he had doctorates in psychology and theology), and after teaching at Yale Divinity School and publishing numerous works about leadership and ministry, Father Nouwen became pastor-in-residence of the L'Arche Daybreak Community in Toronto.

Founded by Jean Vanier, the L'Arche Federation is an international network of communities which operates homes where staff and persons with developmental and mental disabilities live and work together.

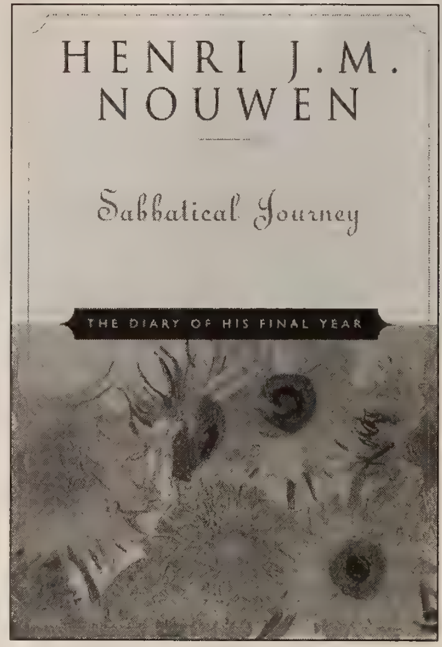
At the Daybreak Home, Father Nouwen shows unflagging empathy for those with disabilities and disease — "our burden and our brokenness." Friends and families at Daybreak include people living with mental and physical handicaps, AIDS, cancer, and "self-afflicted wounds," such as feelings of rejection.

Father Nouwen, for whom death is the "beginning of a true community of faith," is especially insightful about coping with grief and loss.

Father Nouwen went on sabbatical from September 1995 to August 1996 and kept a contemplative, spiritually open journal. Vowing to compose "reflections for every day of the year," he rededicated himself to the mission of "serving the truth in simplicity, honesty, and humility."

Edited by Sue Mosteller, the journal — he died less than a month after it stops — is a record of prayer and self-examination, of traveling in the Europe and the United States, and of counseling friends. He shows special interest in projects to help the homeless and poor and ways to include people with disabilities in the liturgy.

He celebrates Christmas with his 93-year-old father at the Freiburg Munster in Germany. Related with novelistic depth, reconciliation between the orthodox father and the spiritually liberated son provided lasting emotional fulfillment to Father Nouwen.



"Sabbatical Journey: The Diary of His Final Year," by Father Henri J.M. Nouwen. The Crossroad Publishing Company (New York, 1998), 226 pp., $19.95.

Restless and busy, never solemn, searching for new spiritual realities, his free-floating reflections on Scripture and literature are spontaneous and encouraging.

A moving afterword by Nathan Ball, an official at L'Arche, details Father Nouwen's heart attack and death and pays tribute to his legacy.

This reflective man cared deeply about ever-changing intellectual issues of the church and communities which nourish it. He advocated breaking through "mental distances" between different peoples "to create a unity of love that allows the weakest among us to live well."

This diary's bottom line is the importance of self-esteem and of the interior life. Father Nouwen's conviction was that all persons, regardless of disability or weakness, can come to a sense of being loved for who they are. ▼

Allen is a longtime English professor and college administrator.

Word to Life

November 16. Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. B Cycle. Readings:

1) Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16:5,8-11
2) Hebrews 10:11-14,18
3) Mark13:24-32

By **BOZENA CLOUTIER**

During World War II and the Cold War years that followed, most of the letters we received from family in Poland were strictly censored. Words, sentences, and sometimes whole paragraphs were randomly inked out. The same fate befell the letters that we sent from England to Poland. Correspondence between us and our relatives, the only tenuous link we had, became a real challenge. It was always my mother who read the letters aloud to us and who wrote back.

But she was more than just the reader and writer. She was also an encoder and a decoder because, over time, she and the family in Poland developed a private code. Using shared experiences and memories, she was able to convey things that the censor would have normally erased, and, conversely, because of the common history she had shared with our Polish family, she was able to understand the deeper meaning in the careful letters they wrote to us.

It had been many years since I had thought about those letters, but the memory surfaced vividly when I was reflecting on this Sunday's first reading from Daniel. It comes from a book that is full of symbols and meanings to which we no longer have the key. This is apocalyptic literature. The Gospel continues the theme of end times.

These are obscure and, to some, troubling readings. We all know people who become very anxious about the end of the world and who try to predict or even anticipate that time, often with tragic results. As Christians, our challenge is to live hopefully and joyfully even as we acknowledge the fragility of human life. And rather than obsess about the "when," we would do well to heed Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "As to the exact day or hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven nor even the Son, but only the Father."

We may no longer have the key to really understand these readings, but the message is always that of good news. The entrance antiphon for this Sunday expresses that with tenderness and conviction: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe!" ▼

Question:

How do you live out your Christian vocation with hope and joy? Be specific.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. Once the sap of its branches runs high and it begins to sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near, even at the door."

— Mark 13:28-29

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 15 - 21, 1998

Sunday, Malachi 3:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Luke 21:5-19; **Monday**, Revelation 1:1-4;2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, Revelation 3:1-6,14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday**, Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday**, Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday**, Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday**, Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

"Catholic families should be living symbols of our conviction that life is always, always a gift from God. Teach your children to respect human life from conception to natural death. Pray as a family for an end to this evil that destroys the weakest of the weak, the poorest of the poor."

— Light and Shadows: Our Nation 25 Years After Roe v. Wade, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

Employment opportunities available

10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Advent Calendars & Wreaths
Christmas Cards

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

TV Review

"Saint Maybe" is winning testament to faith and family

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A young man's plans for the future change drastically midway throughout his college career in the uplifting drama, "Saint Maybe," airing Sunday, Nov. 22, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS.

Life is good in 1965 Baltimore for 17-year-old Ian (Thomas McCarthy), a college frosh with older brother Danny (Jeremy Nordling) he's very close to, a sweet girlfriend (Lori Rom) and caring parents (Blythe Danner and Edward Herrmann).

Things change, however, after Danny meets and quickly marries attractive divorcee Lucy (Mary-Louise Parker) who already has two children and gives birth seven months after the wedding to a plump baby girl. Danny is deliriously happy being a husband and father to three, but chief babysitter Ian suspects his brother has been made a fool of by a loose woman who may be cheating on him.

One night in the car with Danny, Ian blurts out his pent-up suspicions about loose Lucy, and Danny drives off stunned, only to die minutes later, having hit a tree head-on.

Left with three small children and no job skills, Lucy attempts to get a typing job but fails, and the following day her 8-year-old daughter Agatha can't awaken her. An empty vial of sleeping pills is by her side.

Ian is consumed by guilt that Danny may have deliberately driven into the tree because of his rash words, and now Lucy's suicide has left the children orphans. As Ian's mother is too frail to raise three more youngsters on her own they are destined to become wards of the state.

Passing by a storefront Church of the Second Chance, Ian morosely wanders in and asks those assembled to pray for him. The pastor (Denis O'Hare) listens to his sorry story and suggests God will forgive Ian, but that it must be earned, namely by Ian bringing up the three children even if it means dropping out of college. At 19 years old, Ian moves home from the college dorm, taking in the kids and making a living crafting fine furniture.

The years pass, the grandparents age and the youngsters grow under the watchful eye of earnest Ian. Presuming Ian has no personal life the threesome decide to set him up, but are surprised that their uncle is perfectly capable of making up for lost time now that his parenting days are drawing to a close.

Directed by Michael Pressman, the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie fairly radiates goodness and warmth. A sturdy cast gives solid performances, and Parker adds a wispy air of mystery to her character that has later significance.

Unselfishness is shown as a rewarding choice to make, as Ian's life became far richer than he could have imagined. In fact, all three generations of the family are depicted as blessed by his decision, not only the needy children, but his parents as well, who enjoyed — and occasionally endured — a full house once more instead of becoming empty-nesters.

Based on the best-seller by Anne Tyler, the production is a winning testament to faith and family and the sexual innuendo is discreet enough not to automatically exclude young viewers. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Saint Maybe," airs Sunday, Nov. 22, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS.

CNS photo from DreamWorks

Spielberg accepts Catholic media award for 'Private Ryan'
Director Steven Spielberg received a Catholic in Media Associates Award for the film "Saving Private Ryan" at the organization's annual Mass and brunch Nov. 1. "This is a great honor for me and all the people who made 'Saving Private Ryan,'" said Spielberg, who also co-produced the film, in his acceptance speech at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. "It is also a tribute to all the veterans who I made this film for."

Our Mission:

Providing Healing & Christian Service to North Carolinians for 50 Years

Ever since St. Joseph Hospital was founded in 1948 by Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh and Dr. Francis Owens of Southern Pines, our purpose has been to serve the health care needs of the residents of our communities.

We enter our second half-century of service with a renewed commitment to that mission. Our recent affiliations with Catholic Health East will allow us to do an even better job of ministering through caring.

Whether your health care needs involve long-term care, home health care in the 24 counties we serve, private duty nursing assistance, hospice, adult day health care, child care, senior housing or retirement living, think first of St. Joseph: the name you can trust.

ST JOSEPH OF THE PINES

1-800-581-9257

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Every Act Of Mercy Is Backed By The Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

Charlotte Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient/Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System
In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org

Hurricane Mitch Relief

Church relief workers struggle to deliver aid in Honduras

By PAUL JEFFREY
Catholic News Service

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Relief workers struggled to get emergency food and medicine to isolated communities in Honduras, where Hurricane Mitch killed 10,000 people and left more than 500,000 homeless.

Disaster staff were "working furiously" to get emergency supplies to people stranded on hilltops or in villages, said Doug Ryan, country representative in Honduras for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

"But we can't do it fast enough. It's like swimming in a lake of human need," he added.

Ryan recruited his wife and two children to help bag emergency provisions Nov. 7.

"We have lots of volunteers, and that's heartening," Ryan said. "The big problem is getting fuel and finding a way to transport the food to the people who need it."

For a week after the hurricane struck, Tegucigalpa was cut off from ports on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts of Honduras, and fuel — along with food and potable water — were in short supply. The government managed to get makeshift roads open over the weekend of Nov. 7-8, and the fuel crisis was expected to ease in the following days.

Support efforts in the Diocese of Charlotte continued in Mitch's wake. In cooperation with Catholic Relief Services, Bishop William G. Curlin established a diocesan fund to assist victims.

"The devastation in Central America is a tragedy almost beyond comprehension," said Bishop Curlin. "I invite all in the diocese to join with me in providing both material as well as spiritual support for those whose lives have been shattered."

A diocesan official said monetary aid is Catholic Relief Services' most pressing need, as relief workers are currently struggling to find ways to ship, store and distribute supplies because of the destruction.

Once the remaining communities received supplies and people found temporary housing, Ryan said, the government and scores of aid agencies would begin the task of planning long-term reconstruction. With hundreds of relief organizations and an overwhelmed government, "the big challenge will be coordination," Ryan said. ▼

Jimmy Rostar, associate editor of The Catholic News & Herald, contributed to this story.

Papal U.N. ambassador urges support for peace agreement

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican nuncio to the United Nations appealed to the international community to support implementation of the Wye agreement between Israelis and Palestinians despite acts of extremists.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino said the Wye Memorandum, named for the Wye Plantation in Maryland where the agreement was negotiated, gave hope of wiping out some of the injustices suffered by Palestinians through Israel's anti-terrorism measures.

The nuncio expressed hope that "security for the citizens of Israel" and respect for the rights of the Palestinians, including their "right to a homeland," would be achieved.

Speaking the week after two Palestinians carried out a suicide bombing that killed themselves and injured 24 others in Jerusalem, the nuncio acknowledged "the difficulties posed by extremists seeking to destroy the prospects for peace and stability."

But he said retaliatory border closings damaged both the Palestinian economy and their freedom of worship, and served "only to exacerbate the tensions already present."

"It is the sincere wish of the Holy See that the seeds of a solution will not be crushed by extremism or terrorism," he said.

Archbishop Martino made his comments Nov. 9 in a statement to the U.N. General Assembly committee reviewing operations of U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

He said the Vatican, operating through the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and other agencies, had been working nearly 50 years in the same area with the U.N. agency to assist needy Palestinians "on the basis of need not creed."

A papal institution, Bethlehem University, celebrated its 25th anniversary Oct. 4, and has a 60-percent Muslim student body of 2,050, he said.

The nuncio expressed hope that "security for the citizens of Israel" and respect for the rights of the Palestinians, including their "right to a homeland," would be achieved.

But he warned that "the security of the people of Israel will be guaranteed only when the rights of the Palestinians to freedom of worship, access to education, medical care and employment are insured."

Archbishop Martino also reiterated the Vatican's past appeals for "internationally guaranteed provisions" to assure freedom of religion for all inhabitants of Jerusalem and "free and unhindered access to the holy places by the faithful of all religions and nationalities."

He quoted a recent statement by Archbishop Jean Louis Tauran, Vatican foreign minister, denying that the Vatican's concern for the holy places was separate from its concern for Jerusalem as a whole, including its "human community and institutional dimensions."

While the Vatican takes a legitimate interest in the "religious aspects" of the city, it is also concerned about political, economic and other areas "inasmuch as they have a moral dimension," Archbishop Tauran said. ▼

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools School Board Openings

The May issue of *Partners in Learning* included an article describing the scope and content of a report on the evaluation of the structure and organization of MACS.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the report, the MACS School Board is being restructured as a consultative body to the bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools. The new board will cooperate in the policy making process by formulating, adapting, and proposing policy to the Superintendent of Schools.

Applications for membership on the new MACS School Board are being accepted until December 16, 1998.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a MACS parish. One exception shall be that, at most, one board position may be designated for a participating member of a parish outside of MACS. This would be an at-large position.
3. Be a parent of children in a MACS school or have had a child in a MACS school. Parents who are enrolling a child in the school for the upcoming year are eligible. At-large members are exceptions to this qualification.
4. Be 25 years of age or older.
5. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
6. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.
7. Be able and willing to make necessary and substantial time commitments to attend meetings and related board activities including active participation on a board committee.

Members shall serve terms of three years. Initially, one-third of the board will serve one year, one-third two years, and one-third three years.

Individuals having MACS committee, PTO or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume and letter stating why you would like to serve by December 16, 1998 to:

Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Schools Office
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

It is necessary that all applicants attend an in-service on the duties and responsibilities of board members on January 30, 1999. Following the in-service, the bishop will appoint the new board. A follow-up in-service will be conducted in March with the new board to establish goals, committees, and the direction of the board.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Skube with questions or comments at 704.370.3270

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
3000 Angels
Gifts, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd./
Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

PHOTO COURTESY OF BASILICA OF ST. LAWRENCE

Mothers and daughters gathered at the Basilica of St. Lawrence for a child/parent family life program facilitated by members of the diocese's natural family planning ministry.

God's plan for growing up discussed at Basilica

ASHEVILLE — A child/parent family life program, called "God's Plan for Growing Up," was presented Oct. 25 at the Basilica of St. Lawrence to girls aged 9-12 and their mothers, and boys aged 12-14 and their fathers.

The program was facilitated by members of the diocese's natural family planning ministry. It originated in the Diocese of Memphis, Tenn., and was developed by natural family planning instructors there.

Every seat in the parish's Justin Hall was filled with moms and daughters, who listened to speakers discuss the gift of sexuality with reverence, humor and awe. Laurentine Hall was the setting for dads and sons, who heard a similar message.

Prayer, testimonials about growing up, and discussion on self-respect highlighted the sessions. Emotional, spiritual and physical changes were also explored.

A diversity of guest presenters offered thoughts on growing up, being a teen-ager, and entering adulthood. ▼

Charlotte priest to receive award

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Eugene McCreesh, parochial vicar at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, has been chosen to receive this year's Thanks For Giving Award in recognition for exemplary service in the field of HIV/AIDS ministry. The award will be presented at the annual Thanks For Giving Ball Nov. 21.

In addition to HIV/AIDS ministry, Father McCreesh is noted for inner-city work with the homeless, prison ministry, counseling to engaged and divorcing couples and people struggling with additions, and advocating for the rights of and respect for the gay and lesbian community. Ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1954, he has served in Charlotte since 1985.

The Thanks For Giving Ball is sponsored by House of Mercy, a residential care facility for individuals in the final stages of AIDS. The facility was founded in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy. ▼

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Council of Churches addresses elder care, guns, civil speech

WINSTON-SALEM — Representatives of the North Carolina Council of Churches' member bodies met at Knollwood Baptist Church here and chose their 1999 legislative priorities. By overwhelming majorities, the 90 church delegates voted to support legislation affecting guns, long-term care for older adults, and the restructuring of electric utilities. They also addressed religious liberty and the quality of political and media discourse.

Near unanimous votes followed upon discussion of recommendations that would keep guns out of the hands of children by making adults responsible for their unsafe storage and by passing laws like one to limit handgun purchases to one a month. Acknowledging the too-frequent neglect and abuse of older adults in long-term care, delegates also determined to raise minimum staff requirements in care facilities to get residents adequate representation on a Long Term Care Legislative Study Commission, assure adequate funding for inspecting all long-term facilities, and to set standards for Alzheimer's units.

Most vociferously discussed was a resolution begging politicians and media commentators to engage in civil discourse. A horror at "verbal mud wrestling" and the consequent violence that may result from demonizing opponents prompted the resolution. Its author, the Rev. Dr. David E. Leininger of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, submitted the statement to the Council. He said, "For too long we have not said enough, and maybe that has contributed to the problems we have."

Council members will also lead in the formation of a coalition to work for a state religious freedom law in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent weakening of First Amendment protections.

A network of citizen lobbyists in the 20 denominational bodies, including Roman Catholicism, and six individual congregations that belong to the statewide organization carries out the North Carolina Council of Churches' legislative efforts. ▼

Eucharistic adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., welcomes all to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. For information, call the parish office at (828) 252-6042.

BREVARD — Eucharistic adoration is hosted at Sacred Heart Church, 4 Fortune Cove, every Tuesday from 7-11 a.m. Call Bill Knowlton at (828) 696-1715, or Dick Smith at (828) 884-7823 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Eucharistic adoration is at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass and lasting until the 9 a.m. Saturday Mass. Call Mary Nadolski, (704) 841-8613, for details.

Eucharistic adoration is at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., each Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Call (704) 549-1607 for details.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., hosts eucharistic adoration from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church each Friday other than the first. First Friday adoration follows the 12:10 p.m. Mass and lasts until 8 p.m. Call (828) 464-9207 for more information.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., hosts eucharistic adoration each Sunday from 10 a.m.-noon. Call (704) 633-0591 for more information.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Put your business in the homes of
over 100,000 each week!

For LOW advertising rates, call
704.370.3332

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

November 13, 1998

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of November 21-22, parishes throughout the Diocese will participate in the annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development appeal. This collection is unique in two ways:

- It was initiated by the American Bishops 28 years ago to gather the spiritual and material resources of the Catholic community to confront the very causes of poverty, homelessness, unemployment and breakdowns in health delivery for our people, and
- The Church committed itself to go beyond only advocating for the poor. In getting at the causes of poverty through direct involvement of the people themselves, it adheres to the principle that low-income people must be the agents and decision-makers in the shaping of their lives. The role of the CCHD, then, is to enable and empower people to control their own lives and to live in God-given dignity.

These principles lead the CCHD to work with the poor, not just for them; it empowers them to become independent and to determine their own futures. In our Diocese, CCHD has funded programs from Murphy to Winston-Salem and from Boone to Charlotte.

In having a collection each year at Thanksgiving time, the hope is that most of us who are secure will reach out to the poor and vulnerable with the same urgency that we feel in seeking or asserting our own security. The Gospel and Christ's words are relentless in reminding us that above all, we must answer the biblical call to respond to the cries of the poor.

Please remember our brothers and sisters with open hearts and a generous response on November 21-22.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

Poverty Then and Now

There were **4 million** more poor people in 1996 than there were in 1986.

© 1998, United States Conference (Catholic Campaign for Human Development) Source: "A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities" by Waxman, Laura, and Remy Trupin, 1997

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writer: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelance writer to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. The candidate should have professional writing experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Interested applicants can forward writing samples to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you Sacred Heart of Jesus, Blessed Mother and St. Jude for your help. — D.J.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Working to End Poverty and Injustice in the United States

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — As the collection to fund the U.S. Catholic bishops' domestic anti-poverty campaign approaches, Dr. Barney Offerman urges Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte to help people help themselves.

It's a plea centered at the very heart of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), whose funding comes from an annual collection taken in parishes nationwide. This year's collection is Nov. 21-22.

"I think people really want to feel that they're part of other people's development," said Offerman, diocesan director of the campaign. "We don't want to be just an emergency service for the broken and the hurting. We really want to get at the causes and to change the conditions that cause poverty.

"Essentially, CCHD tries to put within the hands of the people themselves the instruments of their own change and development."

Founded in 1970 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the campaign is the largest private fundraiser of anti-poverty programs controlled by poor populations in the United States. More than $250 million has been distributed to about 3,500 programs focusing on community organizing and economic development.

Grants are given based on community need, not religious affiliation.

Currently, eight groups operated locally throughout the Diocese of Charlotte collectively receive almost $20,000 from the campaign. Two national programs, Helping Empower Local People in Charlotte, and the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice in Morganton, together receive $65,000.

Offerman said the projects share a common theme: emphasis on arming the poor with opportunities to make economic decisions and earn living wages. With guidance from local professionals, he added, members of poor communities are encouraged to become role models in matters of employment, health care and housing.

Last year, the Diocese of Charlotte contributed $73,000 to the national campaign, an 11 percent increase from the 1996 collection. That's significantly higher than the national average of 4 percent, said Offerman, who added that assisting in systemic change "excites the imagination of people."

"The existence of poverty in a society such as ours does not have to be a fact of life," Offerman said. "It is within our power to change this reality."

He noted differences between the United States, where opportunities for change are "a matter of the will," and some countries where poverty exists because of a dire lack of resources.

Both an educational and empowerment effort, the campaign promotes economic vitality, moral influence and an understanding that economic justice is a possibility even for the most vulnerable.

In regions like the Diocese of Charlotte, poverty can run rampant in both sprawling urban centers and slow-paced rural environments, causing family and community breakdowns, Offerman said.

That prospect brings greater urgency to ensure that human rights include not only food and clothing, but affordable housing and living wage jobs, he said. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, he added, promotes such human rights by actively involving the very people being helped.

Last November the state's two Catholic bishops, Bishops William G. Curlin of Charlotte and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, issued the pastoral letter "Of One Heart and One Mind," speaking of the need to provide skills and living wage jobs to all members of society.

The bishops' missive adds special emphasis to this year's campaign efforts, Offerman said. "The pastoral gives us a starting point, because it says ... you must have a sense of equity and fairness for persons seeking decent jobs," he explained.

Offerman said the campaign offers the faith community a chance to play an active role in effecting change. "It offers Catholics an opportunity to connect their faith with justice and opportunity in society," he said. ▼

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Annual diocesan event celebrates marriage

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — "In this day and age where there are so many problems that can destroy family life, we need heroes like those of you here today," said Bishop William G. Curlin during the annual diocesan 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration. The Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"You can inspire young people with your example of unselfish love for one another so that they can imitate that love and sacrifice in their own marriage," he said in his homily.

More than 260 couples throughout the diocese came to renew their vows during the Mass; some were joined by their families. The diocesan Family Life Ministry sponsored the event, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.

"It is of the utmost importance that the diocese continue to show its strong commitment to the family and marriage in special events such as this one," said Gerry Carter, diocesan director of Special Ministries.

Debby and Bob Grimm, parishioners at St. John Neumann in Charlotte, were delighted to renew their marriage vows during the Mass.

"The first time we said our vows, it was in a Catholic Neumann Center and we were poor college students," recalled Debby Grimm, who celebrates her 25th anniversary this year with her husband.

Steve and Diane Gassel from St. Matthews in Charlotte, felt it was important to share the occasion with the church even though the couple privately celebrated their 25th in April. Diane Gassel was particularly touched with Bishop Curlin's homily.

Anna Horai, celebrating her golden anniversary with her husband, Stephen, a permanent deacon at Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte, felt anniversary celebrations give encouragement to the young. "They can look at us and say, 'If they can do it, so can we!'" she said.

Photo by Patrick Henry

More than 260 couples gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte for the annual silver and golden anniversary Mass, sponsored by the diocese's Family Life Ministry. Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the event.

R.C. and Margaret White had some advice for younger couples. "Prayers take care of everything," said Margaret, who described her marriage as "50 wonderful years." R.C added his own humorous but practical piece of advice: "Sometimes you have to concentrate on what you saw in her (or him) in the first place."

Tommy and Lorraine Williams from St. James Church in Concord celebrated their golden anniversary on Aug. 15 with a surprise party organized by their six children. Tommy attributes success in marriage to his rule — always ask the wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Thong van Nguyen from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont also celebrated their 25th anniversary. Married in Vietnam, the young couple later came to the United States. They said they endured many trials in the early years, but have prevailed through it all.

As each couple reflected on the challenges they faced and continue to face, Bishop Curlin reminded them that trials often test but strengthen their bond, and that Jesus is there for them as he was for the young couple in Cana when he changed water into wine.

"He is ready to perform miracles in your lives, too," the bishop said. ▼

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

John and Geraldine Logan, parishioners of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, were among those in attendance.

Pope, addressing Italian bishops, warns of 'attacks' on family

By Lynne Weil
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II underlined his support for the family and reiterated warnings about "attacks" in Italy on the family.

The pope made his remarks Nov. 9 to a general meeting of the Italian bishops.

He said there had been numerous attacks against the family "on the cultural, political, legislative and administrative levels."

The pope said the marriage-based family constitutes "the most precious and important resource which Italy has, and which has been little helped to date by the weakness of family policy."

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar for Rome and president of the Italian bishops' conference, emphasized in his remarks to the assembly the importance of transmitting moral values to children.

The cardinal was quoted in Italian media as saying the bishops were willing to work with newly appointed Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, a former Communist, and were particularly eager to ensure that the new government would support religious education.

The pope said the "weakness" of government policy on the family in Italy leaves families "too often not economically or socially supported in an adequate manner." ▼

The pope said the marriage-based family constitutes "the most precious and important resource which Italy has, and which has been little helped to date by the weakness of family policy."

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

R282
C367

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S299 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 20, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 12

Inside

National Conference of Catholic Bishops ...PAGE 12

The pastoral anniversary
Sylva parish teaches implementation of "Of One Heart and One Mind" ...PAGE 11

Local News

Confirmation Task Force hosts workshop ...PAGE 7

Annual Aquinas-Luther conference in Hickory ...PAGE 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 8-9

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Bounty of the season

Jaclyn Mazzucca and Kris Bahar portray Native Americans in their class production depicting the first Thanksgiving. The All Saints Catholic School fourth-grade class of Maria Zancanaro presented the drama tracing the pilgrims' first attempt at settlement in Holland to their arrival in the new America, and the first Thanksgiving feast.

The World in Brief

Church must take steps against persistent racism, says speaker

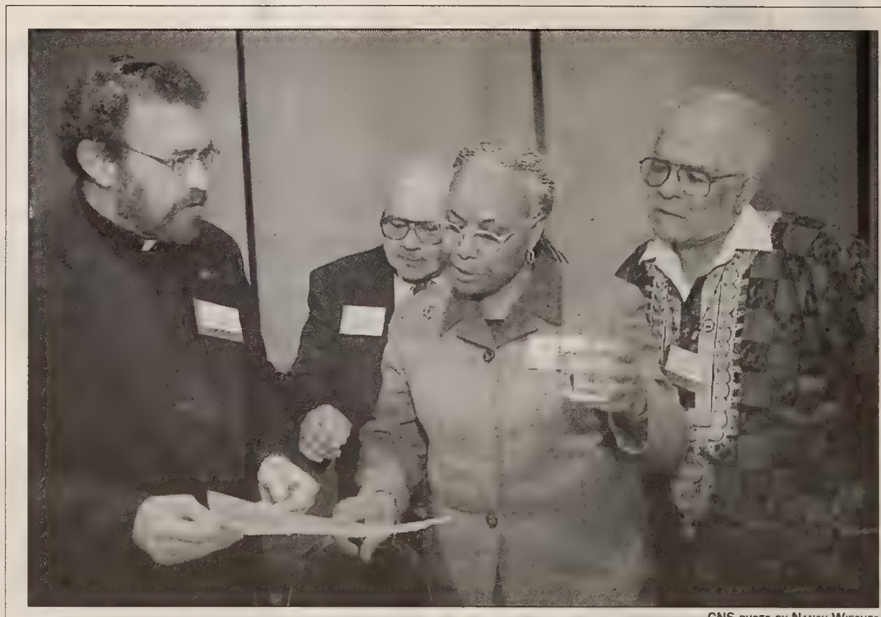
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church in the United States should take steps toward battling a pervasive national climate of racism, said the keynote speaker at a Nov. 15 workshop for the U.S. bishops on "The Moral Ethics of Racism." In a session held a few days before the bishops as a conference were to discuss the role of the church in combating racism, Father Bryan Massingale noted that since the bishops issued their 1979 pastoral letter on racism, racial exclusion and disparity are as prevalent as ever. The priest is an associate professor of moral theology at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee.

Catholic colleges boast top graduation rates of scholar athletes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The NCAA's annual list of graduation rates for scholar athletes is out, and Catholic colleges are at the head of the class. Xavier University in Ohio finished first among all 305 NCAA Division I colleges, graduating all 30 of its scholarships athletes who entered school in 1991. By comparison, only 67 percent of Xavier's student body overall graduated. Manhattan University in New York was fifth with a 96 percent graduation rate, failing to graduate only one of 26 scholarship athletes. Georgetown University in Washington was eighth with a 92 percent graduation rate, graduating 33 of 36 scholarship athletes. In 10th place was the University of Dayton in Ohio, which graduated 16 of 18 athletes for an 89 percent rate.

Bishops' agencies say donations used for immediate aid efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. and Canadian bishops' relief agencies are using funds donated for victims of Hurricane Mitch for immediate aid efforts in Central American countries, said agency officials. In addition, officials said, the groups are coordinating with other organizations to avoid duplication. Catholic Relief Services approved an initial $200,000 for aid to Honduras and more than $98,000 for Nicaragua, and tens of thousands more for El Salvador and Guatemala, all of which came from just-donated private funds, said Michael Watt, deputy director for Catholic Relief Services' Latin America and Caribbean office.



CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

African-American Catholic leaders

African-American Catholic leaders discuss evangelization and racism at a seminar sponsored by the U.S. bishops Nov. 15 in Washington. From left are Franciscan Father James Goode, president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus; Paul Richardson, president of the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons; Leodia Gooch, head of the ladies auxiliary, Knights of Peter Claver; and Hilbert D. Stanley, executive director, National Black Catholic Congress.

Pax Christi urges German bishops to admit complicity in war

BONN, Germany (CNS) — German bishops should admit the complicity of the Catholic Church in supporting Adolf Hitler during World War II, said the German branch of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement. "An admission from our bishops that Germany's Catholic Church supported Hitler in his war is overdue," Pax Christi said in a resolution published Nov. 9 following the group's weekend congress in Benedictbeuern. A bishops' spokeswoman said the bishops' conference already had declared that many Catholics passively accepted or promoted Hitler's campaign of violence against Jews.

Relics of apostles placed in new altar at Raleigh cathedral

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — "Peter and Paul just arrived from the Vatican," said an awed Rector Tim O'Connor, pastor of the newly renovated Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh. Yes, THAT Peter and Paul. Relics from two of the most important saints in the Catholic Church came in tiny envelopes, sealed with a tiny red dollop of Vatican wax. The envelopes, marked with "S. Petri Ap." and "S. Pauli Ap.," rested in a golden box, waiting to be placed and sealed in Sacred Heart Cathedral's new marble altar.

English city's attempt to rename Christmas celebrations criticized

LONDON (CNS) — The English midlands city of Birmingham has come under fire from Christians and Muslims after attempting to rename Christmas celebrations as "Winterval." The Birmingham City Council caused an uproar with its announcement that festivities from the end of November until the New Year would be marketed as Winterval, but a spokesman denied that the exercise would detract from Christmas. But a spokesman for the Catholic Church in England and Wales told the newspaper that Christmas had already become too secular.

Refugee resettlement lessons could help others, bishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The lessons learned from a century's involvement in resettling refugees could be applied to helping other struggling people adjust to U.S. life, according to a bishop speaking at Georgetown University. Bishop George V. Murry, coadjutor of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, told a Georgetown lecture audience Nov. 10 that the American Catholic community ought to consider providing to other groups of people the same kind of help refugees receive. Concluding an address that traced the history of the U.S. church's involvement in resettling refugees, Bishop Murry noted that American Catholics have been very successful in providing affordable housing, jobs, job training, English and citizenship lessons and other essentials for new residents who enter the country as refugees.

CRS officials visit feeding center in Sudan

MAPOURDIT, Sudan (CNS) — Manut Dio doesn't know how old she is. She could as easily be 40 as she could be 30. All she knows is she must find ways to feed her five babies. Asked about the prospect of peace in her native war-torn southern Sudan, Dio, her front teeth rotted out and her thin limbs jutting, stick-like, from her worn brown dress, stares incomprehensibly at the questioner and says very simply through a translator: "I need something to eat for my children." Dio was among the more than 1,000 people at the Catholic Relief Services supplementary feeding center in Mapourdit during the Nov. 4 visit of Bishop John H. Ricard, president and chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, and Ken Hackett, CRS executive director.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

November 20, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 12
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 21 — 6:30 p.m.
Thanks for Giving Ball
A benefit for the House of Mercy

November 22 — 1:00 p.m.
Board meeting, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

2:00 p.m.
Mass, Catholic Heritage Society
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

November 23 — 5 p.m.
Diocesan Financial Council
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

November 26 — 9 a.m.
Thanksgiving Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., provide free tours of the historic church following every weekend Mass. Masses are Saturday at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (in Spanish). Call (828) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action youth ministry of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is coordinating a Christmas wish tree program to benefit individuals staying at the Battered Women's Shelter. Donation of toys and toiletries are being accepted. For details, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

November

21 CHARLOTTE — A holiday craft fair is today in the parish hall of St. Gabriel Parish Hall, 3026 Providence Rd., from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Featured items include children's clothing, jewelry, silverware, stoneware, stained glass, hand-crafted rosaries and more.

DENVER — Holy Spirit Church, on Highway 16 in Denver, hosts a Christmas bazaar today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Featured items also include raffles and food. More than 20 crafters will be present.

HAMLET — An ecumenical Thanksgiving service is at St. James Catholic Church, 1018 West Hamlet Ave., today at 7 p.m. Call (910) 582-0207 for more information.

22 CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., hosts a youth Harambe Mass at 11 a.m. in celebration of the parish's youth ministries, including Youth in Action, the Kabaka Dancers & Drummers, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and children's choir. A reception follows. For more information, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Jesuit Father Avery Dulles, center, makes a remark during a panel discussion at the annual Aquinas-Luther Conference while the Rev. Dr. Frank Senn, left, and the Rev. Timothy Quill listen.

Annual Aquinas-Luther Conference convenes in Hickory

Intricacies of worship explored during presentations

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — What is appropriate for worship has been a question debated amongst Christians of all denominations for centuries.

This very topic was the theme of this year's Aquinas-Luther Conference, co-sponsored by the Center for Theology at Lenoir-Rhyne College and the Hickory Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee.

The sixth conference in Hickory opened Nov. 1 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, where more than 260 people gathered for a worship service.

Addressing participants from 14 different states, Dr. Michael McDaniel, former bishop of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod and founder and director of the Center for Theology said, "Bringing leading Lutherans and Catholics together in the Aquinas-Luther Conferences serves the cause of reunion," one of the center's goals since its inception in 1991.

The keynote address for the evening service, titled "'Adoramus Te, Christe': The Contribution of Aquinas and Luther to a Theology of Worship," was given by Rev. Dr. Frank Senn, a noted Lutheran scholar, author and ecumenical leader. Rev. Senn discussed both Aquinas and Luther in the context of the tumultuous times in which they lived.

Four lectures featured renowned Catholic and Lutheran theologians. Each concluded with a panel discussion where participants could interject their thoughts or questions. Speakers including Senn, Rev. Dr. Kurt Karl Hendel, and Father Frank Quinn gave detailed historical accounts of Aquinas and Luther, sharing intimate insights into how these men envisioned worship.

Other speakers, Jesuit Father Avery Dulles and Dr. Timothy Quill, gave more contemporary applications of Aquinas and Luther, especially relating to today's ecumenical challenges.

Using Aquinas' most famous writings from "Summa Theologiae," Father Quinn briefly described its organization and later discussed Aquinas' thoughts on worship, while sharing some details of Aquinas' pious prayer life and practices.

In his presentation, Father Avery

See AQUINAS-LUTHER, page 7

Triad Schools Committee

November 20, 1998

To the Catholic Community of the Triad:

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with timely information regarding the work of the Triad School Committee. Its mandate has been to prepare and submit a report to Bishop Curlin with recommendations as to the construction of schools in the Triad area. Pastors, principals, parent board representatives and diocesan officials have comprised membership on the committee. The members have met on a bi-weekly basis since June.

During its deliberations the committee was attentive to the results of the surveys returned by parents and parishioners as well as to the observations shared by the participants during the public meetings. Four presumptions were viewed as vital factors in the formulation of the report and recommendations. First, there must be commitment to quality Catholic education. Second, a viable student population must be available. Third, the schools must be reasonably accessible in terms of travel distance. Fourth, the cost to the family must be as manageable as possible.

The committee's task has been formidable. The expectation had been that the report would be submitted to Bishop Curlin in September. However, due to the many considerations to be weighed prior to the formulation of a report the timeline established originally was not achieved.

We are pleased to inform you that the report has been completed. The Bishop will receive it within the week. In December he will meet with the pastors and principals of the Triad area to discuss the committee's recommendations. It is expected that the decision of Bishop Curlin regarding the constructions of schools will be announced in January 1999.

We are grateful for your patience and support in this effort. Your involvement in the process has been truly valuable.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Hawker

Reverend James F. Hawker
Diocesan Vicar for Education
Co-chair,
Triad School Committee

George L. Repass, Principal
Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School
Co-chair,
Triad School Committee

Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

CHARLOTTE — All Charlotte Catholic High School seniors and their families are invited to a senior family Mass and dinner at 5 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Call (704) 543-9118 for more information.

MOORESVILLE — All Marriage Encounter couples are invited to a potluck supper today at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., from 2-4:30 p.m. To R.S.V.P. and for details, call Paul or Kristy Michaels at (704) 849-2604.

23 CHARLOTTE — An Alzheimer's disease support group meets today at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135. (There will be no activities for those experiencing memory loss.)

24 WADESBORO — An ecumenical Thanksgiving service is at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 205 Rutherford St., today at 7 p.m. For details, call (910) 582-0207.

28 BOONVILLE — An advent retreat exploring waiting for the light of Christ with patience, hope and trust is today beginning at 9:30 a.m at New Creation Monastery, 1433 Richmond Hill Rd. Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, facilitates. Faith sharing, silent mediation, opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation and presentations are included. Suggested donation is $20 in advance and $30 the day of the event. For reservations and other information, call (336) 699-4005.

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte are invited to an advent retreat at Tabor Retreat Center, 2125 Langhorne Rd., today through Nov. 29. Cost is $45. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. Register by Nov. 23 by calling (804) 846-6475.

December

1 GREENSBORO — An adult education session focusing on how to deepen one's spiritual life is today at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center. Marian Father Shaun O'Connor facilitates. For more information, call (336) 274-0415.

4 HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr. Mass is preceded by rosary recitation at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by Benediction and adoration.

5 HICKORY — An Advent retreat, sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal service team, is today at St. Aloysius Church, 902 2nd St. N.E. Cost is $5 payable at the door. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. For more information, call Joan Moran at (704) 327-0487.

6 CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pregame food today 2 1/2 hours prior to game time. Proceeds benefit local children's charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the century-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

7 MORGANTON — Bill Frankel-Streit, peace activist and member of the Little Flower Catholic Worker community in Goochland, Va., will speak and show slides about his recent visit to Iraq today at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. Part of a delegation visiting Baghdad and Basra, Frankel-Streit visited several medical centers and spoke with church and government officials about sanctions on the Iraqi civilian population. For details, call Francisco Risso, (828) 438-4359, or the parish office, (828) 437-3108.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Hope helps Christians look beyond modern horizon, says pope

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under a dark and stormy November sky, Pope John Paul II said the Holy Spirit's gift of hope helps Christians look beyond the modern "horizon darkened by uncertainty and pessimism."

Even the pope, standing under an awning during his Nov. 11 general audience on St. Peter's Square, got wet when thunder and lightning gave way to a driving rain.

While hundreds of people ran for shelter under the colonnade partially enclosing the square, Pope John Paul abbreviated his remarks and shook hands with only a few of his visitors.

Continuing his series of audience talks about the Holy Spirit, Pope John Paul said the virtue of hope "is poured into the hearts of believers by God through the Holy Spirit."

Christian hope makes believers yearn for the kingdom of heaven and for eternal life, placing their trust in Christ's power to save them, he said.

"Many dangers seem to loom over the future of humanity and many uncertainties seem to weigh on individual destinies and, often, one feels incapable of facing them," the pope said.

"In addition, the crisis of the meaning of existence and the enigma of suffering and of death return to knock with insistence on the door of our contemporaries' hearts," he said.

But, the pope said, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, particularly the gift of hope, ensure that doubt and confusion do not have the last word.

Hope deserves special attention especially in a cultural climate which tries to make people believe "the myth of an infinite ability for self-redemption and self-realization," yet offers nothing to counter "the temptation of pessimism" when personal efforts are met with disappointment and defeat, he said.

"The message of hope which comes from Jesus Christ enlightens this horizon darkened by uncertainty and pessimism," the pope said.

"Hope supports and protects us in the good fight of the faith," he said. "Hope is nourished by prayer, especially by saying the 'Our Father' which is 'the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.'"

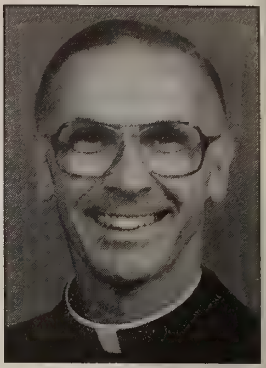
Although the rain was falling hard, the pope closed his audience with his customary blessing and by leading the remaining visitors in singing the Lord's Prayer in Latin.

Archbishop says pope enthused about possible Vietnam trip

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a meeting with a Vietnamese archbishop, Pope John Paul II reacted enthusiastically to an invitation to visit Vietnam next year and said he hoped the trip would be possible. Archbishop Etienne Nguyen Nhu The, apostolic administrator of Hue, asked the pope to make the visit during a private meeting at the Vatican Nov. 6, said the Vatican missionary news agency, Fides. The archbishop said, "The pope was excited and happy, and said he would surely like to come, and then added, 'If it is possible.'"

Celebrate Thanksgiving

FATHER FRANCIS T. GIGNAC, S.J.
CUA News Service



Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving Day in the United States, we are perhaps more united than on any other religious day in our mutual acknowledgement of God's blessings. This continues in our society an ancient autumn tradition of offering thanks for, among other things, a bountiful harvest.

Harvest festivals go back before the dawn of history, and a harvest festival was one of the three annual pilgrimage feasts in Israel during the lifetime of Jesus. Like Passover in the spring, from which our Eucharist evolved, the fall harvest festival was a national holiday of thanksgiving. And like our Eucharist, which means thanksgiving, harvest festivals reflect some of the most ancient patterns of worship.

Among the alternative readings for the liturgy are those for celebrations "After the Harvest." The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy (8:7-18). Composed during the sixth century B.C. in the form of three farewell sermons of Moses to the people of Israel, this book is a liturgical piece calling the people to bring to a more conscious level of awareness and to apply to themselves the saving events of their history.

In this passage the author pictures Moses telling the people to realize that their God brought them — and not just their ancestors — into a land with streams of water, a land of wheat and barley, a land flowing with milk and honey where they will lack nothing. He enjoins them to bless their God always for the good country he has given them and never to think that they have acquired their prosperity by the work of their own hands.

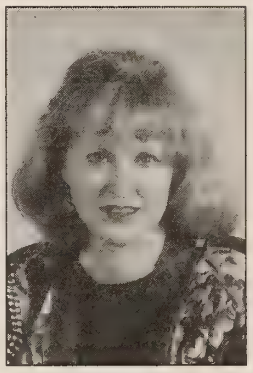
We ourselves live in a land where there is more abundance than in ancient Palestine, more than in most other lands today. A friend of mine told me how he took a couple who had just arrived in the United States from a Third World country to a supermarket for the first time. They cried when they saw the tremendous quantities of food — food that most people in their own country would never see in a lifetime.

But there are also many, many people in our midst who for various reasons cannot afford what most of us take for granted. We must all do what we can to help alleviate the poverty and homelessness around us as we gather together to acknowledge the abundant blessings God has given us and traditionally remember those in our society who are less fortunate.

This is also the message of the second reading from a late pastoral letter (1 Tim. 6:6-11,17-19). It reminds us that just as we brought nothing into the world, we shall not be able to take anything out of it. So if we are blessed with sufficient food and clothing, we should be content with what we have. Those who want to be rich fall into a trap. Money, the writer says, is "the root of all evils." He exhorts his Christians not to rely on wealth but rather on God, and to strive to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share.

May we all take the opportunity today to renew within ourselves our consciousness of the great and manifold blessings we have received, to thank God sincerely and devoutly for them, and to commit ourselves to helping the disadvantaged, those in our midst who are most in need.

The Reverend Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.



Editor's Notebook

JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Making a list, checking it twice

I'm pretty sure I met one of Santa's elves this week, without leaving the confines of the pastoral center. There were no jingle bells, no pointy caps, nary a reindeer in sight. This messenger of the spirit of Christmas was distinguished merely by an identification badge marked Catholic Social Services.

It's just a week before Thanksgiving and Catholic Social Services has been in a Christmas mode since September. This time of year, CSS' Holiday Outreach kicks into high gear, ready to become Santa for hundreds of nameless faces who would otherwise wake to a bleak and empty Christmas morning.

Holiday Outreach is but one of many special ministries of CSS. And this program is a self-perpetuating, self-funded entity. It is a flurry of volunteers donating for those without. CSS is the conduit to connect the volunteers with those in need.

Sometimes it starts with a phone call from someone wanting to lend a helping hand to an individual or family during the holiday season. It is a corporation with a desire to supply food vouchers for those in need of nutrition. It is the result of hundreds within the Diocese of Charlotte; its parishes, schools, and individual organizations. Simply, it is all as one in a true common spirit — the spirit of Christ — shining during this glorious holiday season.

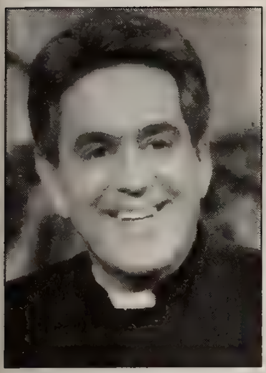
Last year, CSS supplied toys, food and gifts for thousands of individuals. CSS staff workers say volunteer calls this year are up, and that's good news for even more of our brethren in need.

It is apropos for CSS to call their community base of volunteers Christmas Angels. What else could you call the selfless devotion to provide Christmas gifts to the unknown masses in need? CSS provides Christmas Angels with a description of a family or individual in need, children's Christmas wish lists, that would otherwise fall on deaf ears. Elderly residents — often forgotten during the holidays — receive the warmth of the holiday glow.

A cross section of society find their way to the social service agency. Christmas needs are not always limited to what would be considered the poorest of the poor. It is not uncommon for CSS to receive a request for the most basic of needs from a family facing a temporary hardship, and CSS has been known to pick up a rent payment when a client faces the most dire of situations.

As we enter into the Advent season, The Catholic News & Herald will introduce some of these Christmas Angels. Most will be identified using pseudonyms, for a true angel walks unbeknownst in our presence, quietly giving hope in this season of giving and love.

> "Simply, it is all as one in a true common spirit – the spirit of Christ – shining during this glorious holiday season."
>
> — *Joann S. Keane*



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Giving thanks: One in ten and the other nine

In case you haven't noticed already, the holidays are here.

Actually, I can't imagine this escaping your attention. Malls are being decorated for Christmas while grocery stores are running specials on Thanksgiving turkeys. Even before the wishbone has been snapped, people start getting that harried look that seems to haunt folks with too much to do and no time to do it.

Actually, Thanksgiving is the perfect celebration for right now, if only we treat it as an opportunity for a time out rather than a hurdle to be gotten over. Novelist Margaret Storm Jameson said that "the only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what it is — a miracle and unrepeatable." Just how grateful are we for the miracle of a minute?

Ten lepers approached Jesus. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him ... Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? (Luke 17:12-17)

While I would like to think I would have been the one to run back, thanking God for all to hear, I have the terrible feeling I would have been among the other nine, and so, I am afraid would most of us.

Consider these lepers: sick, poor and most painful of all, outcasts. No doctor can cure them. Nobody will get close to them. They could not even worship with their neighbors. But, they have heard about this preacher, this miracle-maker. He is their only hope. What can they possible lose by throwing themselves on his mercy? They have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If only Jesus says the word.

He does. The lepers are healed. They literally have their lives given back to them. All that they asked for, they now have. Yet only one turns back to say "thank you." And the rest? Surely they were happy, overwhelmed even. Then they got distracted.

Some probably rushed to reunite with families they had not seen in ages. Others may have dashed off to regale the locals with the story of their amazing cure, then celebrated until dawn with the same people who would have run them out of town just a day before: but now each former leper was "somebody," a minor celebrity, even. One or two may have just kept going, anxious to get back in the thick of things.

I don't think they were ungrateful, just caught up in those ordinary, absorbing emotions and events that take over our days and our lives. Then and in 1998.

There is an antidote to distraction and pressure and being too busy. It's gratitude. Gratitude to the people with whom we share our lives and our world. And always and above all, to the Creator and God who patiently waits for an occasional "thank you" for little moments and great miracles which are, if only we realize it, one and the same.

Shakespeare always had a thoughtful word on the human and spiritual condition. This Thanksgiving, or any day, any minute, we can pray as he did: "O Lord, who lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The perpetual virginity of Mary

Q. Regarding your answer a few weeks ago about the brothers and sisters of Jesus, just how did the church come up with the idea that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus?

Wouldn't it be a "sin" for Mary not to have relations with Joseph while they were married? This would not make her any less of a person or saint; she was still chosen to be the mother of God.

Also, in the Magnificat Mary says, "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior." So how did the church come up with the fact that she was born without original sin?

A. Your questions cover a lot of territory, but perhaps a few thoughts will cast some light on most of what you ask.

It is true, of course, that the Catholic Church professes the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of the Virgin Mary, a belief, incidentally, which was shared by several major figures of the Reformation, including Luther, Calvin and Zwingli.

From the earliest expressions of this teaching, however, in the first centuries of Christianity, it is clear that the spiritual and theological implications of her virginity were essential and integral to an authentic understanding of what that virginity was about.

Her physical virginity was a reality, we believe. But the meaning of that reality goes far beyond biology and physiology. It was most of all an expression, a living out, of her radical, total love for God, and her full surrender to his will.

As with all her unique gifts from the Father, the gift of her virginity must be seen in the light of Mary's supreme vocation of being the mother of Jesus Christ, the Mother of God. This is the focal point, the zenith and source of whatever else our Christian faith believes and practices about her.

Thus, in the perspective of the earliest fathers of the church, the virginity of Mary is significant first of all as a privilege of Jesus himself.

His conception in her womb by the power of the Spirit reflects his eternal "conception," born of the Father before all ages, as the creed says, and his mission to regenerate, recreate, the whole human race through his new covenant. It is in this context that Mary is the "new Eve," mother of a new creation of the human family, and a unique sharer in her Son's victory over sin and its effects in the world.

The tradition of the subsequent virginity of Mary during her whole life, which is an even older patristic tradition than the virgin birth, is based on the same Christian insights.

The marriage of Joseph and Mary was obviously unique, in many ways a mystery. Spouses in marriage vow to each other the right to genital expression of their love, when that "right" is sought of course in timely and appropriately loving ways.

There is no absolute obligation, however, even as we understand marriage today, for either partner ever to exercise that right. The Gospels (including Luke 1:34, where Mary says "I have no relations with a man") and the whole Christian tradition, seem to assume that's what happened with Joseph and Mary.

Finally, when proclaiming the dogma of the immaculate conception in 1854, Pope Pius IX made clear that all Mary's gifts, including this one, were given to her through Christ. She was preserved from all sin, he said, "in consideration of the merits of Jesus Christ, savior of the human race."

From the Bishop

MOST REVEREND WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Remembering those in true need at Thanksgiving

Within days, you and I will gather together with loved ones to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Many homes will be filled with loving gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in our nation.

In the midst of our preparations for Thanksgiving Day, I prayerfully appeal to all members of our diocesan family — clergy, religious and laity — to open our hearts in a loving and generous response to the cries for help of the victims of Hurricane Mitch.

Hurricane Mitch has overwhelmed our brothers and sisters in Central America. News reports relate terrifying stories of death and destruction. Many thousands of the dead are being hastily buried in mass graves, in order to lessen the threat of spreading deadly disease.

Millions are homeless. Crops that once proved to be the mainstay of financial support have been destroyed, and will take years to reestablish. Bridges are now non-existent. Mothers bathe infants in contaminated water. Thirst and hunger are everywhere.

Truly, it is a time of despair and hopelessness for all there.

I pray that we, as a eucharistic community, will embrace an attitude of gratitude that we might see and serve the Lord Jesus in our less fortunate brothers and sisters here in the Americas.

May our gracious God bless you and your loved ones on Thanksgiving Day and always.

In cooperation with Catholic Relief Services, Bishop William G. Curlin has established a diocesan fund to assist victims of Hurricane Mitch. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Charlotte Hurricane Relief and send to the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Whatever you give for hurricane relief will be immediately transferred by the diocese to Catholic Relief Services, whose workers are already in those areas devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Catholic Relief Services, the church's official relief effort in Central America, has asked that the diocese not collect material goods. What is needed at this time is money to purchase appropriate types and quantities of food, medicine and supplies. Thus, the diocese will not be coordinating any collection of goods or accepting supplies.

> "I pray that we, as a eucharistic community, will embrace an attitude of gratitude that we might see and serve the Lord Jesus in our less fortunate brothers and sisters here in the Americas."
>
> *— Bishop William G. Curlin*

Rabbis urged to take stronger stance against abortion

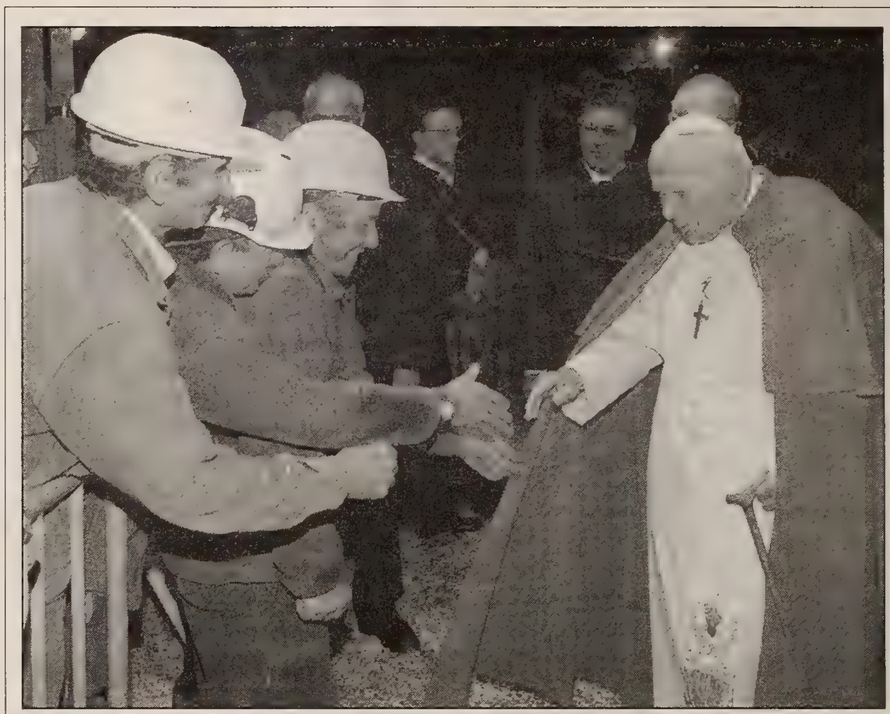
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Comedic actor Ben Stein urged Jewish leaders to take a stronger stance against abortion, saying their words would "seep in eventually" into mainstream society. "Jews are in the unique position of being able to articulate their views," he said during a luncheon at the all-day conference Nov. 12 on the Jewish response to abortion held at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Stein, who is Jewish, is the host of "Win Ben Stein's Money," a game show on the Comedy Central cable network.

Mitch could sink justice efforts in Guatemala, Menchu says

ST. MARY'S, Md. (CNS) — Rigoberta Menchu Tum has seen devastating natural and man-made storms sweep through her native Guatemala. The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize laureate said that when Hurricane Mitch recently battered her homeland, the instant loss of lives, homes and fields nearly equaled the devastation of 10 years of internal war. During a visit Nov. 9 to Southern Maryland, Menchu, a member of the Maya-Quiche indigenous community, said she was concerned how a country searching for justice would recover from this latest natural disaster.

Dominican bishop urges church action to fight AIDS

ATLANTA (CNS) — The Catholic Church must stress the responsibility of Christians in the face of the AIDS pandemic, said retired Bishop Priamo Tejeda Rosario of Bani, Dominican Republic. "While there is necessity of the involvement of government, states and counties, the grass-roots level — the Christian community as we like to call it in Latin America — plays a very important role in the ministry of compassion and its actions," he said during a Nov. 8-11 convocation in Atlanta on "AIDS & Religion in America."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope greets workers

Pope John Paul II greets construction workers Nov. 11 as he tours an underground parking garage being built at the Vatican. The garage is one of several projects being undertaken at the Vatican to prepare for the large number of visitors expected in 1999 and 2000.

Knoxville's Bishop O'Connell named to Palm Beach Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Irish-born head of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., has been named the new bishop of Palm Beach, Fla. The appointment of Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell, 60, was announced Nov. 12 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States. Bishop O'Connell, who was born in County Clare, Ireland, and served as a priest of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo., succeeds Bishop J. Keith Symons, who resigned June 2 after acknowledging sexual misconduct with minors when he was a young priest.

WCC head says papal primacy less of a stumbling block

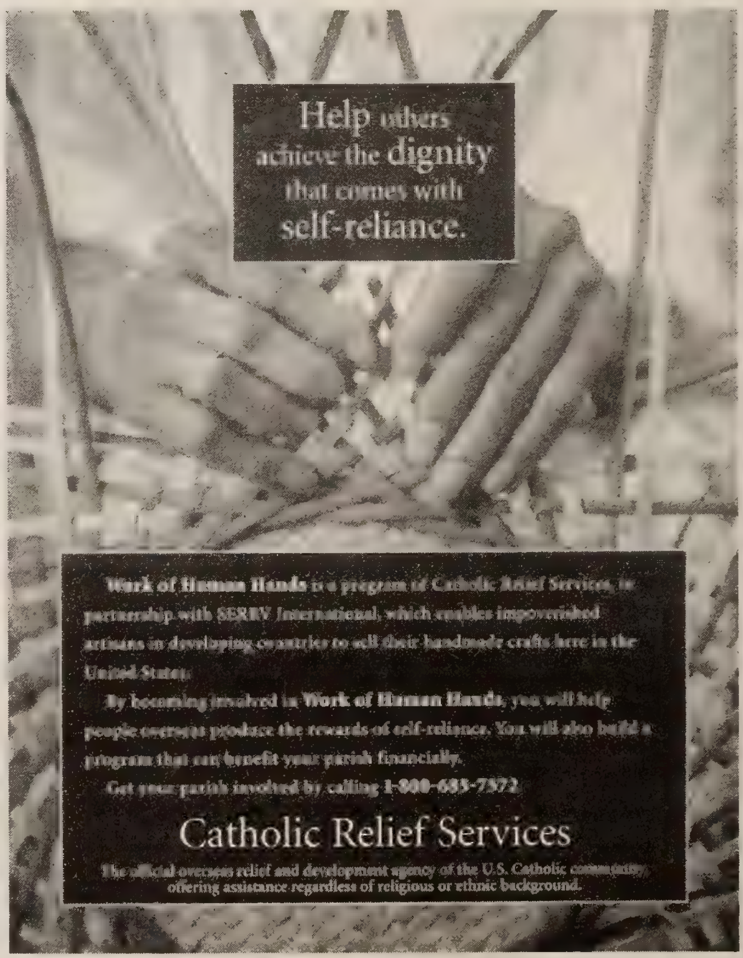
ROME (CNS) — Papal primacy is not as much of a stumbling block to ecumenism as it has been, said the head of the World Council of Churches. During a meeting on Christianity in Rome hosted by the theological school of the Waldensians, a Protestant group, the Rev. Konrad Raiser told journalists that "the time is right to enter into this ecumenical discussion, even though there is no illusion that we will come to agreement quickly on it."

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

Employment opportunities available
10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish



Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling 1-800-685-7572.

Catholic Relief Services
The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands
Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

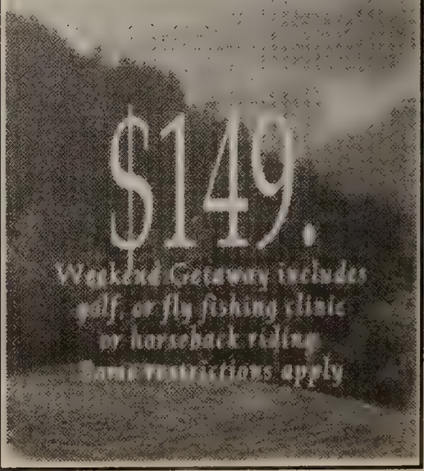
Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676



$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding
Some restrictions apply

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

20 de noviembre de 1998

Comuniquémonos

MINISTERIO HISPANO

Dirigentes católicos elogian votos sobre suicidio con ayuda y otros

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Los dirigentes católicos elogiaron la derrota de una propuesta de Michigan que habría permitido el suicidio con ayuda, y el rechazo por parte de los electores de Alaska y Hawaii de las medidas para legalizar los matrimonios entre personas del mismo sexo.

Pero los resultados de otros asuntos sometidos a referendos que habían sido seguidos de cerca por los católicos fueron mixtos.

La propuesta de Michigan, derrotada por un margen mayor que de 2 a 1, estaba entre cerca de 200 preguntas en las boletas electorales que fueron decididas el 3 de noviembre en los 24 estados que tuvieron iniciativas o votos de referendo en este año de elecciones.

Los dirigentes católicos habían adoptado también posturas sobre los asuntos de las boletas estatales que incluían al aborto de nacimiento parcial, la acción afirmativa, la pena de muerte, los créditos fiscales para matrículas y los juegos de azar.

La Propuesta B de Michigan sobre el suicidio con ayuda había sido objetada por una amplia coalición de grupos religiosos y de atención a la salud, así como por el "médico del suicidio" Jack Kevorkian, quien criticó su "cinta roja burocrática asfixiante" y dijo que la misma "no iba lo suficientemente lejos".

La Hermana de la Misericordia Monica Kostielney, presidenta y funcionaria ejecutiva principal de la Conferencia Católica de Michigan, dijo que la votación sobre el suicidio con ayuda "envió un mensaje muy claro basado sobre los valores tradicionales del Medio Oeste".

"El suicidio con ayuda no es un curso de acción público deseado en este estado", agregó ella en una declaración. "Cualquier tentativa para traerlo de regreso será una bofetada en la cara para los electores que han rechazado a este asunto tan abrumadoramente".

En Alaska y Hawaii, donde las decisiones de los tribunales habían planteado la posibilidad de los matrimonios entre las personas del mismo sexo, los electores aprobaron enmiendas constitucionales que prohibirían dichas uniones, por márgenes de 2 contra 1.

Una declaración de la Conferencia Católica de Hawaii criticó a la "campaña colosal de confusión y engaño" que precedió a la votación y dijo que la enmienda aprobada era un voto "a favor del matrimonio, no en contra de nadie".

Dignity USA, la organización de católicos homosexuales y lesbianas fundada en 1969, manifestó su desilusión por las votaciones de Hawaii y Alaska, y especialmente por el papel de la Iglesia en la campaña.

En la Florida, una propuesta para agregar la frase "femenino y masculino por igual" a la garantía existente en la Constitución del Estado de los derechos para "todas las personas naturales" ganó la aprobación de los dos tercios de los electores. Los obispos católicos del estado se habían opuesto al cambio diciendo que el mismo "podría afectar adversamente a la institución básica del matrimonio." ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Un niñito abraza a su hermano en las afueras de un campo provisional para familias que perdieron sus casas por las inundaciones en La Lima, Honduras. Trabajadores están luchando infatigablemente para poder darle techo y alimento a cientos de personas en América Central que han quedado desamparadas por las tormentas causadas por el Huracán Mitch.

Obispo Curlin establece fondo de ayuda para víctimas de huracán

CHARLOTTE — El Obispo William G. Curlin ha establecido un fondo de ayuda para las víctimas del Huracán Mitch. Si desea contribuir puede enviar un cheque pagadero a "Diocese of Charlotte - Hurricane Relief" a: Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund, c/o Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

El "Catholic Relief Services", órgano oficial de la Iglesia Católica para ayuda a los damnificados de la América Central, han pedido a la diócesis de no recoger mercancías. Lo que se necesita en estos momentos es dinero para comprar los tipos y cantidades de comida, medicina y materiales apropiados. Por tanto, la diócesis no aceptará ni coordinará la recogida de mercancías.

CRS fue fundada en 1943 por los obispos de los Estados Unidos para ayudar a la población civil de Europa y Africa del Norte que fueron afectados por la Segunda Guerra Mundial. A finales de 1940 y principio de 1950 la ayuda se extendió a Asia, Africa y América Latina. ▼

Foto cortesía de "La Noticia

Grupo panameño ejecutando una danza típica durante el Octavo Festival Latinoamericano que se llevó a cabo en los jardines del Museo de Arte Mint el pasado 11 de Octubre, como parte del mes de la Herencia Hispana.

VIII Festival Latinoamericano

Por LUIS A. WOLF

CHARLOTTE – El domingo 11 de octubre fue un soleado y bonito día de otoño. El día fue perfecto para celebrar en los jardines del Museo de Arte Mint (Mint Museum of Art) el VIII Festival Latinoamericano que, como todos los años, estuvo lleno de colorido con los vistosos trajes y vestidos típicos de los participantes y las ondulantes banderas de todos los países hispanos que tenían de fondo el claro y bello azul del cielo.

El alcalde de Charlotte, Pat McCrory, y el comisionado del condado de Mecklenburg, Park Helms, dieron comienzo al festival leyendo una proclamación declarando el mes de la hispanidad del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre.

Durante la apertura hubo un desfile de banderas y a continuación unas 20,000 personas disfrutaron de las actuaciones artísticas, de una gran variedad de comidas típicas, así como también de la artesanía de algunos de los países. Además de los quioscos de venta de comida y de exhibiciones de artículos de artesanía había otros de servicio público y comunitario. Los niños también disfrutaron de muchas actividades preparadas especialmente para ellos.

El festival fue organizado por la Coalición Latinoamericana, la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y el Mint Museum. Varias entidades patrocinaron el evento y más de 200 voluntarios trabajaron arduamente para que éste fuera un éxito. ▼

Mensaje del Padre

REV. VINCENTE H. FINNERTY, C.M.

Amigos y amigas:

"Porque tú vales mucho más a mis ojos, yo te aprecio y te amo mucho"(Isaías 43,4)

Al estar en Panamá y México por muchos años, me tocó vivir una variedad de experiencias. Una de ellas fue el sentir las miradas de la gente. No era común para los panameños, ni para los mexicanos, ver a un "gringo". La gente siempre estaba mirándolo a uno. Creo que lo mismo pasa con nuestra gente aquí en los Estados Unidos. Los americanos no están acostumbrados a ver hispanos. A menudo nuestra gente siente que todas las miradas están sobre uno.

Me acuerdo que vi una película de una señora que no tenía brazos. Ella hacía todo los sus pies: cocinaba, comía, limpiaba, contestaba el teléfono, etc. También, ella decía que tenía que soportar muchas miradas y en dado momento el juicio de la gente. En una ocasión, un supermercado le pidió que no hiciera sus compras ahí, porque mucha gente se sentía incómoda al verla bajar las cosas con los pies.

Me pregunto: "¿Qué es lo que hace a personas así salir adelante, a lograr mucho éxito en la vida?" Me parece a mí que es una firme convicción en el amor de Dios, que El nos ha salvado y tiene un propósito para mí y para cada uno de ustedes. Esta convicción es una fuente de luz para muchas personas en medio de un mundo que muchas veces parece estar en tinieblas.

La promesa que Dios está siempre con nosotros y que no mira sólo el exterior sino que ve el corazón de la persona es lo que nos puede llevar a sobreponernos a increíbles barreras físicas, mentales y hasta al rechazo de la sociedad. La señora en la película encontró el secreto de una buena autoestima, aunque su aspecto físico no se conformaba a lo que el mundo considera atractivo. Su valor y su esperanza proceden de Cristo. Si ella hubiera basado su vida en la apariencia no hubiera sobrevivido. Si nosotros basamos nuestra vidas en nuestra apariencia nos hundiremos cada vez más en una existencia vacía y superficial.

Cuando verdaderamente comprendemos que fuimos creados para la gloria de Dios y que fue El quien nos formó y nos hizo (Isaías 43, 7), la imagen que tenemos de nosotros mismos se vuelve hermosa.

No tengan miedo

Parece totalmente fuera de lugar y hasta de mal gusto hablar de miedo, temor e inseguridad, cuando en nuestra época la humanidad ha alcanzado una técnica tan avanzada y un control tan grande sobre las causas que pueden sacudir nuestro mundo interior y que pueden lanzamos a la ansiedad y al miedo.

Sin embargo, Jesús nos exhorta a no tener miedo a las cosas que principalmente nos espantan, como son las persecuciones, los cuidados de las cosas materiales y la muerte misma. Y no sólo una vez sino en muchas páginas del Evangelio Jesús trata de darnos confianza y alejar de nosotros el temor.. Recordemos las palabras que dijo a los Apóstoles durante la tempestad en el lago de Tiberiades; las que pronunció repetidas veces en la Ultima Cena; las que dijo a los Apóstoles espantados y temerosos el día de su Resurrección.

Podemos decir que todo el Evangelio es una invitación a la confianza absoluta en Dios y en su amorosa providencia.

Sin embargo, todos conocernos muy bien la fragilidad de nuestras seguridades, certezas y previsiones.

Todos conocernos nuestros temores secretos y preocupaciones. Las palabras de Jesús:

"No tengan miedo" que oímos en el Evangelio de San Mateo (Mt 10,26), son palabras que nos traen la paz interior, aun cuando nos veamos sacudidos por vientos y tempestades.

Por otro lado, Jesús nos enseña a quien realmente debemos temer: a Dios que puede decretar con toda justicia nuestro castigo eterno. Este temor que se basa principalmente en el amor a Dios, es un precioso *Don* del Espíritu Santo. Lamentablemente en el mundo de hoy no son muchos los que de veras se preocupan por tener en su corazón el santo *Temor de Dios*. Muchos ni se preocupan si hacer o no hacer una cosa es del agrado o del desagrado de Dios.

Para obtener y conservar la paz del espíritu es absolutamente necesario oír y poner en práctica lo que nos dice Jesús. ▾

Reimpreso de "Unidos en la Oración", con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Ojos para ver

Hay una lectura superficial de la vida que se queda en ver los acontecimientos que ocurren y conlleva un matiz de pesimismo y desesperanza. Yo recuerdo las palabras de Jesús al ciego Bartimeo: *"Ve, tu amor te ha curado"*. Jesús se fió del ciego que deseaba ver y vio actuar el amor de Dios que dio vista al ciego. Saber ver ese amor de Dios, que actúa en la entraña de la historia, es la clave para recuperar la esperanza y ahuyentar el pesimismo.

En el corazón de cada ser humano queda siempre "un deseo misterioso hacia el amor y hacia el bien". Está en el corazón de la humanidad y es el reducto del alma donde Dios actúa. Cuando somos capaces de asomarnos ahí llegamos a ver la cara hermosa de la vida, donde está actuando el amor de Dios. Si nos dan miedo los acontecimientos... es que sólo hacemos una lectura superficial de la vida. Dios anda por nuestra tierra. Dios anda entre nosotros. Sólo hacen falta ojos para ve. ▾

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

BURNSVILLE – Para celebrar la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe se celebrará una Misa en español en la iglesia del Sagrado Corazón, en Burnsnville, el sábado 12 de diciembre a las 12 del día.

También informamos que, hasta nuevo aviso, la Misa en español se celebrará todos los domingos a las 4:30 p.m.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 4:30 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

GODSPEED
1962

Foto CNS de Reuters

Un turista en el Centro Espacial Kennedy de Cabo Cañaveral, Florida, firma un cartel gigantesco deseándole a Glenn un viaje seguro. Glenn hizo un regreso histórico al espacio, cuando él y sus compañeros de tripulación en el trasbordador espacial "Discovery" fueron lanzados el 29 de octubre. El astronauta se convirtió en el primer estadounidense que dio vueltas a la tierra en órbita en 1962.

La misión de Glenn provoca admiración en conferencia del Vaticano

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Astronauta John Glenn, ex-Senador de los Estados Unidos que ha fascinado al mundo al emprender una misión especial a la edad de 77 años, atrajo la admiración de una reunión del Vaticano sobre la Iglesia y las personas de edad avanzada.

Monseñor Tarcisio Bertone, secretario de la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe, se refirió al hombre del espacio septuagenario en sus observaciones de apertura en la reunión entre los días 29 y 31 de octubre.

"Sólo piensen en eso", dijo el Arzobispo el 30 de octubre, la mañana después del lanzamiento. "Un hombre de la misma edad que el Papa está ahora dando la vuelta al mundo en órbita". ▾

Colombianos reciben galardón de 'RFK' y elogio del Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cuatro trabajadores colombianos de los derechos humanos recibieron el Galardón Conmemorativo "Robert F. Kennedy" de los Derechos Humanos, así como el respaldo del dirigente tibetano exiliado, el Dalai Lama.

En una ceremonia en la Universidad de Georgetown, el Dalai Lama instó a apoyar a los laureados y dijo que él y ellos estaban unidos en la misma lucha.

"De un modo somos víctimas iguales de las infracciones de los derechos humanos ... Nuestro trabajo noble es desafiado por las fuerzas negativas, que algunas veces son mucho mayores que nuestras gestiones. El fracaso llega a menudo. Pero hay un dicho tibetano: «Nueve veces fracaso, nueve veces esfuerzo", dijo él en el acontecimiento del 9 de noviembre, que era parte de una visita de nueve días a los Estados Unidos.

El Dalai Lama agregó que el apoyo para aquéllos que trabajan en la defensa de los derechos humanos "está apoyando realmente al adelanto y al desarrollo adecuados" de su comunidad o su nación.

El Dalai Lama es reconocido por muchos como el dirigente espiritual y temporal del Tíbet. Sin embargo, él y 100,000 budistas tibetanos huyeron al exilio en la India en 1959 cuando China, reaccionando a un levantamiento contra su dominio, aplastó una rebelión e impuso controles estrictos sobre los monasterios budistas.

Los cuatro ganadores del galardón Kennedy fueron Jaime Prieto Méndez, del Comité en Solidaridad con los Presos Políticos; Mario Humberto Calixto, presidente del Comité de Sabana de Torres por los Derechos Humanos; y Gloria Inés Florez Schneider y Berenice Celeyta Alayón, de la Asociación para una Política Social Alternativa, conocida por MINGA. Los recipientes del galardón recibieron $30,000, que compartirán entre ellos. ▾

Adaptación a una nueva vida

Por OTONIEL FRANCO

Para hablar sobre el tema de la adaptación como inmigrante, me es forzoso hacerlo en primera persona. Al estilo de Sacho Panza, amigo de refranes y criticado a causa de ellos por su señor Don Quijote, comenzaré con uno: "Cada cual habla de la feria, según le va en ella."

Mis vivencias en los Estadas Unidas han sido más que satisfactorias. No puedo hablar de muchos aspectos por la limitación geográfica y temporal de mi permanencia en el país. Podría hablar superficialmente de una media docena de ciudades que he visitado, pero sólo tengo una experiencia más amplia de Charlotte. Mucho más que su clima y su topografía, me ha impresionado la gentileza de cuantos he conocido y tratado, sin distinción alguna de clase o posición económica.

Tuve oportunidad de escribirle a un amigo en Venezuela, refiriéndome a la grata impresión que he tenido de Charlotte y de su gente. Le decía que aquí bien puede uno olvidarse el estereotipo del americano feo —the ugly American— tan difundido por el mundo. Como observación al margen puede afirmarse que éste ha sido el calificativo dado a los ciudadanos de un imperio. En su época han sido "feos", asirias, griegos, romanas, españoles, ingleses y franceses para nombrar sólo unos pocas.

Volviendo al tema de mi propia experiencia en los Estados Unidos, diré que la mayor barrera para la adaptación, como en cualquier otro lugar, ha sido la del idioma. Los griegos llamaron *bárbaros* a los extranjeros por la dificultad al expresarse, balbuciente o tartamuda, que es lo que indica su etimología. Un filólogo colombiano, Rubino José Cuervo, inició su discurso de ingreso a la Academia Colombiana de la Lengua, con estas palabras: "Nada en nuestro sentir simboliza tan cumplidamente la Patria, como el lenguaje. A más de cien años de distancia, tal afirmación mantiene su vigencia: el conocimiento de una nueva lengua significa la adquisición de una nueva patria.

Las diferencias culturales, aparte del idioma, no han sido ningún obstáculo para mí. En la Aldea Global, —expresión de McLuhan— por la difusión y rapidez de los medios de comunicación, todos nos hemos vuelto vecinos y nada de lo que sucede en el planeta nos es ajeno.

Los hispanos, quizá por influencia de siete siglos de dominación árabe, somos un tanto fatalistas y creemos más en el hado que en el esfuerzo personal para triunfar. "Suerte te de Dios, que lo demás nada te vale", vuelve a decir el refranero. Hoy en día, por la influencia anglosajona y la ética calvinista, estamos aprendiendo "the hard way" que sin esfuerzo personal, nada se logra y seguimos el consejo de Kipling en su poema "Never quit", que dice que mientras haya vida, hay esperanza y que nunca debemos darnos por vencidos. ▾

La opinión expresada por nuestros colaboradores no tiene que ser necesariamente la de esta publicación.

Papa ve con agrado propuesta para moratoria de ejecuciones por jubileo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dio la bienvenida a una propuesta para una moratoria internacional sobre la pena de muerte durante el año 2000.

El Papa, que ha criticado enérgicamente a la pena capital anteriormente, hizo las observaciones el 6 de noviembre durante un concierto en su honor en el Vaticano, auspiciado por un grupo multi-partidarista de miembros del Parlamento italiano.

El grupo de legisladores, además de fomentar una suspensión de la pena de muerte, ha pedido una disminución de los pagos de la deuda exterior por parte de las naciones más pobres durante el Año del Jubileo — una idea que se originó con el Papa.

"Estoy complacido de que la propuesta para disminuir la deuda exterior de las naciones más pobres y para una moratoria sobre las ejecuciones, por lo menos durante el Año del Jubileo, sea apoyada por personas que ostentan cargos elevados y que por lo tanto pueden ayudar a asegurar que estas propuestas reciban la bienvenida", dijo el Papa. ▾

Erudita mariana recibe premio de Academia Pontificia para 1998

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II otorgó el Premio de la Academia Pontificia de 1998 a una erudita costarricense por su trabajo en la teología mariana.

Al presentar el galardón, que lleva una subvención en efectivo de $35,000, el Papa animó a un nuevo énfasis sobre los estudios marianos, diciendo que María era un modelo de humanismo cristiano. El habló en una sesión conjunta de las academias pontificias el 7 de noviembre.

La reunión anual de las academias fue dedicada en este año al tema "María, Icono y Modelo de la Humanidad Redimida por Cristo". El galardón fue concedido a Deyanira Flores Gonzáles por su trabajo, titulado "La Virgen María al Pie de la Cruz". ▾

Obispo argentino jubilado respondió al llamado del Papa para Cuba

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — Después de la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II a Cuba en enero último, Monseñor Dante Sandrelli, Obispo jubilado de Formosa, Argentina, decidió salir de su país natal para prestar servicios como misionero en la isla del Caribe.

"Asumí en primera persona el pedido del Papa a fin de enviar misioneros a Cuba, pero ... no tenía a más misioneros que yo mismo", dijo él en una visita reciente de regreso a la Argentina.

El dijo que se propone continuar siendo un misionero entre los cubanos «mientras Dios me dé vida».

Después de solicitar permiso del Papa, que le animó a ir a Cuba, Monseñor Sandrelli se ofreció a los obispos cubanos, quienes le asignaron a la Basílica Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre, a 600 millas al sudeste de La Habana, en el antiguo pueblo minero de El Cobre.

"Cuando llegué, me sorprendió la cantidad enorme de responsabilidades pastorales que tendría, ya que antes de mí no había ningún sacerdote que atendiera al gran número de peregrinos", dijo el Obispo de 76 años de edad en una entrevista con la Agencia de Noticias Católica Argentina.

"La mayoría de los peregrinos son mineros que trabajan en las minas de cobre cercanas; la mayoría de ellos no han sido bautizados y difícilmente pueden orar", dijo él.

La Argentina ha enviado ya cinco misioneros a Cuba y algunas diócesis están considerando el envío de otros más. ▾

Foto CNS por Sergio Durantes

Actores representan a Dios, Cristo y Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe durante una obra teatral para el Día del Rosario en Ciudad México el 31 de octubre. Cerca de 40,000 personas se reunieron en un estadio de soccer de la ciudad para rezar el rosario, dirigidas por el Cardenal Norberto Rivera Carrera.

Reunión del Vaticano sobre Inquisición examina capítulo obscuro

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El último día de un simposio sin precedentes en el Vaticano sobre la Inquisición, el Papa Juan Pablo II dio las gracias a los historiadores por arrojar luz sobre un capítulo "tormentoso" de la historia de la Iglesia y confirmó los planes para la preparación de una declaración de "mea culpa" en el año 2000.

Sin ofrecer su propio juicio sobre la Inquisición — un sistema de tribunales eclesiásticos desde el siglo XIII hasta el XIX, que juzgó a los sospechosos de herejías — el Papa dijo que las acciones de la Inquisición exigen una evaluación moral por parte de los dirigentes eclesiásticos de hoy.

El agregó que el Vaticano invitó a cerca de 50 historiadores y otros expertos al simposio que tuvo lugar entre los días 29 y 31 de octubre, porque la Iglesia necesita información objetiva y detallada sobre un tema que a menudo resulta nublado por la emoción.

El Papa dijo que el Vaticano había convocado a los expertos para ayudar a sentar un cimiento basado sobre los hechos acerca de la Inquisición — sus actividades, métodos y mentalidad, como se ven en el contexto histórico. Ahora la Iglesia puede ponderar los resultados y examinar cómo "los métodos de intolerancia y hasta violencia al servicio de la verdad" se quedan cortos con respecto al Evangelio, dijo el Papa.

El Papa tiene señalado el pronunciamiento de una "solicitud de perdón" el Miércoles de Ceniza del año 2000, cuya declaración se espera que se enfoque sobre la Inquisición y otros períodos obscuros de la historia de la Iglesia. ▾

Mexicanos dirigen a millones en el mundo en día de rezo del rosario

CIUDAD MEXICO (CNS) — Millares de mexicanos se reunieron para rezar el rosario por la paz mundial en 8,000 lugares de todo México, dirigiendo a millones de personas alrededor del mundo en oración, en una celebración internacional del Día del Rosario.

El 31 de octubre, 20 millones de personas de todo el mundo participaron en el acontecimiento, rezando el rosario en más de 100 naciones.

Las 40,000 personas que rezaron en el Estadio Azul de Ciudad México, nombrado por el equipo de soccer "Cruz Azul", escucharon saludos del Papa Juan Pablo II leídos por el Nuncio Papal, Monseñor Justo Mullor García. El Papa envió su bendición apostólica al pueblo de México y le pidió que permanezcan siendo fieles.

En el centro del estadio, el Santísimo Sacramento fue presentado en una custodia enorme sobre una imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la aparición de la Virgen María que se venera por todo México y otras partes de las Américas. Las oraciones del rosario fueron representadas por bombillos eléctricos gigantescos - los blancos para cada Ave María y los azules para cada Padre Nuestro.

La ceremonia fue la séptima celebración anual de lo que los organizadores llamaron el «rosario viviente» de México, y la tercera vez que el acontecimiento se ha celebrado internacionalmente. El mismo fue transmitido por la Red Televisora de la Palabra Eterna (EWTN en inglés) en los Estados Unidos y por Claravisión internacionalmente. ▾

Fragilidad del Papa recibe debate más abierto en el Vaticano

Foto CNS de Reuters

El Papa Juan Pablo II durante una ceremonia de beatificación el 25 de octubre.

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los estadounidenses que saluden al Papa Juan Pablo II cuando él visite a St. Louis en enero próximo verán a un Papa más anciano y frágil, cuyo descenso físico se discute cada vez en mayor medida dentro del Vaticano.

"El dolor está escrito en su cara. Su figura está encorvada y él necesita apoyarse sobre su báculo pastoral. El descansa sobre la cruz, sobre el crucifijo ... ¿Qué puede tener él que decir, este hombre enfermo, sufriente, cansado y anciano, que habla con debilidad evidente en momentos de fatiga física?"

Ese comentario procedió del Cardenal Joseph Ratzinger, en un artículo que rendía homenaje a los primeros 20 años del Pontífice en su cargo. Para el Cardenal Ratzinger, el Papa tiene claramente mucho que decir, y sus sufrimientos sólo han aumentado la fuerza de su mensaje — especialmente durante los viajes al extranjero.

"Algunas personas han dicho que este anciano ya no le interesa a nadie y que su mensaje está anticuado. Pero cuando él llega, la fuerza de su personalidad se revela como más fuerte que todos los prejuicios que se hayan edificado", escribió el Cardenal en la edición para octubre del semanario italiano "Famiglia Cristiana".

La incomodidad visible del Papa termina llevándolo más cerca de todos los afligidos del mundo, mientras que lo identifica más cercanamente con el Cristo sufriente, dijo el Cardenal, que dirige la oficina doctrinal del Vaticano.

El vigésimo aniversario del pontificado, en este otoño, pareció abrir un poco más la puerta sobre el asunto, que una vez fue "tabú", de la salud del Papa. Entre los tributos publicados por el propio periódico del Vaticano, por lo menos tres destacaban el estado físico frágil del Papa de 78 años de edad — no como un factor negativo en la dirigencia de la Iglesia, sino como un nuevo capítulo del testimonio del Evangelio.

El portavoz del Papa, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, mencionó un asunto semejante, aún sugiriendo que el brazo tembloroso y el habla confusa del Pontífice estaban haciendo conexiones con personas que pueden haber visto anteriormente al Papa como una mera figura de autoridad. ▾

Helen Crowley, sister of Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, dies at age 86

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Helen C. (Begley) Crowley died Sunday, Nov. 15, 1998, at Heritage Hall Nursing Home in West Springfield. She was 86.

The sister of Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley of High Point, N.C., founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, Crowley lived her entire life in West Springfield. She worked as a fourth-grade teacher for many years at St. Thomas School, and retired in 1985.

She was a graduate of Elms College and a member of its alumni group. She was a parishioner of St. Thomas Catholic Church, and a member of the parish senior club and the AARP.

Her husband, William H. Crowley, died in 1965. In addition to Bishop Begley, she is survived by a son, Michael W. Crowley of Westfield, Mass.; a daughter, Judeth A. Crowley of Warwick, R.I.; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was Nov. 18 at St. Thomas Catholic Church in West Springfield. Interment followed in St. Thomas Cemetery.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to St. Thomas School Development Fund, 47 Pine St., West Springfield, MA 01089. Notes of condolence may be sent to Bishop Begley at Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., High Point, N.C. 27260. ▼

St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic community plans dedication celebration

CHARLOTTE — St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church hosts a dedication celebration in its new home, 4929 Sandy Porter Rd., Nov. 28-29, highlighted by a dedication Mass presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m.

Festivities begin Saturday, Nov. 28, with a welcoming of guests at 2 p.m., youth activities at 2:30 and the sacrament of reconciliation at 4 p.m. A procession and Mass honoring the Vietnamese saints is from 5:30-7 p.m.

The celebration continues Sunday, Nov. 29, at 8 a.m. with an assembly of the Vietnamese Catholic community, welcoming of guests at 9, tour of the church and property at 10 and the dedication Mass at 11. Father Tan Le, pastor, will concelebrate the Mass with Bishop Curlin and other clergy.

A reception, featuring entertainment and a raffle, follows from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

For more information, call (704) 504-0907. ▼

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools School Board Openings

The May issue of *Partners in Learning* included an article describing the scope and content of a report on the evaluation of the structure and organization of MACS.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the report, the MACS School Board is being restructured as a consultative body to the bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools. The new board will cooperate in the policy making process by formulating, adapting, and proposing policy to the Superintendent of Schools.

Applications for membership on the new MACS School Board are being accepted until December 16, 1998.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a MACS parish. One exception shall be that, at most, one board position may be designated for a participating member of a parish outside of MACS. This would be an at-large position.
3. Be a parent of children in a MACS school or have had a child in a MACS school. Parents who are enrolling a child in the school for the upcoming year are eligible. At-large members are exceptions to this qualification.
4. Be 25 years of age or older.
5. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
6. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.
7. Be able and willing to make necessary and substantial time commitments to attend meetings and related board activities including active participation on a board committee.

Members shall serve terms of three years. Initially, one-third of the board will serve one year, one-third two years, and one-third three years.

Individuals having MACS committee, PTO or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume and letter stating why you would like to serve by December 16, 1998 to:

Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Schools Office
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

It is necessary that all applicants attend an in-service on the duties and responsibilities of board members on January 30, 1999. Following the in-service, the bishop will appoint the new board. A follow-up in-service will be conducted in March with the new board to establish goals, committees, and the direction of the board.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Skube with questions or comments at 704.370.3270

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation Task Force hosts workshop

Paul Kotlowski, standing at left, and Dr. Cris Villapando, far right, of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, facilitate a segment of a catechist workshop Nov. 7 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte. The gathering was the first implementation meeting of Bishop William G. Curlin's Confirmation Task Force, which recently published the new "Diocesan Policies and Guidelines on Confirmation." The policies, based on the U.S. bishops' Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, attempt to provide a catechumenal model for all confirmation preparations and celebrations.

Two years ago, Bishop Curlin shifted the time for celebrating the sacrament of confirmation from high school to eighth grade. The task force's policies provide clarifying guidelines and additional resources to assist in this transition. The policies focus on confirmation as a sacrament of initiation, as a process and as a celebration.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

MODULARCORP

Specialists in ***Custom Modular Buildings*** *to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Books

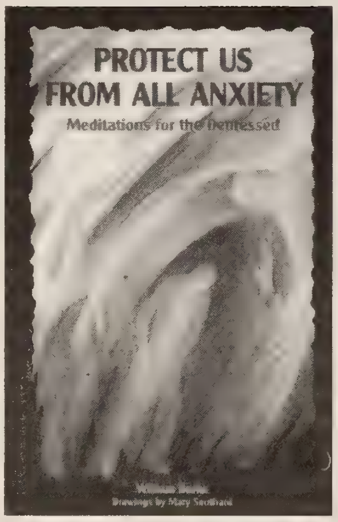
Experience with depression leads to priest's book of meditations

By HEIDI SCHLUMPF
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Bill Burke was having a great year. Halfway into his six-year term as pastor of an urban parish, he was well loved by his parishioners and well respected by fellow clergy.

Then one day, without warning, he was blindsided by depression.

Father Burke describes Aug. 23, 1995, as his own personal D-Day. "As I said Mass — I noticed that I felt nothing at all — no pleasure in the moment, no anticipation of the day, nothing. I began to panic," he writes in "Protect Us From All Anxiety: Meditations for the Depressed," published by Chicago's ACTA Publications.


PROTECT US FROM ALL ANXIETY
Meditations for the Depressed
Drawings by Mary Southard

Thankfully, several priest friends were there when he fell apart. The archdiocese and its vicar for priests recognized his illness, made sure the parish was covered and helped Father Burke find help.

Early on, Father Burke made a decision that has proved to be prophetic: He decided to tell the truth about his illness. "At first I told people that I was suffering from exhaustion," he said. "But then I realized I didn't want to start a pattern of deception."

When he returned to St. Cajetan Parish after three months of rest and treatment, Father Burke spoke from the pulpit about depression, an illness that causes so much shame that few will acknowledge their own struggles with it.

The response was — and continues to be — overwhelming, Father Burke said. Dozens of people have thanked him and shared their struggles with the disease or that of their loved ones.

In "Protect Us From All Anxiety," Father Burke takes that openness to a new level, detailing his journey from "night" to "dawn" and finally "day" in a series of meditations based on his journal entries while in treatment.

Each meditation is preceded by a scriptural verse and concluded by a short, heartfelt prayer. The book is illustrated with drawings by St. Joseph Sister Mary Southard.

Father Burke says he hopes the meditations will give hope to those suffering from the effects of depression. "One of the worst things about depression — if not the worst — is the feeling that you're never going to get better," he said.

Too often, family members, co-workers and friends just can't understand. "It's hard to explain, but it's like everything's off balance," Father Burke said. "You can't function normally because your judgment is off."

In retrospect, Father Burke believes one clue to his breakdown was a feeling of being overwhelmed by the ordinary challenges of life. "Things I could normally handle before, and before breakfast, were overwhelming," he said. "It felt like climbing a mountain."

Father Burke says depression can be especially difficult for "Type-A" personalities. "It happens a lot to high-powered types," he said. "And a lot of people are ashamed. They feel they should be able to handle things and they're humiliated."

Father Burke is careful to not claim religion as an antidote. But he believes prayer combined with counseling (and medication, if necessary) can help bring people to wholeness and healing.

"I discovered that God did not wait for me at the end of my illness," Father Burke writes. "Rather, God shared my grief with me all along the way." ▼

Word to Life

November 22, Christ the King. Cycle C. Readings:

1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Psalm 122:1-5
2) Colossians 1:12-20
3) Luke 23:35-43

By SHARON K. PERKINS

One day last week I found myself doing something I don't normally do — I watched a daytime talk show from beginning to end. If you've ever watched one, you know that the program formula changes little from show to show. The cast of characters is equally predictable: the guests (the downtrodden victim and/or hardened perpetrator), the host or hostess, and what I call "the mob," or studio audience. While the host is ostensibly objective, his/her real job is to lead the audience to identify emotionally with certain guests, thus creating excitement and boosting ratings.

The "mob mentality," or the desire of human beings to be on the side of the right or the powerful, is not limited to daytime talk shows. It may be witnessed at political rallies, sports arenas, and even in religious circles — any place where groups of persons associate themselves with leaders who are powerful and successful. There is something about human nature that seeks the security of being on the side of the winner or rescuer.

In the reading from Samuel, the tribes of Israel recognized David as such a hero. These same people, previously enemies of David, were now ready to forget the past, discover their kinship and embrace David as the anointed king of Israel, the Lord's chosen one. They wanted to be on the side of the winner.

In the Gospel reading, the mob was again motivated by the same drive — except this time, Jesus was not perceived as a winner. The same crowd who had welcomed him in triumphal entry to Jerusalem now mocked him. His crown of glory was hidden by a crown of thorns, and the cross, a symbol of shame and defeat, was incomprehensible to them. This was certainly not the sign of a king.

And yet, St. Paul writes that this same blood-stained cross was to be the instrument of victory over the power of darkness, making Jesus preeminent in all things. For us, this means that we are called to see with different eyes and become sharers with the saints in light. In this kingdom, incomprehensible to the "mob mentality," our host is waiting — the Messiah of God. ▼

Questions:

Have you ever been part of a group that associated itself with a winner? On what was that perception based? What circumstances in your life right now appear bleak but are really the instruments of your redemption and victory?

"It is he ... who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be his in everything."
— **Colossians 1:18**

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 22 - 28, 1998

Sunday, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43; **Monday**, Revelation 14:1-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Isaiah 63:7-9, Mark 5:18-20; **Friday**, Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday**, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Two psychiatrists write, "We would like to applaud the more than 250 psychiatrists within a radius of 100 miles of Salem, Oregon who are refusing to violate the code of medical ethics by participating in physician-assisted suicide."

Reading: "Praise for Psychiatrists Who Won't Give Consults for Assisted Suicides," American Medical News, 9/28/98, p.16

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

"Dancing at Lughnasa" is sweetly sorrowful gem of a film

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Five impoverished and unmarried sisters endure a transforming summer in 1936 rural Ireland in the heartbreakingly beautiful "Dancing at Lughnasa" (Sony Classics).

The oldest sister, schoolteacher Kate Mundy (Meryl Streep), is beside herself with excitement that their only brother, Jack (Michael Gambon), is coming home to their rocky farm after 25 years serving as a missionary in Africa. His priestly status earned the sisters respect in their tiny County Donegal village, unlike their scandal of eight years ago when youngest sister Christina (Catherine McCormack) bore love child Michael (Darrell Johnston) by a wandering Welshman (Rhys Ifans) seldom seen.

Cheerful Maggie (Kathy Burke) runs the house and farm while Agnes (Brid Brennan) and slow-witted Rose (Sophie Thompson) earn a few pounds knitting gloves for the local general store. They all adore little Michael, who is scorned by his schoolmates as a bastard.

Father Jack's return proves disheartening. He is sickly, confused and as his valise falls opens at the bus stop, the villagers see "pagan" artifacts within that fuel gossip about his standing in the church. The local parish priest sternly suggests to Kate that her brother won't be saying Mass in his church — and that maybe she won't be asked to resume teaching in his parochial school come fall. Rumors of a coming glove factory also sound ominous for the needed income Agnes and Rose provide.

Zooming on motorbike into the midst of these familial problems is Christina's lover, Gerry, who wants to see her and get to know his son for a while before heading off to fight against Franco. Kate deeply resents his cavalier attitude while the others are happy for Christina, the only one of them to have experienced a love life.

In the course of the summer, Kate will struggle to soften her harsh edges, Father Jack will surprise them with his regard for African culture, simple Rose will be courted by a scoundrel; Maggie and Agnes will try to keep the wolf from the door, and Christina, her lover and their son will be a family — at least for a short time. By September things will never be the same, except perhaps for the indelible love the sisters have, no matter the personal cost.

Director Pat O'Connor successfully adapts Brian Friel's acclaimed play, capturing both the austere beauty of the land as well as the incredible bond among the siblings.

Most every character is fully fleshed out and believable, from overprotective traditionalist Kate to her disgraced brother whose unorthodox views surely got him exiled from his adopted homeland.

The sense of a Catholic family, bowed by scandal but proudly facing neighbors who would snigger at them, is palpable. So is the crushing atmosphere of an era where unmarried women had few choices and no status in the community. Add intensifying poverty to the mix and it is a recipe for tragedy.

However, the movie's title refers to the festival of song and dance all but stern Kate wish to attend as respite from the daily grind. Although Kate prevails, a later scene when the sisters impulsively dance to a tune on the wireless, spilling out of the cottage and singing with abandon, is an emotional high point.

Frank McGuinness' screenplay dexterously captures the sisters' lightning mood swings — an insult from one to another is just as quickly followed by a kindness so the audience knows these women have failings but their devotion is heartfelt.

Melodrama is avoided and small scenes — a rocky boat ride, perusing an old photo album, an exchange of goodnights — subtly reveal much about the characters.

The picture is framed in bittersweet fashion by the grown-up Michael's voice-over introducing the summer that would transform the Mundy family and, in narrating the conclusion, the impact events had on the individual family members.

The movie is a sweetly sorrowful gem not easily forgotten.

Because of an unmarried relationship and a rude expression, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. ▼

CNS photo from Touchstone Pictures

"The Waterboy"

Adam Sandler is college football team waterboy Bobby Boucher in the comedy film "The Waterboy." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE 1-800-311-4CCC REVIEW LINE

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

CFC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

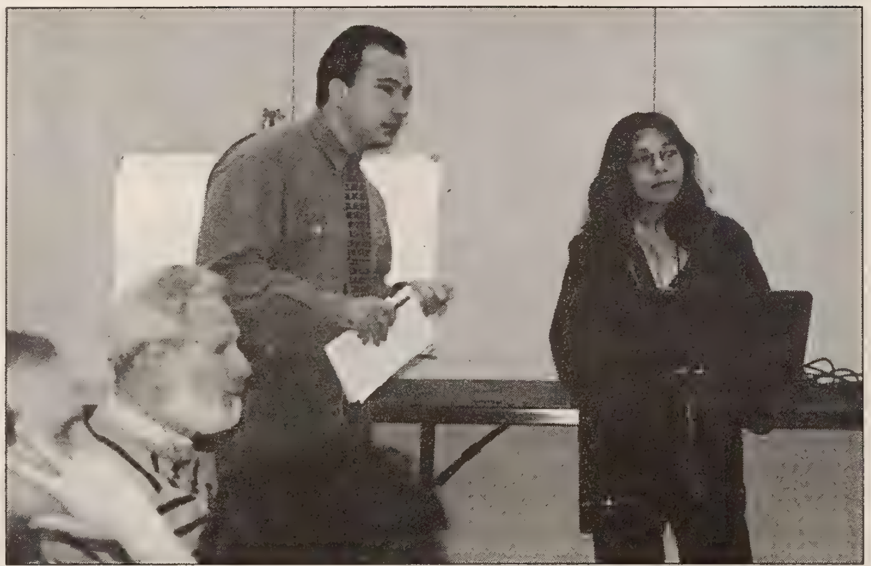


Photo by Susan deGuzman

Lucila Herrera, right, fields a question during her presentation on Chiapas.

Humanitarian violations in Chiapas discussed at conference

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

CLEMMONS — Chiapas, Mexico, was the topic of concern Nov. 14 as people gathered at Holy Family Church to hear Lucila Herrera, a sociologist from the Fray Bartolome Human Rights Center in Chiapas, speak about current conditions in that Mexican state.

The conference was sponsored by the Mexican Solidarity Network, a coalition of 58 organizations from the United States and Canada. The network is a member of the Alliance for Global Justice.

Herrera presented many testimonials from the indigenous citizens of Chiapas who report illegal personal attacks and plundering of their villages by military and police groups run by the Mexican government. These citizens, or nationals, as they are referred to, say the government does not admit to responsibility for these murders and abuses.

Chiapas, the southernmost state in Mexico, has a population of more than 3 million. It is considered by many to be the poorest state in Mexico.

The conference also included a video, "School of the Americas: An Insider Speaks Out," a vehement presentation against the training of Latin American soldiers that occurs at the Fort Benning, Ga., school and reportedly as well at other military schools in the country. Small group discussion followed.

Approximately 45 people of Mexican and American descent were in attendance. ▼

Veterans honored at Mass in Asheville

ASHEVILLE — The Rev. Ralph F. Neagle Catholic War Veterans Post 1914 of Arden, in conjunction with the 4th Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, sponsored the fifth annual Veterans Day Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Nov. 8.

Msgr. John J. McSweeney, the basilica rector and a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1914, celebrated the Mass.

Prominently displayed adjacent to the altar was an empty chair draped in black as a reminder of those prisoners of war and missing in action who could not be present to participate.

"Veterans Day is the one day of the year when those who have given so freely of themselves so that all may live in freedom are remembered and honored," said Herbert W. Reith, post commander.

The tribute included a blessing of veteran organization flags, flags of all five branches of the military, and the American flag. ▼

Aquinas-Luther, from page 3

Dulles, who has been involved in Lutheran/Catholic dialogue for over 20 years, explained the intricacies of worship, integrating not only the thoughts of Aquinas but the pertinent Catholic teachings on the subject.

"The key element in worship is reverence," he said. "Reverence is owed to God and this sentiment is shown through sacred signs."

Father Dulles is the author of 22 books and more than 500 articles.

"In one hour, he (Father Dulles) was able to summarized the 'Summa' in an understandable way," said Peg Ruble, Office of Faith Formation's central regional coordinator, who was also impressed with "the wonderful give and take from both Catholics and Lutherans at the conference, done in good fellowship."

Not only did Father Dulles put to rest some of Luther's now non-existent concerns with the church, he respectfully pointed out the areas where Catholics and Lutherans still struggle today.

By giving a clear Catholic perspective on such complex topics like the sacrifice of the Mass, the sacraments and the action of grace, participants were offered a better understanding of the significance of these issues and were encouraged to continue honest and respectful dialogue.

As for changes in liturgy, Father Dulles said that it should not be done indiscriminately, where one can pick and choose. "The church, which is an extension of the Gospel, created and expressed its identity by developing things like the creed, liturgy...."

Dr. Kurt Karl Hendel, professor of Reformation History at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago agreed, saying, "Dare to preserve and dare to change for the sake of Christ, but not for someone's agenda."

Father Dulles concluded, "It is a painful separation (between Catholics and Lutherans) but Lutherans can help us reduce and transcend our remaining differences. There is much to learn from one another and much to glean from both Aquinas and Luther," said Father Dulles, "but the liturgical movement must sometimes transcend the teachers." ▼

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services. Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(800) 331-0768
(704) 663-7077

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Implementing the pastoral

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Howard Platz, left, of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, and Barbara Daniels and Carole Hubbell of St. William Church in Bryson City brainstorm ways to solve economic problems at a workshop focusing on parish implementation of the North Carolina Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind."

Workshops address how parishes can effect change

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

SYLVA — "Of One Heart and One Mind," the pastoral letter by the bishops of the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses, is not about charity. It's about change.

That point has been stressed in "Implementing the Pastoral," a series of workshops, the latest of which was presented Nov. 7 at St. Mary Church in Sylva.

"Of One Heart and One Mind," published in November 1997, addresses economic justice. Co-authored by Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, it is the first joint pastoral letter by two North Carolina bishops.

They took the title from the Acts of the Apostles: "The community of believers were of one heart and one mind."

"The impetus for the pastoral came out of welfare reform, but even more so, even in an expanding economy, some people do not benefit from the expansion," said Joanne Kennedy Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, who conducts the workshops.

The diocesan-sponsored workshops are presented to parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, businesspersons and all interested individuals in vicariates throughout the diocese.

Thus far, workshops have been held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, the Franciscan Center in Greensboro, Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, St. Barnabas Church in Arden, Holy Family Church in Clemmons, and St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. Another is planned for March 6, 1999, at St. Therese Church in Mooresville.

Both Catholics and Protestant denominations have used the pastoral and study guide to address economic-justice concerns.

"As a church, we can help the (western North Carolina) area by working with other religions and showing them we're not aliens," said Mary Ellen Saunooke of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City.

Frazer explained that the workshops foster a clear understanding of what the bishops mean by economic justice and a realization of the integral nature of Catholic social teaching within the Catholic faith.

The workshops also stress a more complete awareness of the connection and distinction between the responses of charity and the responses of justice, Frazer said. They detail how to provide the tools for initiating and participating in the work of justice in parishes, economically or in some other ministry, she added.

"'Of One Heart and One Mind' employs an approach that is frequently used in bishops' and popes' pastorals: see, judge, act," Frazer states in the study guide she wrote for the workshops.

"In the pastoral, we 'read the signs of the times' by entering into the stories of suffering; we judge the situation in light of Scripture and Catholic teaching; and then we reflect and lastly we respond," she writes.

She told the workshop participants that the "dignity of human persons is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching."

Participants discussed how their dignity had been upheld or denied in experiences in their own lives. One said he had been helped during a time of unemployment. Someone else mentioned being shunned during a bad time.

The pastoral introduces readers to four situations: a single mother employed at a fast-food restaurant; another single mother who cannot earn enough money, even though she works two jobs at $5.25 and $6 an hour, respectively; a family of six with a combined annual income of about $26,000; and a couple with two children who legally immigrated to America and have been unable to find steady work.

Workshop attendees broke into small groups to look at problems and brainstorm ways to solve them. One exercise involved creating a budget for the woman at the fast-food restaurant, who earned $6.25 an hour and whose son had several health problems.

Homer Weichel of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee said the workshop helped him gain "more awareness of the practical things you can do in your parish."

Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell and his wife, Carole, attended from St. William Church in Murphy. "Basically, we'll take back what we did here today to get them (parishioners) to start discussing the needs," he said.

"This did really well today," he added. "I do see many Protestant churches in ministry here. We just need to get on the boat." ▼

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370-3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Human Resources Clerk: Part-time Human Resources Clerk needed to work at Catholic Pastoral Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through starting January 18, 1999. Applicants must have a high school or business college degree, and possess strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills. Interested applicants should submit resumes before December 18 to: Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, Vice Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Attention Parents!

Medical
Career
School Uniforms

SAVE TIME and MONEY with...
- *A+ school approved uniforms in stock*
- *Competitive pricing*
- *Free delivery to your school*

Toll-free Order Hot Line
1-888-895-0071

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Bishops elect top officers, begin work on documents

Editors Note: At press time, this was the latest update from the week-long NCCB meeting. Next week, we will print a summary of the bishops meeting, and outline key votes.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops chose new leaders to take them into the next millennium and approved a document calling Catholics to "the pursuit of justice and peace in everyday activity" during the second day of their national meeting in Washington.

Key proposals to be addressed included shifting emphasis from committees to regional gatherings as the main driving forces in the business of the conference; devoting the annual spring meetings entirely to simultaneous regional meetings and to executive sessions closed to the press; and rules on nonbishop participation in the work of the conference.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference for the past three years, was elected president by a wide margin Nov. 17. Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., was selected to succeed him as vice president.

It marked the first time that a Southerner and an African-American had held the two top spots in the U.S. bishops' conferences.

On the second day of the Nov. 16-19 meeting, the bishops also approved on a unanimous voice vote the 3,000-word statement titled "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice."

Jointly drawn up by the committees on domestic policy, international policy and the laity, the pastoral reflection on the obligations of Christian lay people in the world focuses on the approaching jubilee year at the turn of the millennium. It closes with a "Jubilee Pledge for Charity, Justice and Peace" that U.S. Catholics will be asked to make.

The bishops also departed from their agenda Nov. 17 to act on behalf of victims of Hurricane Mitch, after hearing reports from Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston and Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., on the devastation it has brought to Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Although the vote results were not immediately released, approval was expected for proposals to send an immediate $400,000 and to dedicate part of the annual collection for the church in Latin America to the countries affected by the hurricanes.

Even before the addition of new agenda items, the bishops had been slated to cast at least 22 votes on items ranging from regulations for recording names on baptismal registries to a series of proposals that could mark the most substantial restructuring of the NCCB-USCC in more than 30 years.

Discussion in the meeting's first two days also centered on "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," a proposed pastoral plan on adult faith formation being developed by the Committee on Education, and on a set of nationwide standards for admitting seminary candidates who have left seminaries in the past.

Both documents were to be discussed, but not voted on, during the 1998 meeting, as was a new statement and U.S. norms implementing "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church"), the 1990 papal document establishing norms for Catholic universities worldwide.

The Vatican rejected an earlier version of local implementation adopted by the bishops because it did not address canon law requirements for teachers of sacred sciences.

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

New NCCB president Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza (left) and vice president Bishop Wilton D. Gregory greet one another following their election at the U.S. bishops' meeting in Washington Nov. 17. Bishop Fiorenza, of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, is the first head of the bishops' conference to come from the South. Bishop Gregory of Bellville, Ill., is the first black bishop to take the vice-president post.

Other actions are scheduled to come up for debate and vote during the annual meeting. The various votes the bishops faced on restructuring the NCCB-USCC could have a significant impact on the way they operate as a conference as they enter the 21st century.

Key proposals to be addressed included shifting emphasis from committees to regional gatherings as the main driving forces in the business of the conference; devoting the annual spring meetings entirely to simultaneous regional meetings and to executive sessions closed to the press; and rules on nonbishop participation in the work of the conference.

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, who was ending a three-year term as NCCB-USCC president, opened the meeting with praise for lay Catholics but said there are some in the church who "are unwilling to accept a role for authority in the church."

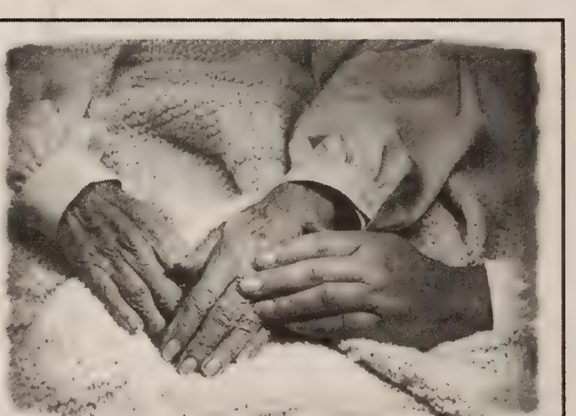
He said, however, that it would be a mistake "to forget to nourish the many in our attempts to appease the unappeasable few."

The U.S. bishops also said farewell to Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United State since 1990, who is about to return to Rome to head the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See.

Bishop Pilla called the pro-nuncio a "trustworthy messenger" and "faithful friend beyond price." ▼

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.



Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS
3000 Angels, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
155 Jonestown Rd./Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799
Holiday Hours:
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm
A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Advent Calendars & Wreaths
Christmas Cards
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

*****************3-DIGIT 275
S299 P1
42.083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 27, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 13

Inside

Crisis in Indonesia
Vatican calls for religious tolerance
...PAGE 12

NCCB round-up on key votes
...PAGE 7

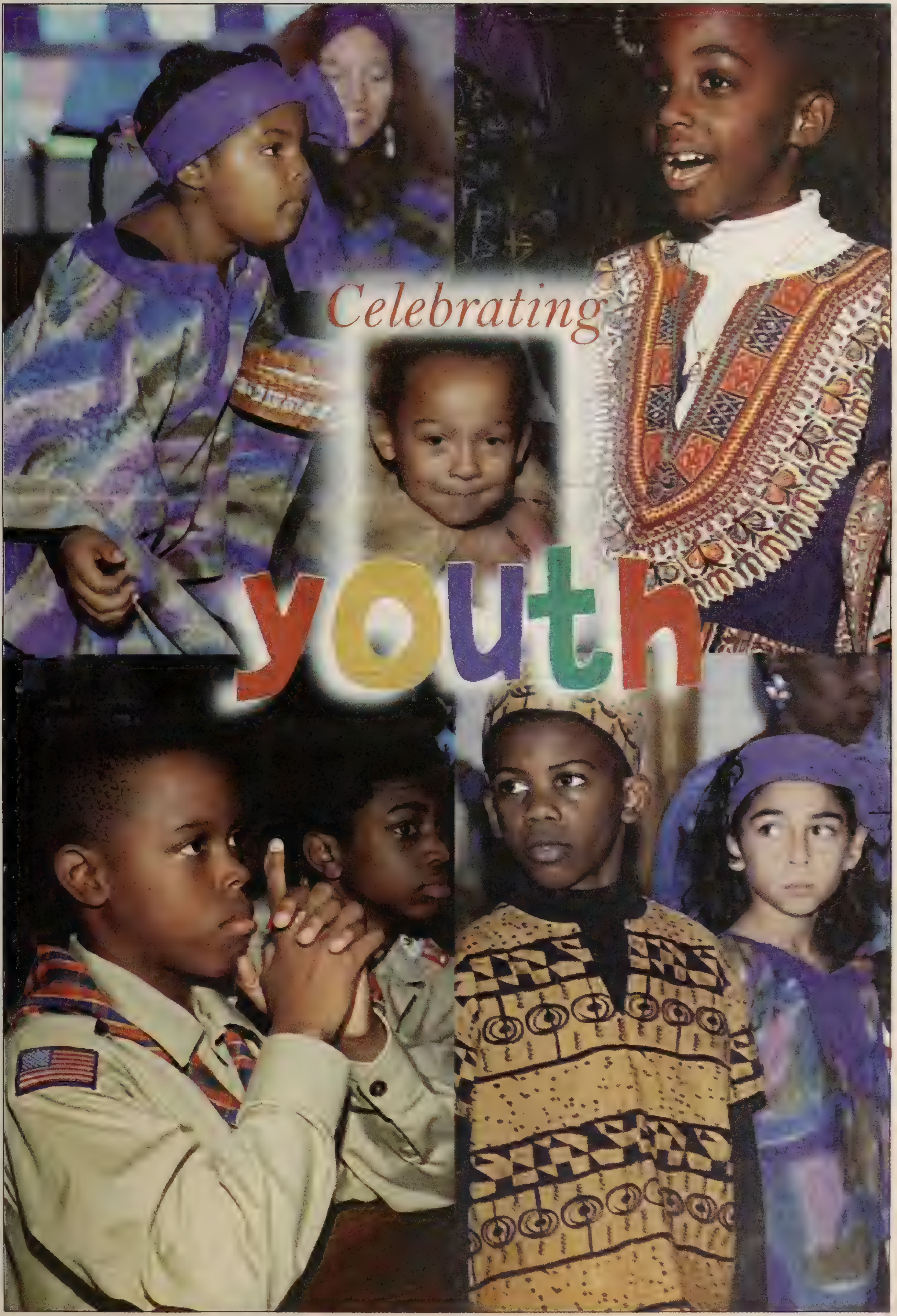
Archbishop Cacciavillan bids bishops farewell
...PAGE 7

Local News

Pastoral anniversary
The fate of the poor in N.C.
...PAGE 10-11

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment
...PAGES 8-9



Youth taking action

For the feast of Christ the King, during Black Catholic History Month on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Our Lady of Consolation youth took center stage. Cub and Boy Scouts and members of the Youth In Action were accompanied by the youth choir and liturgical Kabaka Dancers and Drummers showcasing the many involved youth-oriented ministries of the largely African-American parish.

SEE STORY, PAGE 3

PHOTOS BY JOANN KEANE

Pope says prevailing culture cannot set church agenda

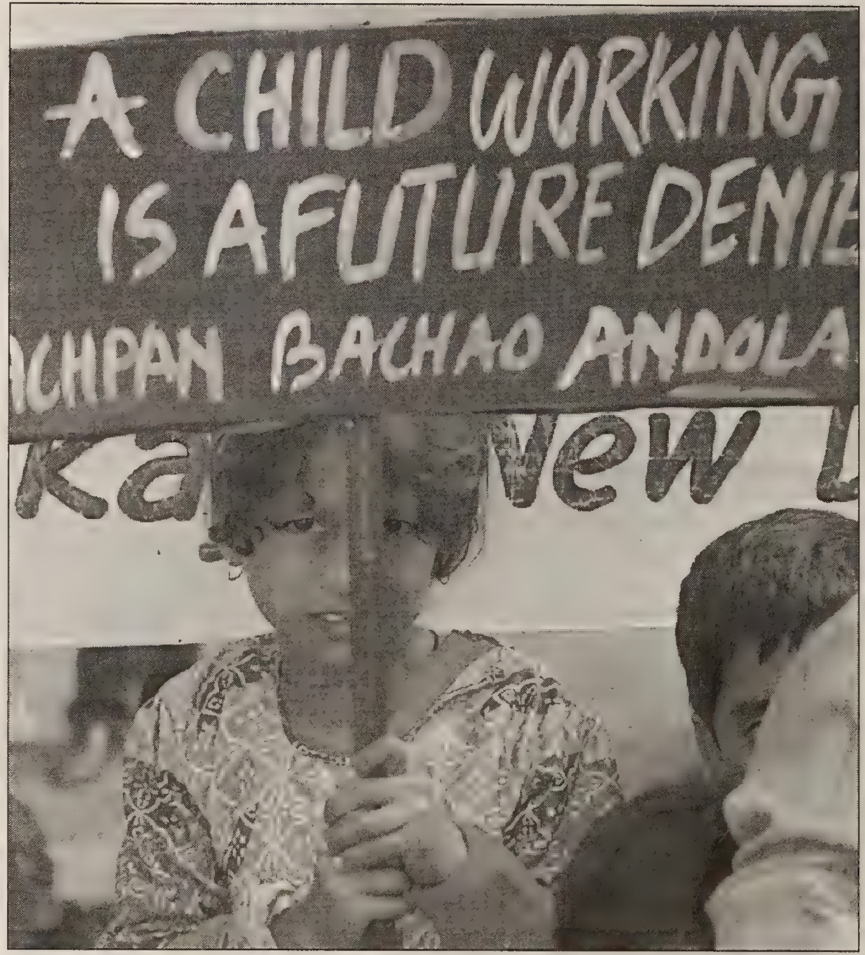
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The prevailing culture and its practices and values cannot be allowed to set the Catholic Church's agenda, Pope John Paul II said in a message to New Zealand's bishops. "The church's uniqueness and transcendent nature are eroded through the mistaken understanding that dialogue and service require just such conformity" with the world "when, in fact, they call for the opposite," the pope told the bishops Nov. 21.

Guatemala frees Baloo, but priest remains in jail for murder

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — A German shepherd considered central to the killing of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala has been released from detention, but his master, a diocesan priest, will remain in jail, accused of the killing. The 11-year-old arthritic dog, called Baloo, was freed Nov. 13 by order of the judge overseeing the murder case, but will remain under treatment in the St. Francis of Assisi veterinary clinic in Guatemala City.

Calls grow for Honduras, Nicaragua debt cancellation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinals in the United States and Central America have joined the growing call for debt cancellation for Honduras and Nicaragua after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch. Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua, Nicaragua, and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles have said the United States' plan for a two-year debt moratorium was not enough. "The debt service moratorium proposed by others is only a half measure that will still leave these countries under the shadow of debt while they struggle to reconstruct the basic parts of their social and economic infrastructure," Cardinal Mahony said in a Nov. 9 letter to President Clinton.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Children Protest

Pooja Rani, a 7-year-old laborer, carries a placard calling for the abolition of child workers in New Delhi, India, Nov. 20. More than 200 youngsters took part in the rally to urge voters in state elections to cast ballots for candidates who pledge to do away with child labor. According to government estimates some 18 million children work instead of attending school in India.

Tickets offered for pope's St. Louis visit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis asked diocesan bishops Nov. 19 to coordinate ticket distribution to Catholics in their dioceses who want to attend Pope John Paul II's Mass next Jan. 27 in St. Louis. He said diocesan youth coordinators across the country already have been contacted with information about arrangements to participate in the other major papal event in St. Louis, a youth rally and prayer service Jan. 26. In a brief presentation to the bishops near the end of their fall meeting in Washington, Archbishop Rigali invited them to come to St. Louis and concelebrate the papal Mass in the Trans World Dome.

When film is poetry, it celebrates gift of life, says pope

ROME (CNS) — Film is more than a mix of special effects and special images, it is "a mirror of the human soul," Pope John Paul II said. When film "reaches the heights of poetry" — combining technology, great writing and great acting, beautiful music and stunning images — "it can become the source of interior awe and profound meditation," the pope told participants in an international symposium on film and spirituality.

Hispanic Catholic 'Encuentro 2000' to invite all cultures

WASHINGTON (CNS) — People of all cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds will be invited to Encuentro 2000, the fourth in a series of gatherings started to bring together the nation's Hispanic Catholics. In a report to the U.S. bishops Nov. 18, Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala said Encuentro 2000 "seeks to be a model of hospitality" that will allow people of all backgrounds to "experience the conversion, communion and solidarity that was so beautifully captured at the Synod of Bishops for America."

Mercy Healthcare ruled exempt in fair employment case

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — In a unanimous 7-0 decision, the California Supreme Court Nov. 9 held that nonprofit hospitals owned and operated by religious organizations are exempt from the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. June McKeon, an African-American nurse, was blocked from suing Mercy Healthcare Sacramento for race discrimination as a result of the ruling. McKeon claimed in a 1994 suit that she was illegally passed over for promotion in favor of two white, male nurses at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento.

Pope urges Oceania bishops to find new ways to announce Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a liturgy that began with the heralding blare of a conch shell, Pope John Paul II opened the Synod of Bishops for Oceania and asked participants to find new ways to announce the Gospel in their multicultural region. An initial session outlined the main issues facing the synod: proclaiming the Gospel in increasingly secularized cultures, invigorating the church's missionary role, healing divisions in society and within the Catholic community, and restoring the sacraments as central to the lives of the faithful.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

November 27, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 13
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 4 — 7:15 a.m.
Knights of Malta Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

11:00 a.m.
Triad Schools Committee, Clemmons

December 5 — 4 p.m.
Immaculate Conception
Parish dedication
Hendersonville

December 6 — 4 p.m.
World AIDS Day Ecumenical Service
Sharon United Methodist Church

7 p.m.
St. Gabriel Young Adult Ministry
"Talk Show"

Diocesan planner

November

28 CHARLOTTE — The dedication celebration of St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church, 4929 Sandy Porter Rd., begins today with a welcoming of guests at 2 p.m., youth activities at 2:30, the sacrament of reconciliation at 4, and a procession and Mass honoring the Vietnamese saints at 5:30. For details, call (704) 504-0907.

29 CHARLOTTE — The dedication celebration of St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church continues today with an assembly of the Vietnamese Catholic community at 8 a.m., welcoming of guests at 9, tour of the church and property at 10, dedication Mass presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin at 11, and reception with entertainment and a raffle at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (704) 504-0907.

December

1 GREENSBORO — An adult education session focusing on how to deepen one's spiritual life is today at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center. Marian Father Shaun O'Connor facilitates. For more information, call (336) 274-0415.

3 MURPHY — Jon Stemkoski's Celebrant Singers, an internationally known, ecumenical music ministry, presents a community concert of contemporary Christian music today at 7:30 p.m. in St. William Church, 111 Andrews Rd. For details, call (828) 837-2000.

4 HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr. Mass is preceded by rosary recitation at 6:30 p.m. and is followed by Benediction and adoration.

5 BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets at 6:30 p.m. today at Appala-

Photo by Joann Keane

Youth choir members of Our Lady of Consolation Church were an integral part of the liturgy on Nov. 22. The Mass combined many celebrations, including the feast of Christ the King.

Total Praise

Parish celebrates youth, culture, faith at solemn Mass

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Having a good time by praising the Lord — that's how West Mecklenburg High School junior Jermaine Dennis described it.

This "good time" was a celebration of faith, family-style.

It was an observance highlighted by energetic singing, fervent praying and a hospitable feeling of belonging. It was the commemoration of the solemnity of Christ the King at Dennis' Charlotte parish, Our Lady of Consolation.

It was a day, as Dennis and the liturgy's Communion hymn suggested, of total praise.

For the 16-year-old parishioner, the Mass put into greater context the sense of purpose he feels as part of the parish's youth ministry, Youth In Action. He said the celebration was joyous "because the Lord has put us right here on earth to do our work."

The parish's principal Mass, celebrated Nov. 22, emphasized the stewardship of the parish's youth, commemorated Black Catholic History Month, and marked the close of the liturgical year.

Accompanied by a litany of "Amens" and an outpouring of emotion from the congregation, Father Eric Houseknecht, parochial administrator, said the celebration was a time to contemplate the coming of Jesus as reflected in the liturgical year.

On the church calendar, ordinary time ends with the solemnity of Christ the King. The first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29 in 1998, beings the new liturgical year.

Our Lady of Consolation Church is one of a handful of predominantly African-American parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte. Several times a year, the parish celebrates a Harambee Mass, incorporating traditional African dance, music and dress into the liturgy.

Noise levels reached impassioned heights. Drummers drummed, dancers danced, congregants clapped. Sunshine filtered through the church windows' hued glass, bathing parishioners in a rainbow of warm light.

And the youth took a leadership role in a Mass focusing on the importance of a personal, active relationship with Jesus Christ.

Janelle Dorsey, a senior at Vance High School, called the Mass a moving experience. "You could get the feeling that the Spirit was in the church," she said. "A lot of times, a lot of the youth don't get into it, but this Sunday *everybody* was into it."

> **"You could get the feeling that the Spirit was in the church. A lot of times, a lot of the youth don't get into it, but this Sunday *everybody* was into it."**
>
> *— Janelle Dorsey*

Youth in Action comprises nearly 70 parishioners aged 7-18. Younger children are mentored by their older peers, and the group concentrates on empowerment through liturgical, social and outreach activities.

Other parish youth groups include Boy and Cub Scout troops, a children's choir, and membership in the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers, who perform at Harambee Masses and other parish and community events. Members of all the groups participated in the Nov. 22 Mass.

"They led us in the proclamation of the word, they were eucharistic ministers, they were ushers, they welcomed," smiled Robin Plummer. "This was a really special day for them. ... Nothing was overlooked. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated in a special way. Harambee was celebrated in a special way."

Leslie Johnson, one of the parish's youth ministers, said, "It is time we start uplifting them (the youth), encouraging them and helping them understand that they are our next generation of leaders."

The youth paid tribute to Father Wilbur Thomas with a plaque honoring him for contributions to the church and the African-American community. Father Thomas, currently on a sabbatical, is one of two black priests actively serving in the diocese.

Youth in Action also recognized one of its members, West Charlotte High School senior Jeff Black, who recently received two state appointments including one from Gov. James B. Hunt. A certificate of achievement called Black a role model who sets and achieves goals.

Youth minister Nanette Lide said the celebration — and the enthusiasm of the youth — has brought "new life" to a bustling parish facing frequent change and growth. "It's a renewal, a rebirth in recognition of Christ the King," she added.

"With all that's going on, the youth have taken the leading edge," Johnson agreed. "Youth ministry has been the catalyst. It has energized everyone and refueled them."

The parish's permanent deacon, Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, spoke of the solemnity of Christ the King as an opportunity to "understand that it is Jesus who has to be reflected through us."

"We have to understand that to enter the kingdom of God, we really do live, think and say as Jesus taught us to do," added Rev. Mr. Todd, who also serves as vice chancellor, director of human resources, and director of the African American Affairs Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. ▼

---

chian State University's Catholic campus ministry facility, 232 Faculty St., preceded by a covered dish dinner. For time and other details, call (828) 264-8338 or 898-5328.

HICKORY — An Advent retreat, sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal service team, is today at St. Aloysius Church, 902 2nd St. N.E. Cost is $5 payable at the door. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. For more information, call Joan Moran at (704) 327-0487.

6 CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pregame food today 2 1/2 hours prior to game time. Proceeds benefit local children's charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the century-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed today and each first Sunday following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St. For more information, call (828) 464-9207.

7 MORGANTON — Bill Frankel-Streit, peace activist and member of the Little Flower Catholic Worker community in Goochland, Va., will speak and show slides about his recent visit to Iraq today at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. Part of a delegation visiting Baghdad and Basra, Frankel-Streit visited several medical centers and spoke with church and government officials about sanctions on the Iraqi civilian operation. For details, call Francisco Risso, (828) 438-4359, or the parish office, (828) 437-3108.

8 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life Office invites all parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte to participate in the National Night of Prayer for Life in parishes beginning today, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at 9 p.m. through 1 a.m. Dec. 9, the commemoration of Mary's appearance to Blessed Juan Diego. Parishes are asked to have eucharistic adoration, recitation of 15 decades of the rosary, other prayers, silent mediation and Benediction. For suggestions and more information, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 370-3229.

10 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church's Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry sponsors a healing Mass today at 7 p.m. in the church, 919 Haywood Rd. All are welcomed, especially those in need of spiritual healing and those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other chronic and terminal illnesses, including mental illness and addiction. Refreshments will follow. For more information, call (828) 252-3151.

11 CHARLOTTE — Dance Central premieres a re-creation of Weidman's "Christmas Oratorio" today at 8 p.m. in St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. An encore performance is Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults and $8 for children, and group discounts are available. To order, call (704) 330-4029.

CHARLOTTE — The Ultreya Christian community meets today at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1241.

12 BURNSVILLE — Sacred Heart Church hosts a Spanish Mass today at noon in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For details, call (828) 689-3719.

15 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church hosts its Christmas dinner with entertainment at 11:30 a.m. today at Idlewild Country Club, 10323 Idlewild Rd. Cost is $10. *The deadline for payment is Dec. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door.* For more information, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, points to signs of hope at end of century

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said there have been signs of hope for society in the last half of this century and that Christians should continue to help create a just world in the coming millennium.

"In a world marked by growing economic, cultural and political interdependence, the challenge is to bring about a new sense of solidarity that will make everyone more aware of the needs and interests of others," the pope said.

"Christians have a particular responsibility to build such a civilization of love," he said, "and in this task they must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us that the fundamental law of human perfection is none other than Christ's new commandment of love."

Pope John Paul said seeds of truth and love in people's hearts "produce the fruits of progress, humanization and civilization that are signs of hope for humanity."

Developments in technology, medicine and other sciences, "so long as they respect the ethical demands of human life and dignity," are among those signs, the pope said.

"Nor can we forget the enormous progress made in the field of communications," he added. "If the mass media were managed in a way to guarantee them full democratic control, making them vehicles of authentic values, humanity could enjoy great benefits and would consider itself one big family."

Pope John Paul also praised the increasing attention paid to the environment in recent years.

"The threats which burden the future of humanity, for lack of respect for the equilibrium of the ecosystem, encourage men of culture and science, as well as competent authorities, to study and to put into effect various projects and provisions," the pope noted. "These are meant not only to limit and to repair damage already done, but above all to delineate social development in harmony with respect and appreciation of the natural environment."

Pope John Paul pointed out that this century has been marked by two world wars and dozens of other conflicts, some still continuing, which have created great suffering. He said efforts to safeguard peace and justice as the new millennium approaches were further signs of a better time.

"Peace and justice have become primary objectives because, through the action of the Holy Spirit, consciences consider the persistence of conditions of injustice and violation of human rights to be an intolerable crime," the pontiff said.

He added that there is a greater consciousness worldwide that "dialogue and reconciliation can heal the wounds provoked by history in the lives of peoples."

For English-speaking members of the NATO Defense College, the pope had a special message: "In a time when tension and conflict continue to threaten certain parts of the world, I encourage you always to see your professional commitment in terms of the preservation and promotion of peace."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

A great anniversary, a sad report

A great moment in history will be celebrated Dec. 10: the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is one of the most remarkable documents ever written. It insists that unless everybody, in every country, recognizes the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, we'll never have freedom, justice and peace in this world. That's an awesome bottom line.

Yet, this year there is a dark side to confront as we remember this event. Amnesty International, which monitors human rights in more than 170 countries, used its annual report this fall to record human rights abuses in the United States. The report noted human rights violations found in our criminal justice system, in jails and prisons, and in the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

I shuddered when I read Amnesty International's report. It reminded me that we have the world's highest death-row population, and it isn't lacking for juveniles. The 150-page document brought out forcefully that the United States may be the defender of human rights and the world's best example of democracy, but our house is not completely in order.

The report gave us much to concentrate on as we approach International Human Rights Day Dec. 10.

I've been pushing for people to celebrate this holiday since the '70s when I was a Human Rights Commissioner in Suffolk County on Long Island. I learned then how easy it is, even in our democratic society, to have basic rights taken away — even in our democratic society — for being the wrong color, the wrong sex or in the wrong economic bracket.

I can't imagine how dehumanizing it must be to live in a country whose domestic political system laughs at the very concept of human rights.

Americans should do more to get people to celebrate Dec. 10, 1948. It was historic, the first time that representatives of so many countries — most of the members of the newly formed United Nations — had recognized the need to elevate the relationships among the peoples of this earth to a higher level.

We had just come through a war that not only devastated life, but also devalued it in a monstrous way. The world was still in shock over the Nazi Holocaust and the concentration camps, the worst example in world history of the potential for human inhumanity toward other human beings. Collectively, the world had proclaimed it intolerable for one group of people in a so-called civilized nation to deny humanity, deny human rights, to another group.

It was in this context that the nations wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating in 30 articles that all human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights.

Because the challenge to move universal human rights from a statement to a reality worldwide keeps getting blurred, we must stay on guard or we'll lose the vision.

That's why Dec. 10 is so important. It is a reminder each year that, on one great day, world nations rose together to proclaim that everyone has the right to life and to the nourishment, in a very broad sense, necessary to sustain it; the right to freedom in conjunction with responsibility; the right to be treated fairly and justly by others and by the law; the right not to be exploited and diminished for the gain of others.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Seeing new ways with the light of Christ

My friend, Sister Bernie Kenny, won the 1998 Lumen Christi (Latin for"Light of Christ") Award. The Catholic Extension Society gives the award to people "who are quietly doing exemplary evengelization work around the United States." For 20 years she drove a Winnebago outfitted as a mobile medical unit into five isolated Appalachian communities to offer the only medical attention available to the folks.

One wintery night Sister Bernie answered a call from a woman in labor. She grabbed her bag and drove the icy roads to near the woman's house, then walked the last half mile to help her. Miraculously she got the woman to the hospital just minutes before she delivered a healthy baby. Sister Bernie literally goes the extra mile to bring the healing of Christ to the poor of the mountains.

People reading about her dedication feel a buoyant pride that healing angels fly among us. Yet the light of Christ ultimately shines through the work of a disciple to highlight the call to justice.

When the Pittston Coal Company cancelled health coverage for over 100 retired miners in 1989, the United Mine Workers Union stuck. The company was swept along with the trend to raise profits by cutting benefits. The strike lingered several months and grew bitter. One day the authorities interpreted Sister Bernie's snail-paced driving of the health van as a deliberate obstruction of the non-union coal trucks along a narrow road. The newspaper photo of Sister Bernie arrested in handcuffs brought the strike into perspective. Her integrity galvanized public opinion, and many people believe her arrest—and subsequent acquittal—hastened the strike settlement.

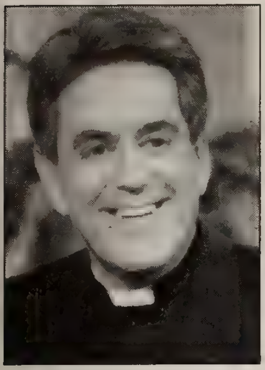
Over the past 20 years she has organized health fairs and hosted volunteers. From her health wagon she dispenses free prescriptions to people whose limited incomes force them to choose between medicine and food. Volunteers catch her spirit of solidarity with the poor, and she inspired two local women working alongside her to pursue medical training to serve in their own neglected areas.

The distinction between healing and curing gets lost in the high tech world of medicine. Medical science sees death as the enemy, and sickness as a weakness. Sister Bernie views health as right relationships and she sees illness as a teaching moment about our humanity. She cannot cure cancer, but she can help heal the spirit.

The atmosphere in the health wagon she creates promotes the values of caring and compassion—patients mingle among friends, they laugh together, they affirm one another with a gentle touch. Her holistic nursing approach emphasizes "the therapeutic use of self." Though the health wagon offers limited medical technology, the practice of healing deepens the meaning of each patient's life.

The authentic light of Christ, that Lumen Christi, exposes, ignites and illumines life in a different way. It ignites a spirit of generosity in people and evokes dedication. It allows the humble to teach the proud. The authentic light of Christ illumines a path through sickness and death that leads to the ultimate healing.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educationa. Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

The Advent itch

Good ideas for my columns can come from the most unexpected places. Last week, while riding the commuter train on the New Haven line from Connecticut to New York City, I saw a sign near the railroad tracks that read: "The Lord is Coming Soon." Underneath, someone had scrawled, "Not if he takes the New Haven."

It got me to thinking. Christians move into the Advent season with a certain impatience, an itch to hasten the day of Christ's birth. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is not just a popular hymn but a theme song for those who have had enough of waiting.

Like the early Christians who were clearly puzzled, disappointed, even scandalized by what seemed to be the delay in the Second Coming of Christ, many of us have a hard time coming to terms with waiting.

Only bit by bit did Christians learn that the truth of God's promise cannot be measure according to human schedules. One Epistle writer quotes the Old Testament admonition: "With the Lord on day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you." (2 Peter 38-9)

Advent, which actually means "coming," stirs in us a restlessness: "Amen, come, Lord Jesus! Even so, come!" And patience isn't always a virtue.

It was about midnight and a married couple were almost asleep in their bed when they became aware of the ominous smell of smoke. The husband quickly jumped out of bed, surveyed the situation outside the bedroom door and announced to his wife that the entire rear portion of the house was burning.

Then he took her hand and led her on hands and knees through the smoke-filled hallway. After a tense, seemingly endless crawl, they reached the front door. As they were going through the doorway, the husband couldn't help noticing the broad smile on his wife's face. "Good Lord," he cried, "Our house in on fire, we have just now barely escaped with our lives. What could you possibly be smiling about?"

"Sorry," she replied. "I can't help remembering that this is the first night we've been out together in five years."

I can only hope that poor lady's patience has long since been rewarded.

Most of us are not well known for such enduring patience. And as Christians, particularly during this holy season, we are encouraged to throw off such restraint. Not in our dealing with each other, which sometimes calls for little short of heroism, but in desiring all that is holy. As St. Paul put it: "This is your appointed time — this is the day of Salvation!"

Although we may be forced to be modest about our time in history, our time in history and place in God's plan is no less urgent than any other time. It is the only time we have.

So, go ahead and be impatient! Start now to live by the power of the Lord's promise, so that your very life helps prepare for the day. No matter how feeble or futile your efforts seem now, you are an instrument for the coming Kingdom. Be impatient to get on with God's urgent work, and nothing will prevent the Lord from coming into your heart every day of the year.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Communion for tube-fed patients

Q. Eleven years ago, my mother, who had attended daily Mass for at least 40 years, was paralyzed by a stroke. She could not walk or speak, was fed by a tube, but was alert.

After more than a year, our pastor came and told us he could not give her Communion under the species of bread. He could, however, give her Communion under the species of wine, but that would require saying Mass in our home. He did so, and mother died a month later.

Subsequently, my brother contracted Lou Gehrig's Disease. He was in a Catholic facility where Mass was offered daily. He too was denied Communion because he was tube fed. Yet medications were given by tube which were much coarser than the host.

According to the rules of the church, food and water must be available to the ill until the end. But the spiritual food of the Eucharist is denied them.

Cannot some eucharistic ministers fill this gap without the priest needing to offer Mass at the home or other facility?

A. Even though you report a similar response for both your mother and brother, I strongly suspect a misunderstanding along the line somewhere. Communion for people in their circumstances in the form of wine is routine and should have been available.

Through all my years as a priest, I have never known a person who could not receive a few drops of the consecrated wine on the tongue, even though he or she was unable to take the bread.

The wine could be from a Mass at home, in a hospital or other institution, or it could be brought from the church in a small vial or bottle. Many priests and extraordinary eucharistic ministers have given Communion to the sick that way, sometimes for several years, giving great spiritual consolation and strength to the sick person and the family.

From your words, you apparently realize very well that under the forms of either bread and wine our Lord's eucharistic presence is total and complete. It is worth reminding ourselves of that doctrine here. Some Catholics speak and act as if Christ is present in the form of wine in only a vague secondary, less whole way, than in the bread. That is not true.

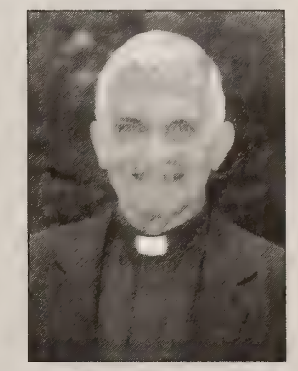
According to our Catholic faith, at least, and the faith of others who believe as we do about the Eucharist, the living Christ is no more real, no more present in the bread than in the wine. Thus, as you say, we should exert every effort to make the Eucharist available to the sick in whichever form they are able to receive.

Finally, it seems you are suggesting as one possibility that Communion could, like other food, be administered through some form of artificial feeding. That is not a proper option.

Receiving the Eucharist is not a physical event as is nourishment with other food. It is a spiritual reality, eating and drinking the eucharistic body and blood of Christ as an act of faith and communion with him. As I explained above, that kind of receiving should be possible as long as the patient is able to act consciously.

By the way, lest some readers complain that one should not speak of bread and wine after these elements have become the body and blood of Christ, I refer you to the Eucharistic Prayers, where this happens several times. The meaning is quite clear in the context.

Catholic Schools



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Diocesan Vicar for Education

Approval of private, independent schools

What constitutes a Catholic school in the Diocese of Charlotte? Can a school be "Catholic" yet privately operated and independent of the Diocese? What would be the criteria for approval? These questions have arisen, and recently, a diocesan policy was approved by the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, bishop of Charlotte.

Private independent schools cannot arbitrarily describe themselves as Catholic or "in the Catholic tradition." All Catholic schools in the diocese are responsible to Bishop Curlin, who has sole ecclesiastical authority to recognize and designate a school as Catholic. The Code of Canon law that dictates how a Catholic school must operate and/or be recognized by Church authority.

The policy approved by Bishop Curlin describes in detail the steps to be followed by a private, independent school seeking affiliation with the diocese. It explains that prior to granting approval, the bishop must be assured the school can and will meet the diocesan standards of recognition. These requirements, incorporated within the policy, are divided into four areas.

Among the general requirements are the following: The written philosophy of the school shall be in accordance with that of the Catholic Schools Office. The school shall adhere to diocesan policies regarding the operation of the Catholic school.

Among the Catholicity and religious education requirements are the following: The school shall ensure that its religious education program is in compliance with the religious education policies of the diocese. The curriculum and textbooks provided by the school for the religious education and spiritual development of students shall be approved and periodically reviewed by the Catholic Schools Office.

Among the administrative leadership requirements are the following: The principal of the Catholic school shall be a practicing Catholic. The principal shall possess professional credentials and/or certification appropriate for the administrative leadership of the school.

Among the teacher requirements are the following: The teacher in a Catholic school shall exhibit a lifestyle compatible with Catholic moral values and professional conduct consistent with Catholic teaching. A teacher of religion in a Catholic school must be a practicing Catholic and be certified according to the criteria established by the Catholic Schools Office.

Bishop Curlin is eager to ensure that parishioners, including the parents of children and youth, understand clearly that the term "Catholic" is to be applied only to those schools affiliated with the diocese. This column is intended to be helpful in that regard. Were a private, independent school to apply for recognition, fulfill the criteria and be approved by the bishop, it, together with the diocesan, parish and regional (area) schools, would be integrated into the Catholic school system coordinated and overseen by the Catholic Schools Office.

This policy deals responsibly with a matter that must be addressed at the present time. It ensures that parameters and perimeters of the diocese's educational mission and structure will be defined with clarity and implemented with fidelity.

Austrian cardinal happy with Vatican trip, despite squabbles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna expressed satisfaction with the bishops' late-November visit to the Vatican, even though it was marred by their internal struggles. Tensions between the bishops surfaced in an interview with the Austrian weekly magazine News just before the bishops left for Rome. Bishop Kurt Krenn of Sankt Polten complained he had not had an opportunity to read the written report that was to be presented to the pope on the bishops' behalf, and that the entire bishops' conference had not been consulted in the making of the report. In Rome, Cardinal Schonborn told journalists that all bishops had been consulted and given a copy of the document. When asked about the cardinal's remarks, Bishop Krenn said in a television interview, "Liars should keep their mouths shut."

Catholic leaders decry Kevorkian video on CBS TV

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua called the CBS airing of videotape footage of a mercy killing by Dr. Jack Kevorkian Nov. 22 a "new low in journalism." Cardinal John J. O'Connor devoted his whole Sunday homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral to excoriating Kevorkian and those who would kill the terminally ill instead of caring for them. Detroit archdiocesan spokesman Ned McGrath said, "What I saw on my TV screen is a publicity-hungry, unlicensed pathologist kill a visibly troubled, vulnerable man — and make a spectacle of it on national TV."

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Bushels of holiday cheer

St. Matthew Parish in Charlotte delivered 60 baskets of food and essential items for distribution by Catholic Social Services. Half of the baskets were handed out by the Refugee Program, the rest by CSS to its client population. Included in the baskets were food vouchers — for perishable items — and donated by a local company wishing to remain anonymous. Pictured left to right, from St. Matthew Parish are Joe Polite, Pete Maynard, Rocky Maynard, Steve Polite and Mike Maynard.

Bishops' president calls for 'new approaches' to Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States must pursue ways of dealing with Iraq that do not threaten the lives and basic rights of innocent people, says a new statement issued on behalf of the U.S. bishops. "While we are aware of the complex roots of the current crisis, our concern for the widespread suffering of Iraqi civilians leads us to reiterate today with special urgency our long-standing call that the embargo be reshaped, reduced and ended quickly," said the Nov. 19 statement from Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, outgoing president of the U.S. bishops.

Cardinal: Religious orders still have major role in missions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The history of the church's missionary activity has been and will continue to be written with major contributions from Catholic religious orders, said Cardinal Jozef Tomko. The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said the fact that two-thirds of the world's people do not know Christ shows that missionary work is as important as ever. He opened the Nov. 17-20 plenary meeting of the congregation.

Pope will meet privately with Clinton during St. Louis visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton when he arrives in St. Louis Jan. 26, their first encounter since the pope's last visit to the United States in 1995. The program also calls for the pope to attend a youth rally and celebrate Mass and evening prayers in St. Louis, following five days of events in Mexico. The Vatican released the official schedule of the trip Nov. 18.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

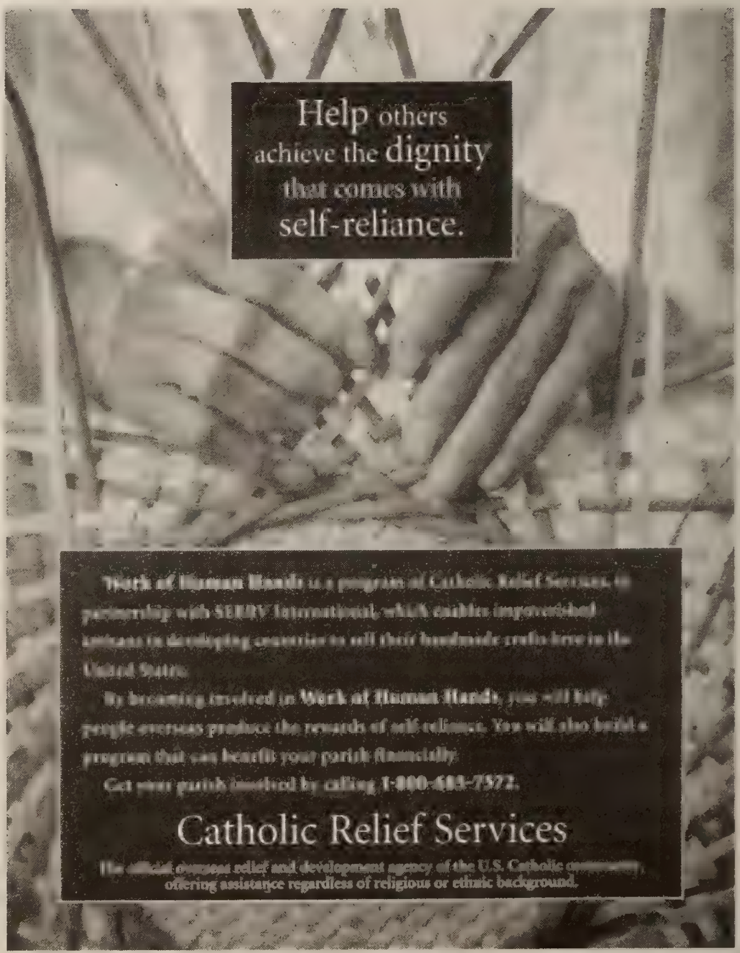
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577



Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.
Catholic Relief Services
The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Archbishop Cacciavillan bids bishops farewell

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his ninth and final official address to the U.S. bishops' general fall meeting, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan recalled with fondness his time as apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States.

He called the U.S. church "a great, committed church indeed, in a likewise great and beautiful America, both of which I am happy to have come to know and love."

Archbishop Cacciavillan, 72, was named Nov. 5 as president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See. He spoke to the U.S. bishops Nov. 16 at their annual meeting in Washington.

He said the entire U.S. church was in his "mind and heart," including its many ministries; its priests, deacons, religious men and women, others in consecrated life, and "millions of laity"; and its parishes, abbeys, seminaries, monasteries and convents.

"It was really a privilege to serve here and to all I say goodbye with the assurance of unfailing fond memories," said the archbishop.

Archbishop Cacciavillan also reflected on some of the recent actions of Pope John Paul II and other documents in which he referred to the importance of both truth and love.

The pope possesses "courage, love and passion (for truth) in a very high degree," the archbishop said. "One could say that from his teachings, his person and life, two powerful appeals resonate: be courageous in truth and generous in love."

He said "Fides et Ratio" is about "the true knowledge of faith, the true knowledge of reason and the truth regarding their relationship." He called it a "document of high theological and philosophical import" that is "momentous for the promotion of a much needed culture of truth, ultimately of authentic personal and communal values."

He noted similar themes in various other papal documents, homilies and statements. In particular, the archbishop cited two apostolic letters written in 1998: "Ad Tuendam Fidem" ("To Defend the Faith") and "Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord").

Archbishop Cacciavillan was only the second Vatican ambassador to the United States. His predecessor, Archbishop (now Cardinal) Pio Laghi, became the first in 1984 when the United States and the Holy See established formal diplomatic relations.

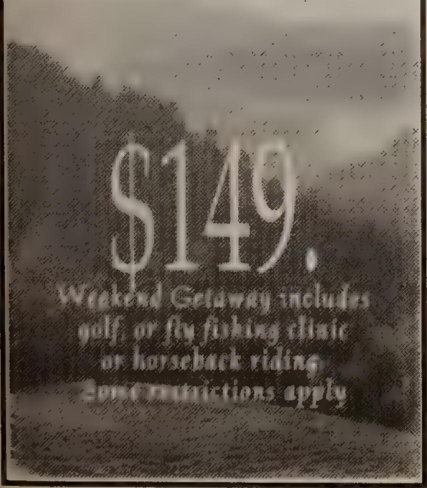
The pope did not immediately name Archbishop Cacciavillan's successor. ▼

SOUTH
MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676



Advent Calendars & Wreaths
Christmas Cards

Carolina
Catholic
Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

1998 Fall Meeting
Decisions at a Glance

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Some actions taken by the U.S. bishops during their Nov. 16-19 meeting:

PRO-LIFE
Approved 217-30 a document challenging Catholics to better incorporate pro-life teaching into public life.

EMERGENCY AID
Sent an emergency $400,000 to hurricane-stricken areas.

VOCATIONS
Ratified revised guidelines for diocesan vocations offices calling for full-time directors.

DISABILITIES
Approved a statement on how the church should welcome and treat persons with disabilities.

CANON LAW NORMS
Approved five decrees setting national norms in areas of canon law dealing with clerical garb, priests' councils, baptism of an adopted child, engagements, and couples preparing for marriage.

MILLENNIUM
OK'd a pastoral reflection on the obligations of Christian lay people in the world at the turn of the millennium.

NEW LEADERS
Elected Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza and Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., to three-year terms as NCCB-USCC president and vice president, respectively.

ASCENSION
Approved a rule under which each province of bishops can decide to transfer observance of Ascension from Thursday to the seventh Sunday of Easter.

BUDGET
Authorized a 1999 budget of $46.8 million and a diocesan assessment for 2000 of about $11 million.

SPANISH TEXTS
Approved two Spanish-language liturgical texts for funeral rites.

CONFIRMATION AGE
Agreed to ask Rome for a three-year extension of the current norm on the age of confirmation.

©1998 CNS Graphics

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Opening a 2nd location late January...
72 Long Shoals Road • Arden, NC

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Book Review

"Work and Welfare" assesses the ideology and cost of welfare reform

REVIEWED BY **WILLIAM DROEL**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Moving welfare recipients into full-time or part-time employment enhances the self-reliance of the recipients and more effectively positions society's limited capacity for altruism, says Robert Solow, a Nobel Prize economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The cost of transforming welfare into work, however, will be much higher than anyone has yet admitted. It is also likely that no matter what kind of training programs are devised, a substantial number of current welfare recipients will never be capable of more than sporadic work in our post-industrial, global economy. Therefore "work" is too narrow a way to think about welfare reform.

Solow delivered this assessment some months ago in two lectures at Princeton University's Center for Human Values. Amy Gutmann, director of the center, has edited those lectures along with short responses by Gertrude Himmelfarb, Anthony Lewis, Glenn Loury and John Roemer into a book, "Work and Welfare."

In regard to the recent reforms in welfare policy, Solow is of the opinion that "neither logic nor fact-based analysis featured strongly in the debate." Economics and social psychology are simply too complex to yield a welfare-to-work program that has no unintended consequences. A recent analysis of the workfare program in New York City, for example, supports Solow's prediction that some welfare recipients will find jobs only "by displacing formerly employed members of the assiduously working poor."

The contributors to this book, like many other Americans, pay too little heed to the delivery system for social services: job training and placement, workfare supervision, day care and the like. Yet there is some strong evidence to support the Catholic wisdom on this point: Social services are best delivered (not necessarily funded) by churches and other agencies close to the people benefiting from those services. Massive government programs, including the new workfare programs, tend to create dependencies. It must be quickly noted that churches are unprepared to assist the thousands of welfare recipients concentrated in our cities. But there will be little improvement in the system unless we devise ways for social services to the mediated through churches, unions, community organizations and the like. ▼

Droel is campus minister and an instructor at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Ill.

"Work and Welfare," by Robert Solow. Princeton University Press. (Princeton, N.J., 1998). 100 pp., $19.95.

Catholic bestsellers list for November — hardcover

1. "Sabbatical Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
2. "Letters to Gabriel." Karen Garver Santorum (CCC of America)
3. "Holy Work." Marsha Sinetar (Crossroad)
4. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
5. "Living a Gentle Passionate Life." Robert J. Wicks (Paulist)
6. "Celtic Prayers from Iona." J. Philip Newell (Paulist)
7. "Here and Now." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
8. "The International Bible Commentary." William R. Farmer (Liturgical Press)
9. "Twelve Months of Monastery Soups." Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette (Liguori)
10. "Christian Prayer." Liturgy of the Hours (Pauline)

Word to Life

November 29, First Sunday of Advent. Cycle A. Readings:
1) Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-2, 4-9
2) Romans 13:11-14a
3) Matthew 24:37-44

BY **DAN LUBY**

To the rest of us it was junk, a rusting jumble of auto parts and sheet metal and concrete rebar. Passing it every day, through the rains of fall and the snows of winter outside the rear entrance to the classroom building, we wondered why nobody had cleaned it up. Then one day in the spring, it was gone.

The next fall, where the junk pile had been, stood a man in agony, his face a rusted mask of pain, his stomach exploding with gears and jagged steel bars, his skeletal iron arms reaching up in supplication. Even the busiest students stopped to look, arrested by the sculpture's haunting poignancy. It made us think about suffering and mortality.

Transforming junkyard debris into moving art requires many technical skills. But the heart of the transformation is in the vision of the artist, seeing, in the odd bits of metal the possibility of a statue.

Such a transformed vision is what Isaiah demonstrates in the first reading for the first Sunday of Advent. His faith in the mercy of God lets him see, beneath Israel's turmoil, a new world of harmony; behind the swords and spears of war, tools for peaceful cultivation of the soil.

Advent invites us to imagine new possibilities. We know that the grasping vision of commercial Christmas is false, but its pervasive onslaught overwhelms us. May Isaiah's vision inspire us to look differently at what surrounds us as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. May we look at enemies and see the possibility of friendship; at fevered buying and see hope for simple generosity; at family tensions and see opportunities for reconciliation.

Let us humbly ask God for the imagination and faith to live Advent in quiet expectation, and to celebrate Christmas with joyful peace. ▼

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks...."

— Isaiah 2:4b

Questions:

What is an "instrument of battle" in your life that could be transformed into a tool for peace? What is one way you would like to refashion your vision of Advent?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 5, 1998

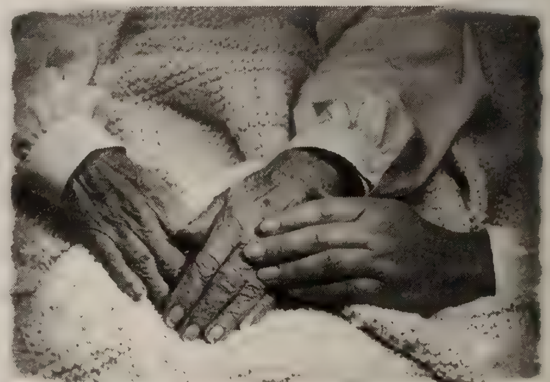
Sunday, Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:37-44; **Monday**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday**, Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday**, Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8

RESPECT LIFE

In thanksgiving for
the Gift of Life;
we pray to the Lord.

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
CHRISTMAS IDEAS!! Cards, Ornaments, Nativities, Angels...
plus Bibles, Religious Plaques, Medals, CDs, and over 700 book titles!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401



Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Bishops give two thumbs up, way up, for 'Prince of Egypt'

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops weren't trained to be movie critics, but they know what they like. And do they ever like "Prince of Egypt," the animated movie about the life of Moses coming to theaters in December.

About 60 bishops attended a Nov. 17 screening in Washington after the close of the day's business at their fall general meeting. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles arranged the sneak preview. Auxiliary Bishop Emil A. Wcela of Rockville Centre, N.Y., served as an adviser to the film.

Waiting for the bishops at the theater was Jeffrey Katzenberg of Dreamworks SKG, the studio releasing the movie nationwide Dec. 18. Katzenberg and three of the animated film's producers were on hand to lead the bishops in a half-hour discussion session following the film.

Katzenberg was the mastermind behind many of Disney's animated blockbusters in the early 1990s before he split from Disney to form a multimedia firm with director Steven Spielberg and record company mogul David Geffen.

Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas said he found "Prince of Egypt" to be "very refreshing."

"It was done in an understandable style. I saw it as a great teaching tool for anyone — children to adults," he told Catholic News Service. "In a sense, the music was appealing, lively, and understandable."

During the discussion, Bishop Grahmann said one bishop asked the producers, "How did you choose the voice of God?" Most aural representations of God, Bishop Grahmann noted, have the big, booming, echoing voice that rolls down like thunder.

The producers answered with a question: "How would God speak to you (personally)?" They reasoned that a deep, low and quiet voice would best convey that.

Another question was why the movie did not depict Moses building an altar and giving thanks to God for drowning Pharaoh's charioteers in the Red Sea. The movie shows Moses looking across the sea to find his stepbrother, Ramses, sitting on a rock crying. It was then, Bishop Grahmann said, that Moses "mourned for all the people who had been killed."

Auxiliary Bishop George O. Wirz of Pittsburgh said "Prince of Egypt" "struck a universal theme of mankind."

He added the movie was "an outstanding breakthrough both in theme and in technology of filming, animating the artistry of the score."

Bishop Wirz said those scenes in the film where there were no words "were as powerful, or more powerful, than any score could be."

Bishop Andrew J. McDonald of Little Rock, Ark., thought "Prince of Egypt" was "sensational," so much so that "I can't wait to get home so I can promote it."

He said he liked the music, the relationship between Moses and Ramses, and "particularly the opening of the Red Sea."

He said he asked Katzenberg if it was going to play in Little Rock. Bishop McDonald said Katzenberg, a friend and ally of Arkansas-born President Clinton, replied, "Am I being set up?"

No, Bishop McDonald told him. "I want to be your John the Baptist," he said, "but if this thing isn't going to be in Little Rock in December, they're doing to declare me a false prophet."

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph F. Naumann of St. Louis gave his stamp of approval to the movie. "I think it will be an exceptional film" and something that both Jews and Christians will greatly admire, he added. "It is essentially faithful to the telling of the (biblical) story."

CNS asked the bishops how many stars they would give "Prince of Egypt."

Bishop Grahmann: "Four stars."

Bishop Wirz: "Four stars."

Bishop Naumann: "Five stars, but I'm an easy critic."

Bishop McDonald: "How many stars can you give it? Can you put down a hundred stars?" ▼

TV programs of note

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Nov. 29:

Monday, Nov. 30, 8-9 p.m. EST (CBS) "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Rebroadcast of TV's longest-running special, narrated by Burl Ives, based on the popular song that recounts the tale of a shy reindeer who is laughed at for his shiny nose but eventually triumphs over adversity.

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) "Before He Wakes." Fact-based tale of a woman (Jaclyn Smith) willing to go as far as murder to protect the facade of a wealthy lifestyle.

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 8-9 p.m. EST (PBS) "Leopards of the Night." A "Nova" program hosted by Sir Richard Attenborough which demonstrates the sleek are less solitary than imagined as leopards in search of prey are stalked by hyenas hoping for leftovers as crocodiles hope to catch a lone leopard and devour it.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 8-9 p.m. EST (NBC) "Christmas in Rockefeller Center." Special in which the giant tree is lit by 26,000 colored bulbs, followed by entertainment by Olympic figure skaters, the Radio City Rockettes, Broadway musical stars and surprise performers.

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 8-9:30 p.m. EST (PBS) "Pavarotti & Friends." A "Great Performances" special in which the tenor is joined by Jon Bon Jovi, Natalie Cole, Celine Dion, Vanessa L. Williams, Stevie Wonder, Trisha Yearwood and the Spice Girls in a benefit concert for the children of war-torn Liberia.

CNS photo from Fox Searchlight

"Waking Ned Devine"

James Ryland, Paddy Ward, David Kelly and Ian Bannen (left to right) star in the comedy "Waking Ned Devine." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South

Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . 552.6500 . www.vwsouth.com

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:

Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

One year later

The fate of the poor in N.C. remains in doubt despite economy

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

One year ago when Bishops Joseph Gossman of Raleigh and William Curlin of Charlotte issued "Of One Heart and One Mind," they joined their voices in a pastoral reflection on those left behind by the economic boom in North Carolina.

"We are concerned because in the midst of a strong economy there are those among us looking for work who cannot find it; those who need and desire full-time jobs but are limited to part-time or temporary employment and even among full-time workers a substantial number who fall below subsistence wages and are unable to provide for their family's basic needs."

A recent (Sept. 25) survey by the Jordan Institute based at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill School of Social Work, shows that the bishops' words were not only valid, but prophetic. The annual survey indicates that not only is there a growing gap between the rich and the poor in the state, but also a growing social insecurity even for those experiencing "the best of times."

In support material released with the survey, Doctors Dennis K. Orthner and George P. Cole, point to an economic gap that could become a financial chasm. While money was not the only factor considered in determining family strength, its role in providing for overall stability was prominent.

"Most North Carolina heads of household at the bottom of the income scale do not always expect to be able to provide their families with basic necessities. In the past year the percentage of low-income families who report the ability to pay bills on time (55% to 43%) and maintain savings accounts (55% to 40%) has also significantly decreased."

In an interview with the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Raleigh, Cole says that if the 600 families surveyed are taken as a whole, overall family strength remained about the same from 1997 to 1998. However, it is when the families are given names and faces the problems surface.

Photo by Joann Keane

Charlotte Bishop William G. Curlin and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, bishop of Raleigh, hold a copy of the joint pastoral published in November 1997.

Taken as subgroups specifying income level, education achievement, head of household (i.e. single parent) and race, Cole says "disturbing" trends are made manifest.

"It looks like those families are really not doing very well, at least according to this survey. Many of the trends that we are following seem to be heading downwards too."

For the purposes of the survey, the Jordan Institute defines a strong family as "one that is usually able to acquire basic necessities, solve everyday problems, agree on values and beliefs, turn to others in time of trouble and meet the various needs of family members." For this survey and for subsequent surveys, additional data were and will be collected to assist in analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of families.

Again, the words of the bishops in 1997:

"The economic recovery of the last six years has generated a wider income and benefit gulf between the upper and lower ends of our work force. To the working poor, the impact of the expansion has been selective and discriminatory. These economic disparities lead to injustices demanding our attention. We must raise our voices and act to improve and change these conditions."

Cole agrees those words retain their importance. "There are certain groups that have been left out of the good times.

"They are classic groups that always seem to get left out. Whether the economy is good or whether it is bad, poor folks, single parents, less-well educated and African-Americans are left out.

"That's a pretty general statement. What our survey shows is that those families in those groups have not benefited from the economic boom times we have had."

When admitted to the private microeconomics of the family, Cole is able to see what being "left behind" means.

The majority of families in the "at risk" groups say they had not been able to pay all of their bills in the six months prior to the survey and they expect that to be the case in the subse-

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS
3000 Angels, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets
Special Men's Day!
Tuesday, December 15 10am-9pm
Free gift wrapping & hors d'oeuvres
A PIECE OF HEAVEN, INC.
155 Jonestown Rd./Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799
Holiday Hours:
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

MODULARCORP
*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7077
(800) 331-0768

quent six months.

If all the families in all income levels are included in that question, Cole reports a gap that shows a greater distancing between white and African American families. Figures are bland, but they are clear:

Eighty-seven percent of white families in the survey say they have paid their bills on time while only 60% of the African American families were able to say the same thing. The trend continues with 91% of white families saying they anticipate paying all their bills in the next six months and 69% of African American families expect to do the same.

Cole says the same gap exists between the "upper class" families and the other subgroups previously identified. "The economic boom really seems to center pretty much on middle middle class, upper middle class and upper class families," according to Cole.

"We ask you to consider," wrote the North Carolina bishops, "to consider this: why, in the midst of economic growth, does the imbalance between those who have and those who do not have continue to escalate?"

The letter continued:

"Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how well they protect the life and dignity of the human person, support the family and serve the good of all people. As a community of faith, we must look to the common good of all our brothers and sisters."

What puts families at risk includes such factors as solving everyday problems, agreeing on values and beliefs, turning to others in times of troubles and meeting the various family needs. When those questions are considered, the vulnerability rises to an income level up to $50,000 a year.

While those families with incomes above the $50,000 mark still suffer from many of the social ills addressed, they are frequently better able to cope with the economic factors.

"No matter what the income is, the area of family strength that is the most problematic is social support. Among the 600 families, about 30% of the families we interviewed say that they can always depend on others in times of need." Cole says that leaves another 70% who say they cannot always depend on friends, neighbors and relatives for help.

"No man is an island entire of itself," wrote John Donne, "every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." While Donne's musings were far from social commentary on the 20th century, they might have been taken as a warning that such an isolating trend should never occur on a spiritual or social level.

However, the eruption of islands in the seemingly calm seas of many North Carolina families is a trend that the survey finds in all income brackets. The isolation in a family-centered island can eventually affect the family's ability to function.

"No matter what the income is, the area of family strength that is the most problematic is social support. Among the 600 families, about 30% of the families we interviewed say that they can always depend on others in times of need."

Cole says that leaves another 70% who say they cannot always depend on friends, neighbors and relatives for help. "That's pretty disturbing."

A highly mobile society may be the villain creating that situation in some of the urban areas of the state. However, Cole notes that the trend toward isolation was also found in the rural areas in the eastern and western parts of the state.

"In general we are no longer a society which has built into it access to support for families," says Cole. He says that support is not there for the low-income families, which dispels what he says was a persistent rumor of "poor but happy."

Again the survey's support material offers some suggestions: " ... as we did last year the Institute strongly recommends adopting community-based strategies designed to build helping networks for families. Whether through churches the workplace or community centers, families need resources to supplement the support given by friends or relatives in times of trouble."

One group that the report has signals out for special attention is single parent families. Those families "are struggling in every area, especially social support and family finances."

Bishops Gossman and Curlin have called on Catholics and people of goodwill in North Carolina to meet the challenge presented as the families and the poor of the state traverse uncharted pathways that the new economic order has laid out.

"We invite you to work with us in finding ways to achieve economic justice for all. The mandate of Scripture is clear, and our Catholic social teaching gives us the direction and the context for reaching out to the poor and the vulnerable among us. Discipleship is not an easy journey, but we are challenged the imitate the life of Jesus in our world of human as well as spiritual needs."

The call to become involved in changing the situation for the poor and vulnerable in the state is clearly stated in the opening words of the pastoral:

"We write to ask you, our sisters and brothers, to embrace with us our Church's responsibility to help shape our world so that the God-given dignity of every human being will be acknowledged, respected and protected." ▼

A summary of the findings from the Jordan Institute for Families can be found on the UNC-CH website: www.unc.edu/news/newsserv/research/jordinst.htm.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Retiring or changing jobs?
How will you handle your Lump Sum Distribution?
"Guide to Lump Sum Distributions" can help answer your questions. Call for a free copy.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131
HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Principal: St. Bridget's School, serving 475 students grades K through 8, invites applications for the position of Principal starting August 1, 1999. The school is part of St. Bridget's parish, a Catholic community of 2500 families, located in Richmond, Virginia. The Principal is responsible for overseeing all aspects of school life in keeping with a vision of Catholic education. Therefore, the application must be a practicing Catholic, hold a Master's degree in educational administration or related field, and have a minimum of five years teaching and/or administrative experience, and be certified in Virginia. Interested persons should submit a resume no later than December 31, 1998 to: Principal Search Committee, St. Bridget's Church, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Human Resources Clerk: Part-time Human Resources Clerk needed to work at Catholic Pastoral Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting January 18, 1999. Applicants must have a high school or business college degree, and possess strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills. Interested applicants should submit resumes before December 18 to: Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, Vice Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Feel the Warmth of the Holidays at Colchester Place

GARDENS & NURSERY

Festive Gifts & Decorating Ideas

Poinsettias
Over 20,000 assorted colors and sizes
Beautiful 6" potted poinsettias
from $2.99 ea., ten count case $25.

Christmas Trees
Fresh Cut, Carolina Grown

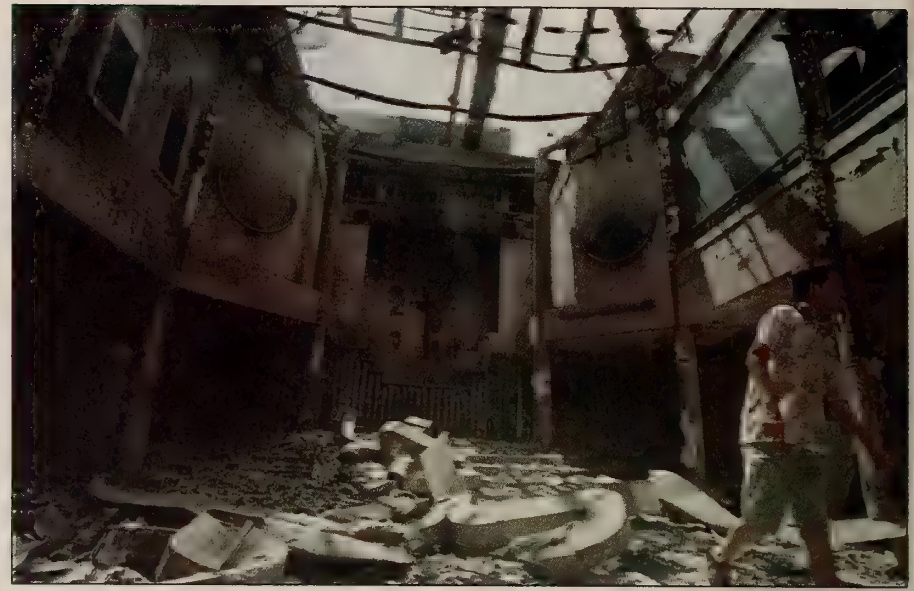
Frasier Fir
Grade /Premium 6-15'

Wreaths & Garland
Many Sizes *25' & 75' Coils*
Designs *White Pine & Frasier Fir*

Miniature Christmas Trees
Dwarf Alberta Spruce
from 12" to 48"

Holiday Flowering Cactus
Perfect house plant that blooms just in
time for the holidays, year after year.

Extended Holiday Hours thru Dec 24
Mon-Sat: 8:30-10pm, Sun: 11-6pm
341-2200
10605 Park Road, Charlotte at BLACKLION



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A man walks through the burned-out shell of a Christian church that was torched by a mob in the Chinatown area of Jakarta, Indonesia, Nov. 22.

Vatican calls for religious tolerance after riots in Indonesia

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican called for tolerance between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia after a weekend of violence left at least 13 people dead and several Christian churches burned.

"The Holy See is very worried by the still-fragmentary news coming from Jakarta," said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman. The facts as reported, he said Nov. 23, indicate "injuries to the traditional principles of tolerance, in force in Indonesia according to its constitution."

Fides, news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, reported Nov. 23 that three Catholic churches had been set ablaze Nov. 22 during the rioting in Jakarta.

"Most of the mass media have judged the conflict to be of a religious nature — Muslims vs. Christians — disregarding ethnic and economic factors," Fides said.

The violence, while pitting Muslims against Christians, was centered in the Chinatown section of Jakarta at the end of more than a week of anti-government protests. Ethnic Chinese are Indonesia's most economically powerful minority; when economic crises hit the country, they often are the first victims of rioting.

Fides also reported that Indonesia's top religious leaders held a joint press conference Nov. 20 and made an appeal for national reconciliation.

Cardinal Julius Darmaatmadja of Jakarta and Abdurrahman Wahid, leader of the nation's largest Muslim group, joined representatives of Protestant, Orthodox, Buddhist and Hindu groups in the appeal. "All religions are against violence," Wahid told the conference.

On Nov. 23 Vatican Radio aired an interview with a missionary priest in Jakarta who said the latest news bulletins spoke of 10 churches burned and another six damaged. The missionary, not named "for security reasons," said pews, Bibles and songbooks in the cathedral were set on fire, and icons and statues were destroyed.

The Ursuline Sisters' school was partially burned and, although no one was seriously injured, some of the nuns were taken to a local hospital to recover from the shock.

The priest told Vatican Radio that although a small extremist group wanted to make Indonesia a strictly Muslim nation, the real root of the violence "is hunger, the hunger of this people, their desperation, their discontent, their anger and their delusion in not seeing any steps being taken to rebuild" the country and its economy following the resignation of President Suharto in May and the Asian economic crisis. ▼

E. Timor bishop to boycott celebration in protest of shootings

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — East Timorese Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo said he will protest the recent shooting of students in Jakarta, Indonesia, by not attending the local traditional joint Christmas celebration of Christian civil servants and military members. "As a sign of universal human solidarity with students and a protest against all violent actions, I will not participate in the coming joint Christmas celebration in Dili," said Bishop Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili and co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S493 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 4, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 14

Inside

Give children the gift of books for Christmas ...Page 13

Guidelines for Holy Year indulgences ...Page 3

Pope says 1999 should begin pilgrimage of sharing ...Page 7

Local News

Charlotte priest lives life of love ...Page 16

"Fire in the Mountains '98" held at Lake Junaluska ...Page 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

The feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, is celebrated Dec. 8.

Protesting the School of the Americas

Diocesan parishioners, religious join thousands at gathering

From Staff and Wire Reports

FORT BENNING, Ga. — "We, the citizens of the U.S., cannot and must not continue to support an institution which trains foreign officers to torture, maim and repress their own people," said Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, a Franciscan who ministers in Yadkinville.

She is one of more than 7,000 people who protested the continued operation of the U.S. Army School of the Americas at Fort Benning Nov. 22.

The nonviolent protest, at the main gate of the base, concluded a two-day vigil of about 7,000 participants — including several hundred from North Carolina — honoring victims reportedly kidnapped, tortured and murdered by some of SOA's graduates, who are Latin American soldiers.

More than 2,300 of the protesters risked arrest by military police Nov. 22 when they "crossed the line" and entered the military compound.

Those risking arrest formed a memorial funeral procession, led by actor Martin Sheen. They carried coffins and small white crosses bearing the names of Latin Americans who the protesters say were victims of SOA graduates.

Before leading the solemn procession, Sheen said the SOA "is an embarrassment to our Army."

A voice on a loudspeaker system read out a roll-call litany of victims' names, to which the protesters responded, "Presente."

The SOA, nicknamed the "School of Assassins" by its critics, has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers. Graduates of the school have been implicated in abuse and atrocities cited in human rights reports in Central and South America.

Sister Linda Scheckelhoff and Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, who staff the Catholic Hispanic Center in Yadkinville, worked in Chiapas, Mexico, in the 1970s and '80s. They say the Mexican state is currently occupied by tens of thousands of Mexican troops, many of whom are commanded by SOA graduates.

The vigil was organized by SOA Watch, founded by Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, decorated Vietnam veteran, missionary and outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. All together the priest has spent about four years in federal prison for his civil disobedience protests.

Father Bourgeois helped lead the marchers onto the base, and was fully prepared to serve jail time for "crossing the line."

Minutes earlier, Father Bourgeois said: "We are here to honor the brothers and sisters in Latin America who have been silenced and, yes, to close the School of the Americas."

Army officials had told the demonstrators that they could be arrested and sent to prison for trespassing on the post. But military police placed the protesters onto buses and dropped them off about a mile away from the front gate.

The marchers received letters barring them from Fort Benning until midnight that day. In a press conference, Maj. Gen. Carl F. Ernst said no one's names were taken and no one would be arrested.

Ernst, who said the institution is

See SCHOOL-PROTEST, page 14

Photo by Joann Keane

Vietnamese culture center dedication

Binh Bui presents flowers at the altar during the dedication ceremony of St. Joseph, the newly established Vietnamese culture center in Charlotte. Bui's costume represents traditional Vietnamese culture; the lace outer layer is used for very special occasions. See story pages 8-9.

The World in Brief

Pope criticizes smuggling of illegal immigrants into Italy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said smugglers who "trade in the misery" of illegal immigrants trying to get into Italy should be stopped. In remarks after giving his Nov. 29 Sunday noon blessing in St. Peter's Square, the pope exhorted governments "urgently to adopt effective measures" to prevent smuggling and said the traffickers' consciences would be burdened by their actions. During the previous week, a series of shipwrecks off Italy's southern coast had killed at least six people.

Argentine bishops establish norms for basic Christian communities

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — The Argentine bishops have established norms for basic Christian communities, reminding them that they must show unity with the Catholic Church. They also said the communities, sometimes known as Ecclesial Base Communities, are "a privileged way to make the church present in their own environment." In a late-November document, the bishops discussed the small groups of Catholics who combine scriptural reflection, liturgical services and social action.

After Mitch, bishops urge more than 'simple reconstruction'

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Central America's bishops have urged governments to go beyond the "simple reconstruction" of their countries in the wake of Hurricane Mitch and to "attack extreme poverty ... (and) build a new Central America." In a statement issued at the end of a four-day meeting in the Salvadoran capital, the 29 members of the Central American Episcopal Secretariat added their voices to growing calls for a vast reconstruction and development program in the areas worst-hit by Mitch.

Oregon officials challenged on health care payments for suicide

SALEM, Ore. (CNS) — The director of the Oregon Catholic Conference has charged that state health officials exceeded their authority when they made doctor-assisted suicide a procedure covered by the state's health plan for the poor. Robert Castagna, director, is asking health plan administrators to withhold funds for the controversial procedure. Citing state code, he argued that the health services commission is allowed to make changes to the list of covered services only because of technical errors or advances in technology. Major policy decisions are the job of the Legislature, Castagna said.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Church near volcano

A Catholic cathedral stands adjacent to Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano as a column of ash and steam billows from its core Nov. 27. Mexican officials said populations near the volcano in the southern state of Puebla were not in any danger from the recent activity but were put on alert.

Roman Catholics, Polish National Catholics discuss full communion

SCRANTON, Pa. (CNS) — At a meeting in Scranton Nov. 4-5, Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic representatives discussed what full communion of their churches would mean. They agreed that for both sides full communion would include mutual recognition of the fullness of apostolic faith, sacraments and church governance in each other's churches, but it would not imply uniformity. During the meeting they also heard a report on the recent General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church in Chicago and decided to draft a report on the fruits of their dialogue over the past 10 years.

Village aims to re-create Nazareth as it was when Jesus lived

NAZARETH, Israel (CNS) — As the dried brush and old debris were cleared away from a rocky field, Dr. Nakhle Bishara, medical director of Nazareth Hospital, watched a 12-year-old dream materialize before his eyes. While other people may have been looking at an overrun field in the middle of the noisy, crowded city of Nazareth, Bishara was watching the pastoral village of biblical Nazareth of 2,000 years ago slowly come to life. In the next few years and with the help of an international team, Bishara hopes to share with others his vision of the biblical Nazareth where Jesus lived by creating a living first-century village on this hillside, one of the few green areas still left undeveloped in Nazareth.

Churches say Canada must monitor its own human rights practices

OTTAWA (CNS) — The Canadian government should practice what it preaches, the Canadian Council of Churches said in an open letter to Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Canada "can't legitimately promote human rights in foreign countries if it doesn't respect the human rights of its own citizens and refugees who apply to Canada for asylum," the council said. "While in Canada, we invite you to join us in calling our country to do more to recognize, protect and promote international human rights and international standards," said the Nov. 23 CCC letter.

Bishops urge church to be responsive to local cultures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Participants at the Synod of Bishops for Oceania urged the church to preach a simple and compassionate message, in a manner more responsive to the cultures and spiritual aspirations of local peoples. In speeches Nov. 23-24, several bishops also highlighted the shortage of priests and the growing role of deacons, catechists and lay leaders in the region. Bishop Peter J. Cullinane of Palmerston North, president of the New Zealand bishops' conference, said many people in Oceania experience the church as an imposed "labyrinth of doctrines, laws, religious duties and customs," and this perception "no longer holds them."

Resumption of Chiapas talks generates hopes for peace

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (CNS) — In the Cathedral of Peace, Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia preached about "hopeful signs." "If there is a deterioration in the application of justice, if there is impunity and if there are unpunished crimes, then there is also the determined action of those who, in spite of how far away they are or their position, take the path of sacrifice and of service to build paths toward true peace," said Bishop Ruiz. He spoke Nov. 22 as a meeting aimed at relaunching the Chiapas peace process began nearby. A commission from Mexico's congress met for the first time in nearly two years with leaders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

December 4, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 14
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 6 — 3 p.m.
World AIDS day Ecumenical Service
Sharon United Methodist Church

7 p.m.
St. Gabriel Young Adult Ministry
"Talk Show"

December 8 — 7 p.m.
Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Virgin Mary
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

December 10 — 10 a.m.
Triad School meeting with
pastors and principals

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action youth ministry of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is coordinating a Christmas wish tree program to benefit individuals staying at the Battered Women's Shelter in Charlotte. Donations of toys and toiletries are being accepted. For details, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

CHARLOTTE — An exhibit on Belmont Abbey College and Monastery is at Museum of the New South, 324 N. College St., through Jan. 2, 1999. The compilation of archival images and artifacts captures the essence of the abbey and provides a glimpse of the people and events that have made its unique spirit and rich history. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.. Admission is $2 for adults, and $1 for students, seniors and teachers. Family admission is $5. Admission is free the second Saturday of each month. For more information, call (704) 333-1887.

December

6 CHARLOTTE — The 1998 World AIDS Day Ecumenical Service, "A Time of Prayer and Healing," presided over by bishops of the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopalian and United Methodist churches in the Charlotte area, is today at Sharon United Methodist Church, 4411 Sharon Rd., from 3-4 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, located at 507 S. Tryon St., two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium, sells pre-game food today 2 1/2 hours prior to game time. Proceeds benefit local children's charities. Visitors are also welcome to tour the century-old church, the oldest Catholic church in Charlotte, and view its famous fresco by Ben Long.

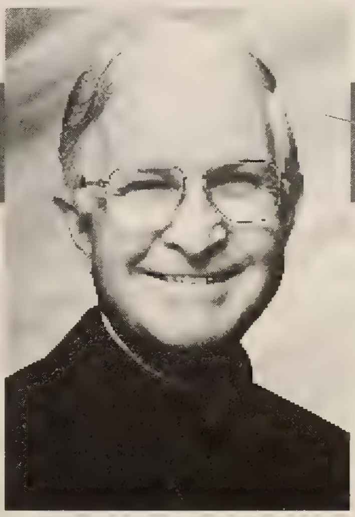
NEWTON — The rosary is prayed today and each first Sunday following

The Foundation Of The Roman Catholic Diocese Of Charlotte

1997-98 Annual Report

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is a nonprofit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good stewards through gifts of assets, provides for the investment of those assets, and distributes the income to recipients. The principal remains untouched. Endowments through The Foundation are a means to greater financial stability and growth for our diocese and its entities.

A Message from the Bishop



The heart of the Gospel message is love: the love of God for his Son, love of Christ for each of us, the love of Christ for his Church. The Holy Mother Church has a mission to spread that message, and we, the Diocese of Charlotte, have a mission to spread God's message of love throughout Western North Carolina. We have a secure means to ensure the diocese will continue its mission of love for future generations through The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

Many have already committed generously to The Foundation and I am gratified by their faith and support. I am particularly grateful to all those individuals, living and deceased, who have established endowments in The Foundation to support the work of the Church. I am also grateful to those pastors, principals, and agency directors who have established endowments to benefit their respective parishes, schools and agencies. It is my hope that each of our 181 entities will soon establish an endowment to provide for their future financial security. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to The Foundation's Board of Directors for their commitment of time and service.

Since its inception in 1994, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte has grown tremendously. The generosity of those who have gone before us has given us the Church as we know it today. Likewise, it is our responsibility as good stewards to provide a solid foundation for the future of our diocese, parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation will help us better provide for that future.

May God continue to bless you and those you love. I am as always,

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte

A Message from the President

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am proud to present The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte's 1997-98 annual report. We have experienced phenomenal growth this fiscal year and I am pleased to be able to give you some particulars about The Foundation.

During the past year, the number of endowments within the foundation has grown from thirty-three to fifty individual endowments. Endowments were added to support the following entities: St. Leo Catholic Church, St. Therese Catholic Church, St. Luke Catholic Church, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Catholic Church, Christ the King Catholic Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Immaculata School, MACS Schools, Seminarian Education, Priest Retirement and Catholic Social Services. These additions increased the number of individual endowments by over 50%.

Our total assets at the end of the fiscal year were $5,269,918, an increase of 40% over the previous year's amount of $3,752,792. Invested assets generated a return of 15.8% for the year ending June 30, 1998, after generating a return of 19.7%, 16.5% and 15.6% the previous three years.

In this year's report, we have included a story of an individual who established an endowment for a parish in Greensboro and a story of our school in Asheville which established an endowment. We hope these stories will encourage other individuals, pastors, pastoral councils, schools and ministries to do the same.

We have no doubt benefitted these past four years from the incredible returns of the stock market. While future returns may be less spectacular, you may be assured that this board is committed to a diligent fiscal strategy to expand our current endowments and ensure the future of our diocese, our parishes, our Catholic schools, and our Catholic ministries. We are committed to the people of this diocese and pledge our utmost to fulfill the mission to which we have been entrusted.

Sincerely yours,

V.M. Nussbaum Jr

V.M. Nussbaum, Jr., President

Board of Directors

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors composed of clergy and lay people. The Board's objective is to pursue an investment policy consistent with reasonable growth while prudently safeguarding the principal. The directors are leaders in their parishes and communities, and are accountable to both donors and recipients. This accountability includes the professional investment of The Foundation's assets while ensuring that the funds are disbursed according to the donor's wishes.

Mr. Paul Breitbach
Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration,
Krispy Kreme Corporation
Winston-Salem, NC

Dr. G. John Coli
President and Chief Operating Officer,
St. Joseph Health Services
Asheville, NC

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Mr. Boyd George
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
Alex Lee Inc.
Hickory, NC

Mr. Charles Greene
President, Classic Gallery Group
High Point, NC

Mr. Gerard Gunzenhauser
President, GRG Associates, Inc.
Winston-Salem, NC

Mr. Donald Hodgens
Attorney, Moore and Van Allen
Charlotte, NC

Mr. Frank LaPointe
Owner, LaPointe Honda
Charlotte, NC

Mr. Antonio Lopez-Ibanez
President, Charlotte Trimming Co. Inc.
Charlotte, NC

Mr. V.M. Nussbaum, Jr.
Chairman, Southern Foods, Inc.
Greensboro, NC

Reverend Msgr. Joseph Showfety
Pastor, St. Benedict Catholic Church
Greensboro, NC

Mr. Edward Snyder
President, E. J. Snyder and Company
Albemarle, NC

Mr. Louis Stephens
Retired President, Pilot Life Insurance
Greensboro, NC

Very Reverend Mauricio West
Vicar General, Diocese of Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Statements of Financial Position

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position,
June 30, 1998 and 1997

	1998	1997
Assets:		
Cash	$ 52,814	$ 15,813
Receivables -		
Support and other receivables	18,752	2,323
Interest and dividends receivable	12,118	9,561
Total receivables	30,870	11,884
Assets held in trust	264,589	35,166
Investments	4,921,645	3,689,929
Total assets	$ 5,269,918	$ 3,752,792
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	$ 12,165	$ 4,353
Custodial and annuity obligations	2,580,385	1,924,170
Total liabilities	2,592,550	1,928,523
Unrestricted net assets	687,437	570,387
Temporarily restricted net assets	533,534	356,908
Permanently restricted net assets	1,456,397	896,974
Total net assets	2,677,368	1,824,269
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 5,269,918	$ 3,752,792

A copy of the independent audit by Arthur Andersen and Co. is available upon request.

Endowments as of June 30, 1998

Diocesan Endowments

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Priest Retirement Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for our retired priests.

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) Endowment Fund

Established to provide financial assistance for ministries supported by the DSA.

The Maffitt Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides assistance to Catholic missions in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Unrestricted Endowment Fund

Income from this fund is used to assist in the work of The Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other restricted funds.

Ministry Endowments

The African American and Native American Endowment Fund

This fund benefits the needs of minorities across the diocese.

The Catholic Social Services Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the general needs of this diocesan ministry across the western half of North Carolina.

The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the program needs of this retreat center in Maggie Valley.

Vocation Endowments

The Conklin Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Lee Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

Education Endowments

The American Schlafhorst Scholarship Endowment Fund

Established to provide scholarship assistance for students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The Asheville Catholic School Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to enable the school to retain quality teachers, to offer scholarship assistance, to offer continuing education for teachers and to enhance the school's curriculum.

The Bishop McGuinness High School Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of the students at Bishop McGuinness.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund established by the CCHS Alumni Association provides scholarships for graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Faucette Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund was established to benefit the educational ministry of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Megan Healy Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarship assistance for students as St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to meet the needs of the students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

The Francis J. McGrail Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides for scholarship aid to students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

The Kim Piccolo Scholarship Endowment Fund

Established through the Catholic Campus Ministry Office at UNC Charlotte, this fund provides scholarship assistance for Catholic students at UNC Charlotte.

The Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Salisbury.

The Frank Spinks Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for professional development activities for the staff at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

The Mary Spinks Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to minority students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

The F. Joseph Treacy Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

Parish Endowments

The Basilica of St. Lawrence Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment assists in meeting the needs of the historic Basilica in Asheville.

The St. Benedict Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Greensboro.

The Joseph M. Bryan, Sr. Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the maintenance and enhancement of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

The Alma Cornely Memorial Endowment Fund

Established through St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, this fund provides support to the Missions of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Jack Driscoll Endowment Fund

This fund was established to help meet the needs of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard.

The St. Francis of Assisi Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Franklin.

The St. Gabriel Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Holy Family Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Clemmons.

The Immaculate Conception Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment provides for the needs of this parish in Forest City.

The St. James Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Concord.

The St. John Memorial Endowment Fund

This fund provides for scholarships to graduating high school seniors from this parish in Tryon for attendance at a post secondary school.

The St. Jude Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this mission in Sapphire Valley.

The St. Leo Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The St. Luke Founders' Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the local, national and international outreach activities of this parish in Mint Hill.

The Amber Lundgren Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides for scholarship aid to a St. Barnabas parishioner for attendance at a post secondary school.

The Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

The Our Lady of Mercy Endowment Fund

This fund provides for corporal works of mercy for parishioners of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Our Lady of the Highways Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Thomasville.

The St. Philip the Apostle Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Statesville.

The Sacred Heart Threshold Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Salisbury.

The St. Therese Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Mooresville.

The Olga and George Testa Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the faith formation needs of St. Michael Church in Gastonia

The Father Peter Tomaino Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the faith formation needs of children in Christ the King parish in High Point.

The St. Vincent de Paul Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Holy Name Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

Endowment Assists Asheville School as it Moves Toward Future

By Mike Krokos

Reprinted from the Catholic News and Herald

ASHEVILLE — While many of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools are affiliated with individual parishes, Asheville Catholic School is unique.

As the only interparochial institution, the school is responsible for ministering to the educational needs of five Catholic communities in Asheville and other surrounding parishes as well.

Asheville Catholic, which serves students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, is unique in other ways, too. When former school administrator Father Jim Solari saw the need to address some of the major focuses of Asheville Catholic's educational ministry, he turned to the diocese for guidance. An endowment campaign was initiated in the area's Catholic community that included friends of the school, alumni, and alumni families. By the end of the drive, approximately $400,000 was raised, and the result was the establishment of the Asheville Catholic School Educational Foundation in 1990.

"The endowment enables the school to retain quality teachers, offer scholarship assistance, offer continuing education, and enhance the school's curriculum," explained the school's current administrator, Father Frank Cancro, who shares chaplaincy duties at Asheville Catholic with other area pastors.

"Father Solari saw the benefits an endowment could provide, and it seemed that the best answer (to meeting the school's needs) was setting up an ongoing structure that would provide some regular income that the school could rely on."

In recent years, funds from the endowment have benefited the school with computer hardware and software programs, and in upgrading the computer education program. Monies have also assisted in integrating computers within other parts of the curriculum as well. Also, school officials recently finalized TAP — a Tuition Assistance Program — that will help students with educational costs.

"Since we are committed to offering an education both to the Catholic community and others who see the value of Catholic education, TAP is a real opportunity for us to continue that mission with families who may not have the resources necessary to enroll in a Catholic school," Father Cancro said.

The current Asheville Catholic School endowment totals more than $430,000. The gift will continue to generate funds for the school, because as an endowment, the principal is never used. The number of endowments in The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is up to 50 and the total assets of the diocesan Foundation are at $5.2 million.

"Through their gifts, Asheville Catholic supporters are allowing the school to grow and meet its needs in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of The Foundation.

Kelley added that individuals contributing to endowments take another step in living out a life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow schools, churches and other organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

For more information about The Foundation or establishing an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, executive director of The Foundation, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, or call (704) 370-3301.

Gift Means Secure Future for Greensboro Parish

By Mike Krokos

Reprinted from the Catholic News and Herald

GREENSBORO — From its earliest days, Our Lady of Grace Church has been blessed with generous parishioners and families.

Established in 1952 with monies donated by Julian Price, a Baptist, as a living memorial to his late wife, Ethel Price, a convert to Catholicism, the parish has witnessed steady growth over the years and currently consists of more than 1600 households. It has always had a descendant of the Prices as part of its church family as well.

When the parish celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1977, Joseph M. and Kathleen Bryan — the latter of whom is the daughter of Ethel and Julius Price — donated money with which the "Jubilee Organ" and its gallery were dedicated.

Although not Catholic, Bryan was always supportive of his wife's parish. The Bryans' three children, Joseph Jr., Nancy and Kay, were all brought up in the Catholic faith as well, and each year Bryan Sr. would make a donation to OLG in honor of his wife. That practice of giving back to the Church continued even after his wife passed away in 1984.

When Bryan died in 1995, he left a bequest of $200,000 to Our Lady of Grace Church. Through his gift, the Joseph M. Bryan Sr. Endowment Fund was established last June in The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The distributable income from the endowment provides for the maintenance and enhancement of church property. An additional $100,000 donated several years earlier by his son, parishioner Joseph M. Bryan Jr., was added to the endowment fund as well.

Marian Father Mark Lamprich, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, said through the Bryans' generosity, the parish can plan more effectively for the future. "The endowment will enable us to make repairs and additions to our buildings without our annual budget being affected," Lamprich said. "It will allow the parish to continue its ministries, including outreach, and fund the parish school without having to be concerned about how we are going to replace a broken boiler or fix a leaky roof."

"The church is unique, and this architectural style, structure, and history are unique as well. It would be difficult to build a church similar to Our Lady of Grace today," he added, "and Mr. Bryan's generosity will enable the parish to maintain the beauty of its structures for years to come."

The current Bryan endowment totals nearly $400,000. The gift will continue to generate funds for the church, because as an endowment, the principal is never used. The number of endowments in The Foundation is up to 50 and the total assets of the diocesan Foundation are at $5.2 million.

"Through his gift, Mr. Bryan left a legacy that will allow Our Lady of Grace to continue to grow and meet the needs of the parish in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of The Foundation.

More and more parishioners across the diocese are following the example of Mr. Bryan's legacy by remembering the church in their estate plans. Kelley added that individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow churches in the diocese of Charlotte," he said.

As parishes plan for the future, Father Lamprich encourages them to consider creating an endowment. " The expenses of operating a parish and running a physical plant are high," he said. "An endowment like ours is very beneficial; monies are earmarked for the buildings which enable us to invest in the people."

Catholic Heritage Society

The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the Church. Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or any of its parishes, schools, agencies or organizations. Consider the following planned gifts:

- **A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL** is perhaps the simplest way to give. You can name The Foundation to receive a gift of cash or other property from your estate. You can stipulate that The Foundation receives a specified amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all the other bequests are fulfilled.
- **GIFTS OF CASH, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE** or other **TANGIBLE ASSETS** sufficient to establish an endowment are an ideal way of giving to The Foundation, particularly when the donated assets are highly appreciated.
- **GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE** allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can give The Foundation a paid up policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.
- **LIFE INCOME ARRANGEMENTS** allow you to make gifts to The Foundation during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. These include trusts and annuities.

These and other opportunities for giving to The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte can be explored with you. The Foundation staff will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help determine which gift is right for you.

For more information contact:
Jim Kelley
The Foundation
of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Phone 704-370-3301
Fax 704-370-3378

Conference ignites spiritual fires of discussion, reflection

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Father George Kloster addresses a group of some 160 people during "Fire in the Mountains '98" held Nov. 21 at Lake Junaluska.

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

LAKE JUNALUSKA — At the end of the Year of the Holy Spirit, Catholics from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte gathered to reflect on the Spirit's action in their lives.

"Scripture, Eternity and the Holy Spirit," was the title of "Fire in the Mountains '98," held Nov. 21 at the Lambuth Inn at Lake Junaluska. About 160 people from 18 parishes attended the annual event.

Guest speaker Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville, is vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

Father Kloster discussed St. Paul's references to the Holy Spirit as the source of unity in the church.

"We are a community, not people seeking individual salvation," he said. "One characteristic of this fellowship is a diversity of gifts. It is always something to be seen as given to the community, not something for individual benefit. It's a spirit that calls us to a sharing of our earthly possessions so the church is enlivened."

Father Kloster noted that flame and wind — uncontrollable forces — are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Tensions can arise when emphasis is placed on the "institutional church" rather than on the Holy Spirit.

"The mission of the church is the proclamation of the reign of God," Father Kloster said.

When emphasis on proclaiming the Gospel takes a back seat to church-as-institution, he added, there is a reliance on law rather than on love, a higher value on control than on freedom, on doctrine rather than on dialogue, an attitude of fear rather than faith, and authoritarianism rather than collegiality.

"I'm not throwing out the institution. What I'm saying is that the priority of the church has to be life in the Spirit, and the institutional church has to support that."

Lively discussion during the morning's small-group session included discussion of how Vatican II had been inspired by and fostered the work of the Holy Spirit.

In the afternoon, Father Kloster talked about eternity. "When we talk about eternity," he said, "we are talking about Christian hope."

As in the morning when he talked about the gifts of the Holy Spirit given for the good of the community, he emphasized that death — entrance into eternity — is about community.

"It's an experience of the community," he said. "The early church saw this as a community experience; we see it as individual."

In the afternoon's small-group discussions, people shared their experiences of death. "It reminds us of our fragileness, that death is this close all the time," Sheryl Peyton of St. Barnabas in Arden said.

"I always tell people," said Delores Landwehr of St. Joseph in Bryson City, "to never leave the house in the morning without putting your arms around your husband or your wife or your children and kiss them and tell them you love them." ▼

Vatican outlines guidelines for gaining Holy Year indulgences

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Visiting Christ present in the Eucharist at St. Peter's Basilica or visiting Christ present in an inmate at a local prison can fulfill part of the requirements for gaining an indulgence during the Holy Year 2000.

In a four-page appendix to Pope John Paul II's bull proclaiming the Holy Year, the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary in late November outlined the conditions for Holy Year indulgences.

"With the indulgence, the repentant sinner receives a remission of the temporal punishment due for the sins already forgiven," Pope John Paul said in the bull, "Incarnationis Mysterium" ("The Mystery of the Incarnation").

The pope said the fact that sins are forgiven through sacramental confession and the performance of penance "does not mean that there are no enduring consequences of sin from which we must be purified."

The special granting of indulgences is a traditional part of a holy year and usually involves sacramental confession, reception of the Eucharist and prayer at one of the four main basilicas in Rome.

For the year 2000, the list of churches has been expanded — particularly to include basilicas in the Holy Land — and the possibilities of obtaining indulgences through works of mercy and charity has been enlarged.

The Vatican document, signed by U.S. Cardinal William W. Baum, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, said the main requirements for the indulgence include sacramental confession and the reception of the Eucharist, praying for the intentions of the pope and performing works of charity and penance.

With the basic requirements fulfilled, the faithful can gain an indulgence by attending Mass or another liturgical service or by adoration of the Eucharist, then reciting the Lord's Prayer, the profession of faith and a Marian prayer at:

— The Roman basilicas of St. Peter's at the Vatican, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, Holy Cross or St. Lawrence in Campo Verano; the catacombs; or the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love.

— In the Holy Land at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem or the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

— Throughout the world at diocesan cathedrals or other churches designated by the local bishop.

Cloistered monks and nuns and the homebound can receive the indulgence by saying the prayers in their chapel or "by spiritually uniting themselves" with those gaining the indulgences in the usual way and "by offering to God their prayers, sufferings and discomforts."

Indulgences also can be gained by going to confession and Communion, then:

— Visiting people in need or in

See INDULGENCES, page 7

the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St. For more information, call (828) 464-9207.

7 MORGANTON — Bill Frankel-Streit, peace activist and member of the Little Flower Catholic Worker community in Goochland, Va., will speak and show slides about his recent visit to Iraq today at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. Part of a delegation visiting Baghdad and Basra, Frankel-Streit visited several medical centers and spoke with church and government officials about sanctions on the Iraqi civilian operation. For details, call Francisco Risso, (828) 438-4359, or the parish office, (828) 437-3108.

8 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Respect Life Office invites all parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte to participate in the National Night of Prayer for Life in parishes beginning today, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at 9 p.m. through 1 a.m. Dec. 9, the commemoration of Mary's appearance to Blessed Juan Diego. Parishes are asked to have eucharistic adoration, recitation of 15 decades of the rosary, other prayers, silent mediation and Benediction. For suggestions and more information, call Maggi Nadol, (704) 370-3229.

9 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced and remarried "outside the church" meets today in the Classrooms 1 and 2 in the activity center at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For details, call Cindy Shortall, (704) 529-5080.

10 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church's Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry sponsors a healing Mass today at 7 p.m. in the church, 919 Haywood Rd. All are welcomed, especially those in need of spiritual healing and those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other chronic and terminal illnesses, including mental illness and addiction. Refreshments will follow. For more information, call (828) 252-3151.

11 CHARLOTTE — Dance Central premieres a re-creation of Weidman's "Christmas Oratorio" today at 8 p.m. in St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. An encore performance is Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults and $8 for children, and group discounts are available. To order, call (704) 330-4029.

CHARLOTTE — The Ultreya Christian community meets today at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1241.

CHARLOTTE — A celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is today at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, at 7:30 p.m. and includes a procession, evening vespers, veneration of the image of Mary, and eucharistic adoration (until 9 a.m. Dec. 12). For details or to reserve a time of adoration, call Janet Chapman, (704) 846-9524.

12 BURNSVILLE — Sacred Heart Church hosts a Spanish Mass today at noon in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For details, call (828) 689-3719.

CHARLOTTE — A gift-wrap service is offered at St. Ann School, 3635 Park Rd., today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wrapping paper is provided, or you may bring your own. Proceeds benefit the school. For more information, call Carey Jacobsen at (704) 362-2087 or Grace Narus at (704) 543-1237.

13 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Vatican II renewal gives church hope for new millennium

By CINDY WOODEN

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The renewal sparked by the Second Vatican Council has given the Catholic Church firm grounds for hope as it approaches the third millennium, Pope John Paul II said.

The council marked "a renewed Pentecost," and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has filled the church with signs of hope, the pope said Nov. 25 during his weekly general audience.

The growth of dialogue and mutual respect among members of the Catholic Church, with other Christian communities and with the world's great religions bode well for the future, the pope said.

Within the church, he said, the rediscovery of the Spirit's gifts to each person has increased the sense of community and communion among priests, religious and lay people, "giving rise to a joyful and renewed commitment to evangelization."

"In particular, the Holy Spirit today encourages the church to promote the vocation and mission of the lay faithful," the pope said. Their participation and sense of responsibility in the church's life "lead us to await with hope the dawn of the third millennium."

The role which women are called to play in the church and society is another sign of hope, he said.

The church is becoming more aware of "the feminine genius," he said, "which must gain greater recognition in forms appropriate to the vocation of women in conformity with the designs of God."

Particularly after the Second Vatican Council, "our century has seen the germination and growth of the seed of the ecumenical movement," Pope John Paul said.

"The search for unity and ecumenical concerns have been accepted as 'a necessary dimension of the whole life of the church' and as a priority commitment," the pope said.

The Second Vatican Council also marked a new era in the church's relationship with non-Christian religions, he said.

"In particular, I am happy to recall the great steps forward made in the dialogue with the Jews, our elder brothers.

"The fact that all religions are opening themselves to dialogue with trust and have noted the urgency of uniting their efforts to give a soul to progress and to contribute to the morality of peoples is a great sign of hope for humanity," the pope said.

Meeting more than 3,600 Italian military police cadets and sailors in St. Peter's Basilica before the main audience, Pope John Paul urged them to model their lives on the New Testament's Roman centurions, who professed their faith in Christ and converted to Christianity.

"Dear young men, I encourage you to add an ever-more-convinced life of faith to your military experience, nourishing it with frequent prayer," the pope told them.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO

CNS Columnist

A priest who writes stories for children

I number many authors in Roman collars among my favorites. But I can't remember a priest-author who wrote for the very specific audience of children. Now that is no longer the case, for I have met Father Richard Lewandowski, a priest of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., and children's book author.

His charmingly illustrated books, "Shooting Stardust" and "Babci's Angels," have just been published by Ambassador Books under the name Frrich Lewandowski, as his grandmother called him.

I read them to my young grandchildren, who asked me, "Please, read them again." That's the applause an author wants to hear!

Both books deal with subjects that are hard to discuss with children — serious illness and death. Father Lewandowski and I met last summer in Worcester, and he told me over lunch that he had been inspired to write "Shooting Stardust" from personal experience. The book is a warmly written story of a young boy, Joey, who loses his brother. Joey is in much pain because he misses his brother so much and realizes his parents are feeling the same sadness. Then something happens — I won't give the story away — and Joey learns that his brother is happy in his new life and is also always with them.

Father Lewandowski dedicated the book to his sister Carolyn Killelea, who died prematurely. He said that going deep inside himself to confront his own painful experience of death was therapeutic. The book, he says, conveys an important message: Love never dies; relationships transcend death. The publisher calls this "a consoling book for people too young to understand theology and redemptive suffering." The book has been endorsed by the "Why Me?" organization that helps families of children dealing with cancer.

"Babci's Angel" is a tale of two young brothers, struck by tragedy, but it is an eminently joyful book that has to do with grandparents, Christmas, angels, and — ready for this? — toes. The crucial elements here are love and prayer — not surprising in a book by a priest who calls his storytelling a ministry and "just part of my priesthood."

Father Lewandowski, who is pastor of St. Camillus Parish in Fitchburg, Mass., and chaplain of the Newman Center at Fitchburg State College, explained that he began writing for children in 1996. That's when he became somewhat annoyed that the beautiful message of Easter was getting second place to the Easter Bunny. So he wrote a story about the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, as seen through the eyes of a bunny, called, "The First Easter Bunny."

He self-published it in soft cover, and it was a hit. Ambassador Books will publish a hard cover version on time for Easter '99. "He wants children to see beyond Easter eggs and bunnies, and he does this in a charming way," said Gerry Goggins, former editor of The Catholic Free Press in Worcester and now founder and publisher of Ambassador Books (Worcester, Mass.), 1-800-577-0909.

Children who find "Shooting Stardust" and "Babci's Angel" under the Christmas tree this year will have a lasting gift.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE

Guest Columnists

Identifying the sacramental marriage

We hear and talk much about the sacramental marriage. We ask ourselves, and we're sure other couples do too, how do we know when we're in a sacramental marriage? Are we doing it right? Well, there are no definitive answers here. Our road is crooked with turns and twists that give us reasons for doubt. Talking with other couples, we have, however, found a few hallmarks that indicate that God is present in their marriages and that presence is projected to others. While this in not an exhaustive list, it is but a few indicators of the sacramental couple:

— They have laughter together. Their sense of humor, even in times of conflict and disillusionment, lifts them to a better place. They can laugh at each other and themselves while being sensitive to hurtful areas. Their laughter reminds them of the joy promised to them, and keeps them hopeful.

— They play together. Their playfulness takes them away from their worlds of work and homemaking. They go on dates, vacations, dancing, or they just close their doors for their private playful times.

— They know each other's issues. After a year, five years, 20 years, 50 years of marriage, those particular issues they respectively bring to the relationship are still there. They've given up efforts to change the other. Understanding and acceptance have become the goals. They have moved over and made room in their lives for the perennial vexations of the other.

— They know how to make romance. No longer do they wait on spontaneity in their lovemaking. They make it happen.

— They experience synergy in their relationship. The marriage is more than just the sum of its parts. They know that their relationship is capable of much more than their singular efforts. This sense of abundance compels them to be fruitful. That fruitfulness is expressed in their openness to children in their relationship, their serving the community, or their generosity to others.

— They know how to set a table. There is a special, unique style to their hospitality. A special blend of their talents, temperaments and tastes, their welcoming of others feels "like home" to their guests.

— They know brokenness. Their faithfulness is not founded on an idealistic sense of purity, but rather a strength derived from having risen from the ashes of broken promises and shattered dreams. They know how to forgive one another and carry with them a spirit of reconciliation. Facing the unknown future together, there is a confidence in them that they can survive their imperfections.

— They have a shared spirituality. Though they come from different experiences of faith, they have discovered in their relationship a spiritual dimension that feeds them and draws them closer to God. They give primacy to this aspect of their relationship. They recognize their marriage as a path to holiness.

— And finally, the sacramental marriage is hopeful. They live in a positively accelerated narrative of faith that keeps them hopeful regardless of the current difficulty. They are empowered with relationship skills that give them reasons for hope.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

From Aha! to opportunity

In all my 25 years of teaching Communications back home at Gannon University in Erie, Pa., or at The Catholic University of America in D.C., I most treasured those moments when I would see a student's eyes suddenly flash with a fresh insight into whatever we were studying.

If I had to pick one lecture that was fail-safe in sparking that kind of response, it would have to be the historical account of Marconi's invention of radio. The appeal lies in the slow-witted, almost comical dismissal of Marconi's brainchild by so many people. It is a terrific object lesson in the importance of handling a weakness not as a problem but as an opportunity.

In 1894, the young Marconi read about electromagnetic wave theory and his imagination was stirred by the idea that these unseen waves might be used in communication. He set to work on apparatuses for sending and receiving telegraph messages through the air (hence, "wireless") and soon was able to transmit coded signals more than a mile.

Marconi offered his invention to the Italian government, but it was rejected. Skeptics pointed out that messages, even though cryptically encoded, could be picked up by unintended parties with a receiving device and then decoded. There was no way of maintaining privacy in communication. Everyone and anyone could receive the transmitted message.

Undaunted, Marconi went to England and took out a patent, the first ever granted for a practical system of wireless radio. To address the privacy problem, he placed reflectors around the transmitting antennae to concentrate the radiated electrical energy into a beam instead of spreading it in all directions. While this didn't solve the problem of others intercepting messages in its path, Marconi did discover that he could send messages even greater distances.

In 1899, he was invited by several newspapers in New York City to rig two U.S. ships to report the progress of the America's Cup yacht race. It was a huge success, arousing worldwide excitement and leading to the formation of the American Marconi Company. Critics and doubters finally realized that what had been perceived as a weakness in Marconi's invention was actually its strength.

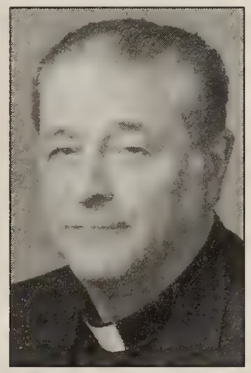
On Dec. 11, 1901, the first transatlantic radio signal from Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland, triggered the concept of broadcasting — the starting point of the vast development of telecommunications. Wireless telegraphy became wireless telephony, the voice radio of today. Pittsburgh's pioneer station, KDKA, broadcast the 1920 election returns and commercial radio was born.

I relished those moments when students would not only react with utter astonishment at the shortsightedness of some previous era, but would also wonder aloud whether they too might be missing out on some possibilities in their own lives. From the podium where I stood, I could see lightbulbs turning on as these young people asked themselves, "What if I am overlooking an opportunity right now?" "What if a problem can be turned into something positive?"

Every one of us can ask these questions. In ways large or small, each positive answer has the potential to change the world. It starts with an open mind and the willingness to ask, "What if ... ?"

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Was one road-to-Emmaus disciple a woman?

Q. My husband and I have a question about the two disciples who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus and ate with him (Lk 24:13-35). Could they have been husband and wife? It appears they shared a home. One of them, Cleopas, is a man, but his companion's gender is not indicated. Is there any Catholic tradition to shed light on this?

A. There is no tradition exactly, but the possibility you mention has been raised often.

You offer one reason. Another, perhaps stronger, is the statement in the Gospel according to John (19:25) that among the women standing by the cross of Jesus was the wife of Clopas — same name but different form as the man described in Luke.

Both Gospels seem to assume the name would be recognized by other disciples. And John would likely have been familiar with the story in Luke's Gospel, written a number of years earlier.

Naturally, we cannot know for sure. But there appears to be some likelihood that the two disciples on the road were husband and wife, both close to our Lord, who had suffered a devastating loss (so they supposed) in the death on Calvary and were now sadly heading back home.

Missing Mass while on vacation

Q. Is it a serious sin if we miss Mass while traveling on vacation? With the shortage of priests and limited schedules, it is not always possible to attend Mass in a strange city.

A. As we know, the responsibility to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation is a serious one. But there are situations which excuse us from that obligation.

It needs to be noted first of all that it is not proper to limit these to impossible circumstances. If I'm confined to bed with a broken leg, or if I simply cannot sit through Mass because of a physical or emotional impairment, I am not "excused." The obligation just ceases to exist, since one is never obligated to do something which is impossible.

Theologians traditionally teach that an excusing cause for the Sunday Mass obligation should be "moderately serious" ("mediocriter gravis"), a reason sufficient, for example, to put aside urgent business of some importance.

Numerous examples are given involving considerable inconvenience or significant material or spiritual harm to oneself or others.

Obviously, no complete list is possible. It comes down finally to individual judgment, keeping in mind the seriousness of the obligation and the central importance of the Eucharist in Catholic life.

Interestingly, vacation travel is one excusing cause nearly always mentioned. One who takes this obligation seriously and fulfills it faithfully otherwise, and misses Mass because of a pleasure trip, can surely do so in good conscience.

Most Catholics have, I believe, innate good sense about such matters. Some others, I have learned, are less certain and maybe need to be reassured.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen at Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Holiday Humor

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Endless possibilities for your holiday turkey carcasses

An unnamed wag on the Internet recently claimed that Martha Stewart's December to-do list included blanching the Thanksgiving turkey carcass, spray-painting it gold, turning it upside down and using it as a "sleigh" to hold Christmas cards.

This not only made me regret we already had disposed of our turkey carcass, it put me to wondering how many other bets we might be missing for that carcass.

I do recall a Cub Scout den whose members blanched their families' turkey carcasses, painted them mostly black, then fitted them with little paper sails that created pretty spiffy replicas of a mythical pirate ship.

Yes, I know what you are thinking. Outfitted with a headband, a carcass would make a dandy Freddy Kreuger (of "Nightmare on Elm Street" infamy) mask. Or a hockey goalie mask. Or a "Man in the Iron Turkey Carcass" mask.

Turned hollow-side down and adorned with a large plume, the carcass could work as a Robin Hood cap. Or you could leave off the feather, paint it bronze and presto — Roman foot-soldier helmet.

I suppose most of the carcasses would be too large to slice lengthwise, douse with Elmer's Glue, cover with "sparklies" and use as earrings. However, a couple of wishbones might be nice in this regard.

Don't worry. I am not going to go into a complete turkey skeleton accessory kick. Yet again, the vertebrae could be strung into a unique necklace.

Speaking of which, you could mount a carcass on your bedroom wall for a jewelry rack or for hanging ties. Or hats. Or exercise clothes.

Duct tape a carcass at the end of a long pole and use it for an offering basket at church. A lot of the loose change might fall through though.

In a pinch, I'll bet you could employ a carcass as a colander.

Actually, I think my neighbor, Bud, uses a carcass as a swim-through toy in his aquarium.

Place one on the back of your commode and fill with cute little soaps — in the shapes of farm animals?

Hold one up to your ear and listen for the sound of the Thanksgiving Day football games?

Place one carcass on another, install fancy little wheels, paint brightly — and you have Cinderella's carriage.

Sew a bean bag into the carcass cavern and you have a Turkey Beanie.

Clearly, the possibilities are endless. I'm surprised the Turkey Organization for Marketing (TOM) hasn't jumped on this.

On the other hand, we don't want to create a panic run on turkey carcasses. It might be wise to consult Martha on this.

Your comments are welcome always. Please send them to Uncle Dan, 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608.

Sister Peter Claver Fahy to receive 1998 Poverello Medal

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — Sister Peter Claver Fahy, who has spent more than 70 of her 99 years ministering to the poor, the imprisoned and the neglected, will receive the Franciscan University of Steubenville's highest award, the Poverello Medal, on Dec. 8. "Throughout her life she has demonstrated a St. Francis-like charity and has brought healing, strength and empowerment to thousands of God's little ones," said Franciscan Father Michael Scanlan, university president, as he announced the award in November.

Peace pastoral raised bishops' stature, Father Hehir says

CHICAGO (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace "was a text for its time" that "raised the stature of bishops among Catholics and non-Catholics," according to one of its principal drafters. Father J. Bryan Hehir, professor of the practice of religion and society at Harvard University's Divinity School, delivered the inaugural Bernardin Lecture Nov. 18 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Father Hehir and the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago helped write the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament, "The Challenge of Peace," written in the days when the United States and Soviet Union were opposing superpowers locked in a epic nuclear arms race.

Retired Bishop Freking of La Crosse, Wis., dies at 85

LA CROSSE, Wis. (CNS) — Retired La Crosse Bishop Frederick W. Freking, 85, died of respiratory failure Nov. 28 at Franciscan Skemp Medical Center in La Crosse. He was to be entombed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse following his funeral Mass there Dec. 7. A bishop since 1957 and head of the La Crosse Diocese from 1965 until he retired in 1983, Bishop Freking was among the bishops who attended all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s.

CNS photo by Jennifer Leirer, Sooner Catholic

Oklahoma father, son explore ordained ministry together

A dream they first had in 1993 is halfway to becoming reality for Peter and Paolo Dulcamara. The father and son duo, pictured here with a family member, who attend Holy Family Church in Lawton, first considered the idea of ordained ministry five years ago. On Nov. 6, after three years of study and training, Peter was ordained a deacon by Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City. Paolo, meanwhile, is studying to become a priest of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese. He began his first year of theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Pennsylvania this fall, moving from Conception Seminary College in Missouri.

Northern Ireland's Hume given honorary degree by Fordham

NEW YORK (CNS) — John Hume, the Northern Ireland Catholic leader who is to receive the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Protestant leader David Trimble in December, was given an honorary doctor of laws degree Nov. 23 by Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York. Fordham honored Hume as one "whose voice through three decades of conflict remained a stubborn summons to renounce violence and choose, instead, the reconciliation of differences in the name of an authentic community."

Architect of Dayton accords honored at University of Dayton

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — The peace will hold in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but the upheaval in Kosovo troubles U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who believes the United States must maintain a strong presence in the troubled Balkans. "In Bosnia, we can say the country is at peace, and the peace will hold. In Kosovo, we have maybe four or five months at most before the risk of a resumption of the fighting, and it could happen any night," said Holbrooke at Marianist-run University of Dayton on Nov. 20, the eve of the third anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Kabila meets pope, Vatican officials to discuss Congo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo discussed the ongoing conflict in his country with Pope John Paul II and Vatican officials. During his first official European visit since taking power last year, Congolese President Laurent Kabila met Italian and Vatican officials Nov. 22-24 before heading to Belgium and to Paris for a French-African summit. In a statement released Nov. 24, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said that in addition to the pope, Kabila met Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, and Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, responsible for the Holy See's relations with other countries.

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.625%

LOWEST RATE SINCE 1958

We do it all!

1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

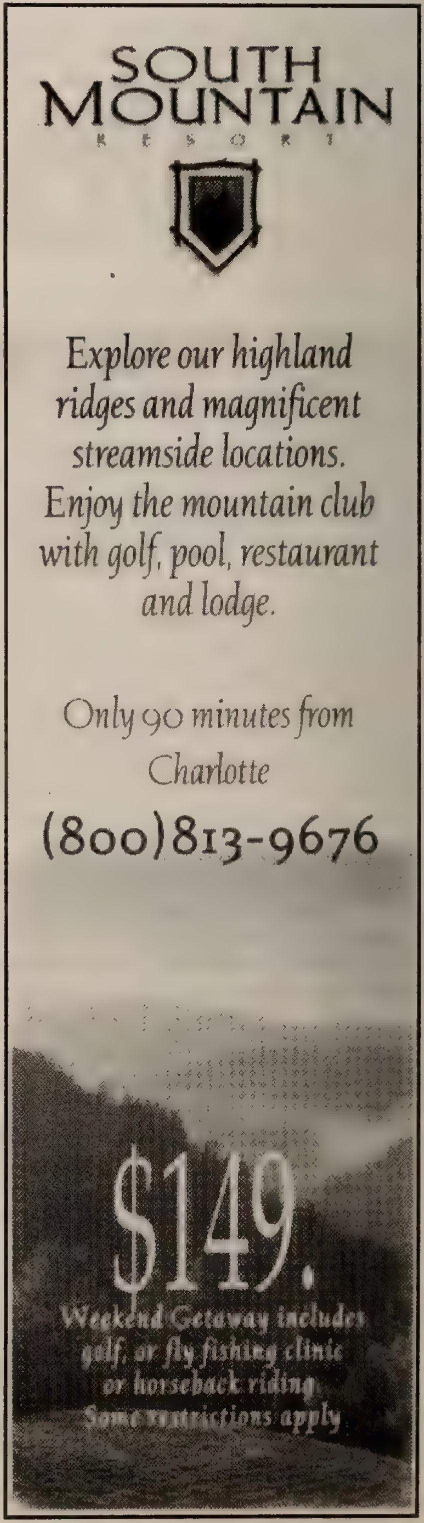
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003



SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.

Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding. Some restrictions apply

Pope says 1999 should begin pilgrimage of sharing, dialogue

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The final year of preparation for the Holy Year 2000 should mark the beginning of a pilgrimage of charity, of sharing with the poor and of dialogue with all people, Pope John Paul II said.

Celebrating Mass Nov. 29, the first Sunday of Advent, the pope said the Catholic Church's focus on God the Father over the coming year should emphasize that all people are children of God and, therefore, brothers and sisters.

"The God who comes to meet us is the one we have been seeking, or the one we have ignored or the one we even have been avoiding," the pope said during his homily in St. Peter's Basilica.

"He comes to meet us with open arms like a loving and merciful Father," he said.

God leads everyone on a journey to him, but he does not call people to travel alone, the pope said.

"We make it with all those who are a part of the family of God."

Because all people are brothers and sisters and part of the same family, they must learn to seek each other's support and offer one another help, he said.

Sometimes, the pope said, helping others means sharing with them the truth that salvation comes through Christ and inviting them to join the journey toward eternal happiness.

The pope said Christians are filled with hope by the knowledge that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem and died and rose in Jerusalem, will come again to establish his kingdom and give eternal life to all believers.

"Without this prospect," he said, "our existence would be reduced to living in order to die."

During his Angelus address after Mass, Pope John Paul invited all Catholics "to undertake an interior pilgrimage toward the house of our heavenly Father, who is rich in mercy; it is a journey of conversion in charity, in sharing with the poorest and in dialogue with our brothers and sisters."

The best opportunities most Catholics have to exercise their missionary responsibilities of proclaiming Christ and helping others come about at work, he said.

Pope John Paul announced that on the Dec. 8 feast of the Immaculate Conception he would release a letter to the people of the Diocese of Rome on the Gospel and the workplace.

In preparation for the jubilee year, the diocese has been involved in a "citizen's mission;" which has included house-to-house visits and the distribution of copies of the Gospels. ▼

Photo courtesy of Holy Cross Parish

Respect Life Monument Dedicated

Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the recent dedication of the Respect Life Garden at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Kernersville. The garden, which includes a rosary walk, statue of Mary and monument to the unborn, is the result of the efforts of the Kernersville church's Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes and parish council. Parishioners raised funds through memorials to their loved ones. The garden is dedicated to Father Thomas Fitzpatrick, OSFS, former pastor, for his contributions to the parish.

Indulgences, from page 3

difficulty — including the sick, the imprisoned, the elderly living alone and the handicapped — making a profession of faith and reciting the Lord's Prayer and a Marian prayer.

— Fasting or "abstaining for at least one whole day from unnecessary consumption," such as from drinking alcohol or smoking, then giving the money saved to the poor.

— Giving a "significant contribution" to religious or social works such as those benefiting abandoned children, troubled youths or immigrants.

— Devoting time to activities benefiting the community. ▼

Our Mission:

Providing Healing & Christian Service to North Carolinians for 50 Years

Ever since St. Joseph Hospital was founded in 1948 by Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh and Dr. Francis Owens of Southern Pines, our purpose has been to serve the health care needs of the residents of our communities.

We enter our second half-century of service with a renewed commitment to that mission. Our recent affiliations with Catholic Health East will allow us to do an even better job of ministering through caring.

Whether your health care needs involve long-term care, home health care in the 24 counties we serve, private duty nursing assistance, hospice, adult day health care, child care, senior housing or retirement living, think first of St. Joseph: the name you can trust.

ST JOSEPH OF THE PINES

1-800-581-9257

ABLE AIRE

24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948

A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company

Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands

Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary *5% off parts with this ad*

Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

Ministry to Vietnamese immigrants developed in the diocese during the ‘80s, with the community gathering at Our Lady of Consolation, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Ann Catholic churches for Mass through the years.

The 300-seat church will serve as a cultural center for the some 1,500 Vietnamese Catholics in the Charlotte area, as well as the locality’s greater Vietnamese population of close to 10,000.

The dedication was a visual pageant, featuring native Vietnamese dress, music and expression of worship. Wide-eyed children peered around parents for glimpses of the procession into the church. Smiling men and women donned traditional costumes of celebration.

ST.JOSEPH
CATHOLIC
DIOCES OF

Photos by Joann Keane

Celebrating faith and culture

ETNAMESE
MMUNITY
AROTTE, NC

ay I officially install you
community of faith in
vider community of the
e diocese. I come to
ecrate your altar and
cate your church. In
g this, I affirm and
r you as a very special,
people of God."

shop William G. Curlin

Vietnamese community's dream realized at dedication

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese New Year will be celebrated Feb. 16, 1999. But the Vietnamese Catholic community of Charlotte commemorated a beginning of its own Nov. 29, with a Mass dedicating its new church and cultural center.

"Today I officially install you as a community of faith in the wider community of the whole diocese," said Bishop William G. Curlin to those in attendance.

"I come to consecrate your altar and dedicate your church. In doing this, I affirm and honor you as a very special, holy people of God," added the bishop, who celebrated the Mass with diocesan and guest clergy, including Father Tan Van Le, the community's chaplain.

The dedication Mass and festivities, attended by some 2,500 people, crystallized a dream almost 20 years in the making.

The liturgy highlighted two days of celebrating the dedication of St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church, located on Sandy Porter Road in southwest Mecklenburg County. Youth activities, the sacrament of reconciliation and a Mass honoring Vietnamese saints added to the weekend occasion.

The dedication was a visual pageant, featuring native Vietnamese dress, music and expression of worship. Wide-eyed children peered around parents for glimpses of the procession into the church. Smiling men and women donned traditional costumes of celebration. Balloons, banners, and the clear, blue sky accentuated the din of excitement.

During his homily, Bishop Curlin applauded the community's perseverance and noted its tried history under Communist rule in Vietnam. "I have never met one community of faith that has suffered so much for our Catholic faith as you have," he said. "Many of you ... have borne personal witness in your sufferings to your faith in Jesus Christ.

"Some of you who have suffered in your homeland know that your churches were destroyed ... but they couldn't destroy Jesus in you."

Prior to their coming to Charlotte in search of jobs and religious freedom, most of the members of the Vietnamese Catholic community were imprisoned for their beliefs, explained Father Le, who has served as chaplain of the St. Joseph community since mid-1993.

Through worldwide humanitarian efforts and sponsorships from American individuals and organizations, including Catholic Social Services, Vietnamese received opportunities to come to North Carolina. Several Catholic families settled in Charlotte in the early 1980s, meeting from time to time for Mass.

The Vietnamese Catholic community numbered about 20 families in May 1981, when St. Joseph was chosen by them as their patron. By 1988, the community was 400 strong and growing.

Ministry to Vietnamese immigrants developed in the diocese during the '80s, with the community gathering at Our Lady of Consolation, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Ann Catholic churches for Mass through the years.

Through a diocesan sponsorship, Father Le arrived in 1993 from the Vihn Long Diocese in Vietnam, a diocese of some 300,000 Catholics south of Ho Chi Minh City.

In September 1994, the St. Joseph community began meeting weekly for Mass and other activities at St. Ann Church.

"It's been a long journey for them, both culturally and religiously, to bring this all together," said Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church. "The pride they have in this place is very evident of they way they live, they way they celebrate. Their faith is so deep."

In May 1995, the community received permission from the bishop to build its own church. Almost three years of enthusiastic fund-raising activities ensued, and in February 1998, the community purchased the former Steele Creek Baptist Church, a nearby house and the surrounding property. The first Mass was celebrated Aug. 30.

"With all the members of the St. Joseph community, in the spirit of thanksgiving, I am truly thankful to all of you for your wonderful support, sacrifice, (and) spiritual and financial contributions during the past years to make this work possible," said Father Le in closing comments during the Mass.

Addressing the community, Father Le said, "Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we are living far away from our native land, please come together with love, hope and faith in a brilliant future where we constantly reserve and develop our culture.

"We also do not forget to pray for our loved ones, relatives and friends who are still living in Vietnam. We pray that they may have freedom to worship God in peace and prosperity."

The 300-seat church will serve as a cultural center for the some 1,500 Vietnamese Catholics in the Charlotte area, as well as the locality's greater Vietnamese population of close to 10,000.

Masses are celebrated in Vietnamese each Saturday at 6 p.m., and Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. Vietnamese language classes are taught to children; catechism classes in Vietnamese and English are offered to both children and adults.

Future plans include Masses in English, and expanded educational and cultural activities. ▼

The Vietnamese Catholic community numbered about 20 families in May 1981, when St. Joseph was chosen by them as their patron. By 1988, the community was 400 strong and growing.

Book Review

Book draws powerful conclusions about affirmative action in higher education

REVIEWED BY **PATRICIA A. McGUIRE**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The former presidents of Harvard and Princeton have written a book with serious ramifications for Catholic higher education — even though Derek Bok and William Bowen barely mention any Catholic institutions in "The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions." The notable absence of Catholic colleges from this study exposes its fundamental flaw: Bowen and Bok draw powerful conclusions about the effectiveness of affirmative action in higher education based on a 30-year Mellon Foundation study of the graduates of only 28 colleges and universities — the 28 institutions considered to be the most elite in the country. There's not a Catholic college among them. When will Catholic higher education make a similarly compelling case for our access and impact on minority populations?

Bowen and Bok's data make it clear that affirmative action works in the 28 schools studied. Paradoxically, affirmative action works in these schools because of their elitism. The graduates of these 28 schools enjoy economic and social benefits that almost no other cohort group can hope to attain with the same certainty. Although black students (the principal beneficiaries of the affirmative action policies studied) who gain admission to these institutions have, on average, lower SAT scores and weaker academic preparation than their white counterparts, the black students persist and graduate at far higher levels than black or white students at less selective schools. Similarly, the lifelong economic and social achievements of the black graduates of the 28 highly selective schools are significantly higher than graduates of all races of other colleges and universities.

Critics of this study claim that the cause and effect are not so clear. The authors admit that the prestige of these schools may affect the outcomes. The authors remark, "The college or university that a student attends is a much better predictor of the odds of graduating than is the student's own SAT score." Inadvertently and most unfortunately, such reasoning casts many other excellent colleges and universities in an unfavorable light.

Bowen and Bok make a compelling case for affirmative action. At the same time, this book cries out for follow-up studies focusing on the effectiveness those sectors of higher education whose service in the name of educational access, justice and equity have been great — historically black colleges women's colleges, and Catholic colleges. Such institutions have centuries-old track records of success in educating precisely the people who were formerly excluded in the Ivy League — long before "affirmative action" forced open those ivy-covered walls in Cambridge & Co. ▾

McGuire is president of Trinity College in Washington and is a frequent writer and commentator on topics in Catholic education and higher education.

"The Shape of the River: Long-term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions," by William G. Bowen and Derek Bok. Princeton University Press (Princeton, N.J., 1998). 472 pp. $24.95.

Word to Life

December 6, Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A. Readings:

1) Isaiah 11: 1-10
   Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
2) Romans 15: 4-9
3) Matthew 3: 1-12

BY **BOZENA CLOUTIER**

My parents' small farm in England could look quite lovely on a sunny summer's day. Seeing sheep lying in the apple orchard, the geese resting peaceably by the pond and the dog stretched out in the warm sun, visitors would often exclaim: "What a little Eden! How beautiful this is!"

What few saw were the other days, the ones that were not sunny. What even fewer understood was the radical change my parents had made to take up farming in their middle years.

The aftermath of World War II had made them stateless and poor. My father's professional job was winding down, and there were five children to raise. They borrowed money where they could and bought a small, run-down farm. At one time my mother ran a large household with servants. Now she was in a farmhouse with no electricity, modern plumbing or telephone.

The ensuing years were full of hard work, money worries and often heartache.

I thought so much about those times when reflecting on today's Scriptures. Isaiah sees a vision of God's holy mountain when "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid". It's an idyllic scene often depicted on Christmas cards. We yearn for that kind of harmony in nature, in the world, perhaps most of all in our own lives. Yes, it will come, but it won't just magically happen. Radical changes will have to be made first. "Reform your lives," says John the Baptist, "give some evidence that you mean to reform."

Re-forming, re-shaping our lives is difficult. It is often crisis that precipitates such change and forces us to do something or go somewhere we'd rather not.

Paul may have had this in mind when writing to the Romans that "the lessons of patience and words of encouragement in the Scriptures" are to give us hope and perserverence at those times.

But there are glimpses of God's holy mountain in that process.

My parents did indeed have some sunny days on the farm, and one of my cherished memories is of them sitting on a bench in the blossoming apple orchard. ▾

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 6 - 12, 1998

Sunday, Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12; **Monday**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday**, Genesis 3:9-15,20, Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Romans 8:28-30, Luke 2:15-19

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
CHRISTMAS IDEAS!! Cards, Ornaments, Nativities, Angels...
plus Bibles, Religious Plaques, Medals, CDs, and over 700 book titles!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE — DEC. 8
We gather to pray for an end to sins against life.

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Participating Parishes:
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville; Holy Family, Clemmons; Holy Infant, Reidsville; Holy Spirit, Denver; St. Ann, Charlotte; St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir; St. John the Evangelist, Waynesville; St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden; St. Lucien, Spruce Pine; St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa; St. Mary, Shelby; St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte; St. Aloysius, Hickory (December 4th)

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ◎ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7007
(800) 331-0768

"The Rugrats Movie" teaches lessons of loyalty, friendship

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

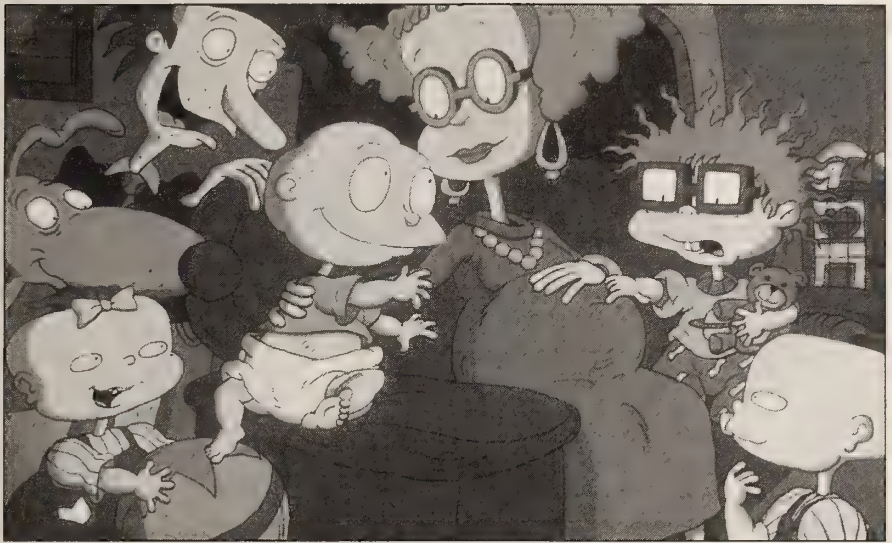
NEW YORK (CNS) — "The Rugrats Movie" (Paramount) has the tiny tykes of the popular TV series bouncing onto the big screen — and landing on their feet.

The animated children's TV series that airs on cable's Nickelodeon channel centers on toddlers Tommy Pickles (voice of E.G. Daily), his best buddy Chuckie (Christine Cavanaugh), twins Lil and Phil (Kath Soucie), and slightly older, bossier Angelica (Cheryl Chase). As life is seen from a pint-size point of view, their respective parents are strictly second bananas in the scheme of things.

For the movie, however, directors Norton Virgien and Igor Kovalyov orchestrate a blessed event for Ma and Pa Pickles (Melanie Chartoff and Jack Riley) — the arrival of baby brother Dylan (Tara Charendoff). When your last name is Pickles, your nickname just has to be Dil.

Except Dil's no thrill once he's home from the hospital, squawking and spitting up and preoccupying Tommy's once attentive parents. The twins come up with a radical solution; since Dil's such a crybaby, they will simply return him to what they think is the baby store where his parents went to pick him up.

Soon the toddlers are all off and running, actually riding in Pa's newly invented Reptar Wagon, with Angelica in hot pursuit since baby Dil is clutching her favorite dolly. A scary forest is between them and their hospital destination and in it are escaped performing circus monkeys — and a big bad wolf.



CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

Stu, Tommy, Didi, Chuckie, Angelica, Phil, Lil and Spike are the main characters in the animated film, "The Rugrats Movie," featuring toddlers and babies who communicate among themselves. The film's U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

The animation is cute but not exceptional; the appeal of the movie (and series) is how it is shot from a toddler's perspective that allows their differing personalities to come to the forefront.

Overall it proves a peppy tale that ends up teaching lessons about loyalty and friendship, and watching over little ones in the family who can't yet help themselves. By movie's end Tommy has proven himself a real big brother to lil Dil.

One of the brief sight gags errs on the tasteless side, however, as the toddlers crawl into the hospital nursery and look up to see arcs of watery spray coming from what one assumes are undiapered male infants.

A few sparse musical numbers provide relief from the none-too-original terrors of the forest as worried parents gather and a pair of park rangers manage to miss the missing kids practically under their noses.

Some of the scenes are momentarily menacing but would-be disasters always seem to right themselves before the small fry in the audience would have time to be truly frightened.

And there is a genuine sweetness in the movie's message to love your siblings even if they are bothersome. A skimpy baby blanket becomes the means for Tommy and Dil to get close, so to speak, and share some brotherly love.

The mediocre production values look more budgeted to TV than the big screen, but with such a large, presold audience, it probably wasn't necessary to put "The Rugrats Movie" on the lush scale of a Disney production.

Indeed, before its release, there already were firm plans for a sequel, and the movie's strong opening weekend will only put the next adventure on the fast track.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV programs of note

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some programs of note for the week on Dec. 6:

Monday, Dec. 7, 8-10 p.m. EST (NBC) **"A Champion's Fight: A Moment of Truth Movie."** Fact-based drama in which a high school girl (Katie Harrod) defies her mother (Beth Broderick) by refusing to attend a prominent school in order to stand by her gravely ill boyfriend (Scott Vickyrous).

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) **"Christmas in My Hometown."** Rebroadcast of a drama in which a corporate downsizer (Tim Matheson) comes to a small town whose tractor company he plans to close only to fall for a young woman (Melissa Gilbert) whose entire family is employed in the doomed factory.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 8-9 p.m. EST (PBS) **"Burt Bacharach — One Amazing Night."** Special highlights the composer's array of popular hits, arranged and conducted by him, with performances by Dionne Warwick, Sheryl Crow, All Saints, Elvis Costello, Wynonna Judd and Luther Vandross.

"I was accepted at four colleges and universities, but once I saw all Belmont Abbey College had to offer, there was really no comparison. The Abbey was the right decision."

Patrick Cahill, Class of 2002

Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Catholic High School

Major: Undecided

Patrick Cahill — who excelled in high school sports and musical productions, and served as president of his student body — says Belmont Abbey College is the perfect fit for him, for many reasons.

"The Abbey has so much to offer. The campus is beautiful and the environment is warm and welcoming. When I visited, I just knew I would fit in here."

Patrick claims it is "the right people in the right positions" that has made his Abbey experience so unforgettable.

"The hearts of the people are genuine and caring; that's one of the things I love about this place. I receive personal attention from people who really know what they're talking about. All five of my current instructors have their doctorate degrees. My classes range from just 15 to 30 students — which is really ideal ... I've been so impressed."

Patrick is leaning toward a major in philosophy or history and plans to try out for the baseball team. He will also continue the work he began in high school helping underprivileged children in downtown Charlotte with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

"You can't ask for a stronger Catholic identity than here at Belmont Abbey College, yet our Benedictine instructors don't really care what denomination you're from; they just want the opportunity to teach you. In fact, a fair percentage of our students are not Catholic, and all are welcome with open arms."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Belmont, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • Toll-Free 888.BAC.0110

Attention Parents!

Medical
Career
School Uniforms

SAVE TIME and MONEY with...
- *A+ school approved uniforms in stock*
- *Competitive pricing*
- *Free delivery to your school*

Toll-free Order Hot Line
1-888-895-0071

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Retired?
Have some free time?
Looking for fun ways to share life's experiences and learn from others at the same time?

We know you have a lot to offer and we need YOU...

The Catholic Conference Center will be offering educational adventures to seniors through partnerships with area colleges and universities. If you have a special talent you would like to share or just love learning with others... call to become a part of this exciting program. We also need qualified volunteers to teach and facilitate.

Call the Center today for more information.

The Catholic Conference Center

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory NC
Phone: (704) 327-7441 or Toll-Free: (888) 536-7441 or E-mail: ccc@twave.net
Visit our website! CatholicConference.org

Tape of sacramental confession to remain intact

By ED LANGLOIS

Catholic News Service

EUGENE, Ore. (CNS) — A secretly made tape recording of a jailhouse confession could remain intact for a decade until the conclusion of a capital punishment appeal.

The only case of a tape-recorded sacramental confession began in April 1996, when Father Timothy Mockaitis visited murder suspect Conan Hale in Lane County Jail. Prosecutors secretly recorded the sacred conversation, sparking a religious controversy that drew the ire of the Vatican.

Last May, a jury found Hale guilty of triple murder and a judge imposed the death penalty.

Hale's attorneys began an appeal of the sentence, a legal journey that has taken as long as 10 years in other cases. Prosecutors, who promised not to use the tape, said that Hale's lawyers may try to use it when appealing his sentence.

The Archdiocese of Portland argued and negotiated to have the tape destroyed immediately, but judges refused.

The church argued that the taping violated constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure. But Catholic leaders also saw the recording as an unthinkable intrusion into a sacred encounter.

"If this tape is used in court, our relationship to the state will be different from what we had believed it to be," wrote then-Portland Archbishop Francis E. George, now a cardinal and the archbishop of Chicago. "Use of the tape will have a chilling effect on our religious life."

Lawyers on both sides of the case listened to the recording, but it was not used during the six-week-long trial.

In January 1997, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled the taping unconstitutional and a violation of religious freedom.

Father Michael Maslowsky, a Portland priest-lawyer who has been watching the case, said the tape will be destroyed after Hale's execution or if he is set free. The tape remains in a state evidence lockup.

"The 9th Circuit Court's declaration added that this could never happen again," Father Maslowsky said. ▼

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. *You can literally change a life!*

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."
Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ _______. CNH12/98
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ________ Exp. Date ____
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ _______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ________ (please print)
Address ________
City/State/Zip ________
Phone (____) ________

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
414

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Books make great gifts for children

REVIEWED BY **MARGARET KRAUSE** AND **BARB FRAZE**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The following books for children are recommended for Christmas gift-giving.

"Our Earth," written and illustrated by Anne Rockwell. Harcourt Brace (San Diego, 1998), 24 pp, $13.

When young children ask about the world in which they live, this book can provide some simple lessons in geography. Anne Rockwell introduces the youngest readers to arid deserts, dark caves, colorful rain forests, snow-capped mountains and the formation of rivers. Its bright illustrations and simple text make this a captivating book for the earliest of minds. (Ages 2-6)

"How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star," by Joe Griffith. Yorktown Press (Dallas, 1998). 113 pp., $12.95.

Although this book is billed as "a story of hope for dyslexic children and their parents," it makes good reading for anyone. Children will understand Benny's feelings of frustration and shame and appreciate his accomplishments on the football field once a knowing adult figures out his mind works differently than most kids'. (Ages 9-13)

"Can You Find Bible Heroes?" by Philip D. Gallery, illustrated by Janet L. Harlow. St. Anthony Messenger Press (Cincinnati, 1998), 40 pp., $15.95.

Modeled after the popular "Where's Waldo?" publications, this clever book introduces children to the most familiar Bible stories and asks them to locate the Bible heroes in very busy illustrations. The men and women of the Old Testament are hidden throughout the pictures, as are 10 symbols of God's love, including a lamb, a dove and the Ten Commandments. This format is an entertaining way to keep children's interest while also teaching them about Creation, Noah's Ark and much more. Ages 4-10.

"The Lost Tooth Club," by Arden Johnson. Tricycle Press (Berkeley, Calif., 1998). 33 pp., $13.95.

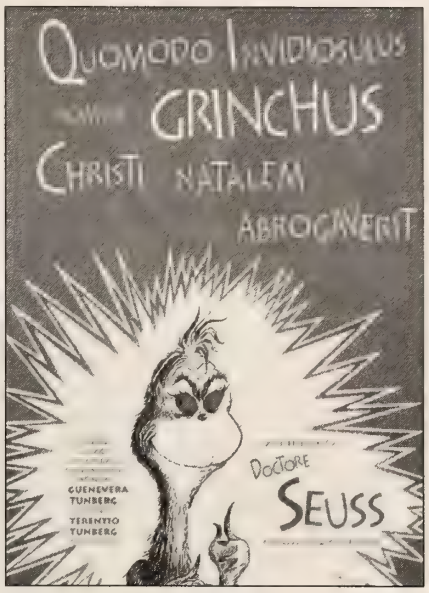
Olivia wants to belong to The Lost Tooth Club, but she hasn't lost a tooth. She thinks of several clever ways to make herself seem eligible, but to no avail. This humorous look at Olivia's antics, complete with large pastel illustrations, will appeal especially to children of The Lost Tooth Club age. (Ages 5-8)

"All God's Children," selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Amanda Schaffer. Harcourt Brace (San Diego, 1998), 48 pp, $15.

This collection of prayers compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins focuses on God's love for his children. The prayers are simple and understandable, making this a perfect resource for parents introducing their children to prayer. Amanda Schaffer's illustrations add vibrancy and dimension to each page. Ages 3-10.

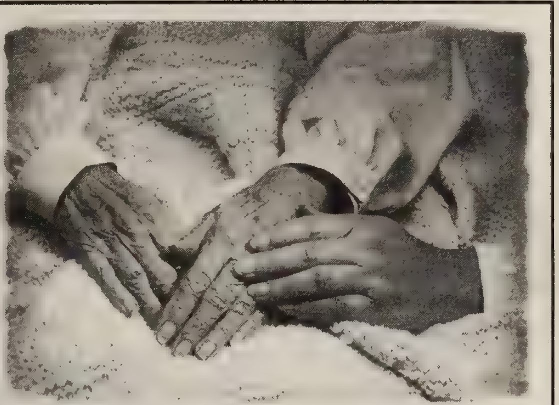
"Soul Mates," by John Ballard. World Citizens (Mill Valley, Calif., 1998). 345 pp., $16.95 hardcover, $14.95 paperback.

MacBurnie King is not your typical 16-year-old girl, and this is not a typical teen-age novel. When she loses contact with a child she sponsored, MacBurnie travels to India to search for him — a story twist the author executes in a plausible manner. This book will be a cultural eye-opener for many. It combines adventure, romance and social conscience without being preachy. (Ages 13-up). ▼


Quomodo Invidiosulus Nomine Grinchus Christi Natalem Abrogaverit
Guenevera Tunberg
Terentio Tunberg
Doctore Seuss

"Quomodo Invidiosulus Nomine Grinchus Christi Natalem Abrogaverit," a Doctore Seuss. Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers (Wauconda, Ill., 1998). 56 pp., $22.50 hard cover, $16.95 paperback.

Any Latin lover will immediately recognize in this title the perennial Dr. Seuss favorite, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." This translation of a children's classic, complete with the original illustrations, is superbly done and makes Latin fun. With a full vocabulary in the back to help learners, it is sure to be a hit among students who have a year or two of Latin "sub cingulo" (under their belt). Ages 12-up


Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

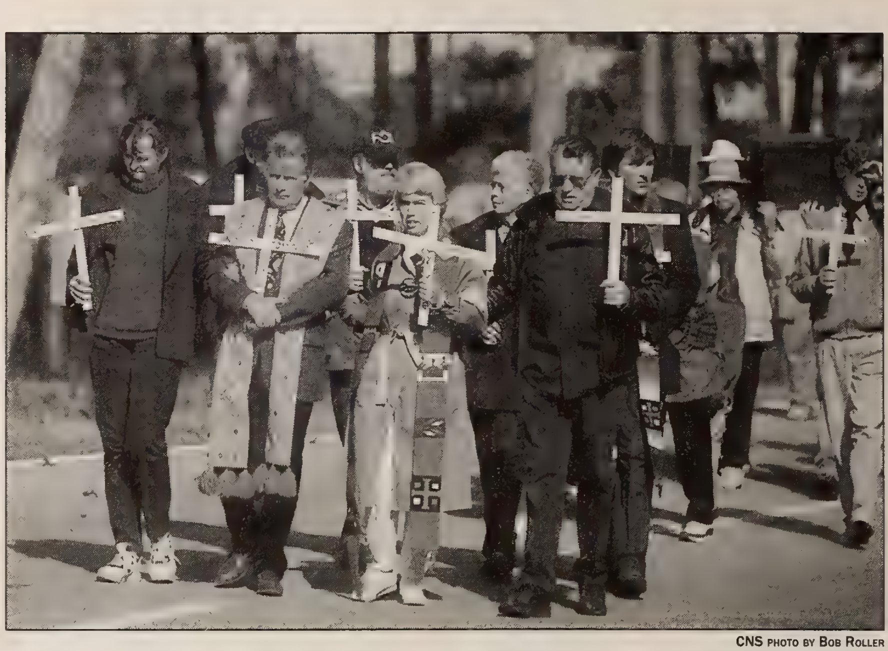
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

School-Protest,

from page 1



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Actor Martin Sheen, second from left, and Franciscan Sister Jackie Doepker, third from left, lead 7,000 people who protested Nov. 22 to press for the closing of the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Columbus, Ga.

responsible for the growth of democracy in Latin America, said officials tried a different tactic this year hoping to change the approach "on both sides of this issue."

This is the ninth year that opponents of the school have called for its closure. The annual vigil began in 1990 as a commemoration of the 1989 massacre of six Jesuits priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, and participation has grown from a handful of participants to this year's 7,000, a figure reported by organizers and confirmed by local police.

"I think it's an important way to achieve social justice in Latin America," said Justo German Castro Lux of the protest. "Maintaining this school is a barrier toward achieving this. The military forces promote genocide and ethnocide in our countries."

Lux is an immigrant from Guatemala currently working in Morganton as a Glenmary Co-missioner. He was among a group of Co-missioners from Morganton who participated in the gathering.

Other North Carolina protesters traveled from the Triad, mountains, the Charlotte area, the Triangle and elsewhere. Four Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina and a Mercy Associate from Belmont joined more than 40 Mercy sisters and associates from throughout the country.

"The people of Central America have suffered too much in the past 30 years from the politics of terror conceived and implemented by the graduates of this (SOA) program," said Sister of Mercy Elizabeth McMillian, who lives and ministers in Honduras.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas issued a statement Nov. 17 calling on the U.S. government to close the facility.

Throughout the protest, speakers and organizers said they had no fight with the military, they just wanted to close the school.

"I say to all the CIA, all workers at the SOA and all military personnel, 'You are not our enemies, you are our brothers and sisters. Join us as we close the School of the Americas,'" said Jesuit Father John Dear, the director of Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace organization in the United States. He has been arrested and jailed for many peace-related causes.

In response to criticism of the SOA operation, the school's officials have repeatedly labeled as "absolutely false" the accusations that it teaches torture and murder. "The school teaches U.S. Army doctrine which is based on over 200 years of success," according to an SOA statement.

The Army said critics have a list of 300 SOA graduates out of almost 60,000 who are supposedly linked to human rights violations.

"To pad their lists, critics frequently layer names of all superiors in the chain of command to those who may have been directly involved," the Army said. "Of these 300, only 20 have been tried and convicted by their nation's judicial system."

The Army maintains that training at the school "is based on U.S. Army doctrine which complies with universal laws governing the appropriate use of force when warranted as legal."

Army officials also say the school is regularly inspected as part of the Army's Command Inspection Program, and that a board of governors, made up of "academicians, general officers, human rights experts and ambassadors," oversee curriculum, training and administration.

However, one former military officer and now protester disagrees with the Army's assessment. Retired Maj. Joseph Blair, a former instructor at SOA and now a critic of the school, said manuals were used which recommended techniques of torture, execution, blackmail and intimidation.

Asked what motivated him to become an outspoken critic of the school, Blair replied, "I finally got fed up with the lies and distortions."

He cited the murders of the Jesuits, saying, "Three of my former students murdered the Jesuits."

A bill to cut funding for the SOA was narrowly defeated in the House of Representatives in September by a 212 to 201 vote.

"This is an historic moment," Father Bourgeois said at the vigil at Fort Benning. "The decision makers in Washington must pay attention to when the people speak with such a decisive voice." ▼

Contributing to this story were Rafe Middeke, Jimmy Rostar, and Deirdre C. Mays.

A Piece Of
Heaven, Inc.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS
3000 Angels, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets

Special Men's Day!
Tuesday, December 15 10am-9pm
Free gift wrapping & hors d'oeuvres

155 Jonestown Rd./Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799

Holiday Hours:
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

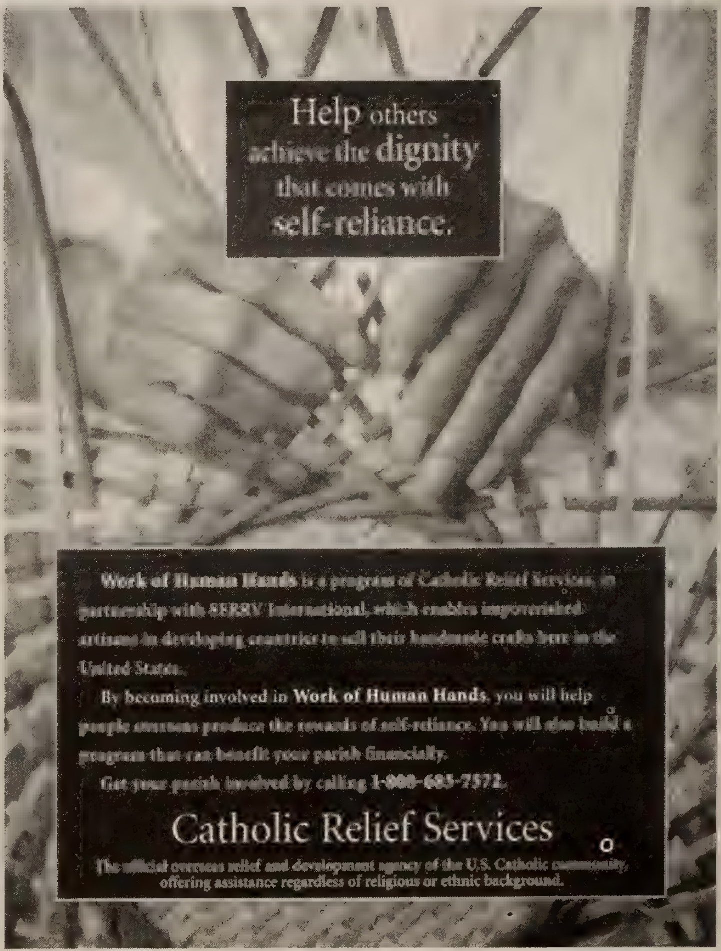
We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen—Audi
South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com



Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling 1-800-685-7572.

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Raleigh Diocese's house of formation, vocations office

'House of prayer'

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — The Diocese of Raleigh has announced the establishment of the Father Price House of Formation in Chapel Hill, a move that may forever change the way a man becomes a priest in the diocese.

Father Michael Clay, pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Chapel Hill, was named the director of clergy formation and of the new facility, which will be located in the old St. Thomas More Church buildings on Gimghoul Road. Father Ned Shlesinger, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Newton Grove, was named assistant vocations director, and will be primarily responsible for promotion.

The new house of formation, expected to open officially in July of 1999, will be a headquarters of sorts for those studying to be a priest for the diocese, especially those new to North Carolina.

"It will be a house of prayer, a house of study, a house of community and living," said Father Gerald Lewis, vicar general of the diocese. "Bishop (Joseph) Gossman has long felt a need for a place for seminarians to begin their formation in an environment in our local diocese."

"Spiritual formation is in my opinion the most important aspect of priestly formation," said Bishop Gossman. "Education is important, but formation is even more important."

The bishop said the new house of formation will be especially important to the "transplants" among the new seminarians. "They know very little about the area where we minister and preach the Gospel."

Of the 33 men in various stages of formation for the diocese, only four are native North Carolinians. The 33 men represent four different continents: Europe, Asia, South America and North America.

The house of formation is the result of about two years of study. When the St. Thomas More parish began to prepare for its move to its new home on Carmichael Street, Bishop Gossman appointed a committee to determine whether a house of formation was needed, and where to locate the new facility.

The committee was chaired by Father Paul Byron, and included Fathers Lewis and Clay, Phillip Leach, Thomas Davis, John Ranalli, Thomas Tully, Tim O'Connor and James Labosky. Other members included Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Carol Loughney, John Riedy, then chancellor of the diocese; George Lensing, and Philip and Lucia Stadter.

"The need was affirmed," Father Lewis said. "We looked around the diocese, and there was no place that presented all the opportunities for study and spiritual nourishment. It was determined that a house of formation in another location would in no way be a savings."

The Chapel Hill location has several strengths, he said. It is located near four major universities: the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Duke and North Carolina Central in Durham, and North Carolina State in Raleigh. Chapel Hill is also central to the state itself, allowing seminarians the opportunity to explore the state and see the diocese's various parishes. It is also located within the Triangle area, and the state's museums and other cultural opportunities.

In addition, he said, the rectory can handle 10 residents with little or no renovations. The church's nave will likely be divided into a small lecture hall, library, study area and meeting room, he said, but the sanctuary can remain relatively intact to serve as the seminarians' chapel.

When the house committee was first formed, it was speculated that the facility could also be used for the further education of current clergy and for potential lay ministry formation.

But Father Lewis said that "in the beginning, it's going to be specifically for potential priests. In the future, thought will be given to other areas of formation, but for now, our primary focus is on the seminarians."

The establishment of a new house of formation will likely lead to many changes in priestly formation in the diocese.

In recent years, for example, a man newly accepted to the diocesan vocations program is assigned to a parish for a "pastoral year," during which he learns about the life of priest and a Catholic parish. Usually he is assigned to a seminary the very next year.

However, Father Lewis said, new candidates for priesthood will probably be assigned first to the house of formation for one or two years "for a program of inculturation to North Carolina" and possibly courses in religion, philosophy and spirituality from area universities and in the house of formation itself. A seminarian from a Spanish-speaking country could conceivably work intensively on his English while living in the house.

Potentially, Father Lewis said, the house of formation could work closely with seminaries so that the students could get credit for courses taken while living in the house.

The pastoral year would still be a part of priestly formation, but it would come after the time in the house of formation. Seminary would then follow, as before.

Father Lewis said that the Catholic church of North Carolina is unique enough to almost require an "inculturation" to Tarheel culture.

"We are still a new church in North Carolina," he said. "A church that has grown in leaps and bounds, but still a new church. We don't have the 200-to-300-year tradition that they have in some parts of the country. We're not burdened by tradition, but we're not supported by it either."

Bishop Gossman acknowledged that the house of formation may add one or two years to a priest's study, and that fact "may scare away some candidates."

"But this is important enough for us to do this. We're looking to add depth, not just time. Our priests will have a deeper level of preparation, not just more preparation." ▼

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

Christmas Cards, Gifts, & Creches

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Development and Alumni: Needed beginning January 1999. Please send resume and request for application to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Principal: St. Bridget's School, serving 475 students grades K through 8, invites applications for the position of Principal starting August 1, 1999. The school is part of St. Bridget's parish, a Catholic community of 2500 families, located in Richmond, Virginia. The Principal is responsible for overseeing all aspects of school life in keeping with a vision of Catholic education. Therefore, the application must be a practicing Catholic, hold a Master's degree in educational administration or related field, and have a minimum of five years teaching and/or administrative experience, and be certified in Virginia. Interested persons should submit a resume no later than December 31, 1998 to: Principal Search Committee, St. Bridget's Church, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Human Resources Clerk: Part-time Human Resources Clerk needed to work at Catholic Pastoral Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting January 18, 1999. Applicants must have a high school or business college degree, and possess strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills. Interested applicants should submit resumes before December 18 to: Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, Vice Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude for answering my prayers.
— D.L.

Father Gene's life of love

By TIM FUNK
The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE — It's his life, this thing called love. No, not romantic love. He's a Catholic priest, 75 years old.

Not Hallmark-card-have-a-nice-day love, either. He practically slaps his congregation with the word. "God LOVES you," he barks in his sermons at St. Peter Catholic Church in uptown Charlotte. It's as if he's trying to wake them up, make them see how priceless they are in the eyes of the one who made them and died for them. "God LOVES you."

If you press the Rev. Gene McCreesh on what exactly he means by love, he'll give you a one-word definition: Jesus. If Jesus did it, that's love.

Jesus ministered to the poorest of the poor. So does McCreesh.

Shortly after he arrived in Charlotte in 1985, he started driving around town with blankets and sandwiches, looking for homeless men sleeping under bridges and in parks. We've got to have a place for these men to stay, he told everybody who'd listen. Finally, with his help, the George Shinn Center/Uptown Men's Shelter was opened.

Jesus healed the sick. So does McCreesh.

He can't restore their bodies like Jesus did with lepers. But he can and does soothe the hearts and minds of AIDS patients by helping them find peace as they approach death. The House of Mercy, a home for adults in the final stages of AIDS, put him on its board of directors and, last Saturday night, feted him at a $100-per-person fund-raiser. St. Peter, where McCreesh is vicar, was the second church in Charlotte to join the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) and with four RAIN teams tending to the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, is one of the most active.

Jesus confounded the Pharisees by embracing outcasts. So does McCreesh.

At a time when the issue of homosexuality is dividing churchgoers and voters, he's been among Charlotte's most passionate defenders of gays and lesbians. He counts many of them among his flock. On April 1, 1997, he went before the Mecklenburg County commissioners — poised that night to punish the Arts & Science Council for supporting the staging of "Angels in America," a play with homosexual characters — to urge equal justice for all people, including gays.

Discrimination against homosexuals reminds McCreesh of what it used to be like for many Irish Catholic immigrants, including his own parents.

Today, America seems charmed by all things Irish — "Angela's Ashes" has sold millions of copies; "Riverdance" tickets go fast — but John McCreesh was told he couldn't buy a house in a WASPish section of Philadelphia in 1926. No Irish Catholics allowed.

Things changed. In 1934, McCreesh's father — a one-time chauffeur who'd made a lot of money with Philadelphia's first parking garages, then lost it all during the Depression — was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate. Gene, the second youngest of eight children, would visit him in Harrisburg and take a seat on the Senate floor.

Father Gene McCreesh

It was his mother, Susan, who taught him compassion and trust in God. Hungry men who'd lost their jobs after the Wall Street crash came to his family's back door, asking for food. McCreesh helped his mother pass out sandwiches and oatmeal.

By the time he was 18, McCreesh had decided he wanted to be a priest and a missionary. He began studying with the Jesuits. In 1954, he was ordained; in 1958, he headed for Burma. He stayed several years, until the socialist government expelled all foreigners. Among his jobs upon his return: pastor of an inner city black church in Philadelphia.

He came to Charlotte after a heart attack in 1984. His doctor had told him Pennsylvania winters were too cold. How about Puerto Rico? he asked. Too hot.

Thirteen years later, "Father Gene," as the parishioners at St. Peter's call him, has become such an uptown Charlotte fixture that artist Ben Long painted his portrait — along with those of other prominent Charlotteans — in the dome of the lobby of the Transamerica Building. McCreesh introduced Long to his homeless flock in the 1980s.

As a follow-up to the House of Mercy's formal dinner for McCreesh last weekend, the congregation at St. Peter's will host a 100-cents-per-person "No Black Tie Event" for their vicar Dec. 5.

But don't mistake any of this for impending retirement. McCreesh isn't out of love yet.

He'd like to help start a dialogue in Charlotte between gays and straights, as part of the Building Bridges approach Mecklenburg Ministries is using to get blacks and whites talking to each other.

It's time, he says, for those who differ on homosexuality to sit down together.

"I've heard some people say they love the sinner, but hate the sin," McCreesh says. "But how can you love someone you don't know? Have you ever heard their stories?"

Reprinted with permission of The Charlotte Observer. Tim Funk, an Observer reporter, is on temporary assignment with their editorial team. He is a member of St. Patrick Cathedral.

Feel the Warmth of the Holidays at Colchester Place

GARDENS & NURSERY

Festive Gifts & Decorating Ideas

Poinsettias
Over 20,000 assorted colors and sizes
Beautiful 6" potted poinsettias
from $2.99 ea., ten count case $25.

Christmas Trees
Fresh Cut, Carolina Grown

Frasier Fir
Grade /Premium 6-15'

Wreaths & Garland
Many Sizes 25' & 75' Coils
Designs White Pine & Frasier Fir

Miniature Christmas Trees
Dwarf Alberta Spruce
from 12" to 48"

Holiday Flowering Cactus
Perfect house plant that blooms just in
time for the holidays, year after year.

Extended Holiday Hours thru Dec 24
Mon-Sat: 8:30-10pm, Sun: 11-6pm
341-2200
10605 Park Road, Charlotte at BLACKLION

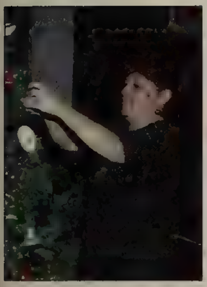
*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S299 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 11, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 15

Inside



Cuba reinstates Christmas ...PAGE 7

Wreath pins help Catholics "take back Advent" ...PAGE 16

Local News

N.C. State archeologists find oldest Christian church ...PAGE 14

Diocese unveils strategic plan for ministry ...PAGE 15

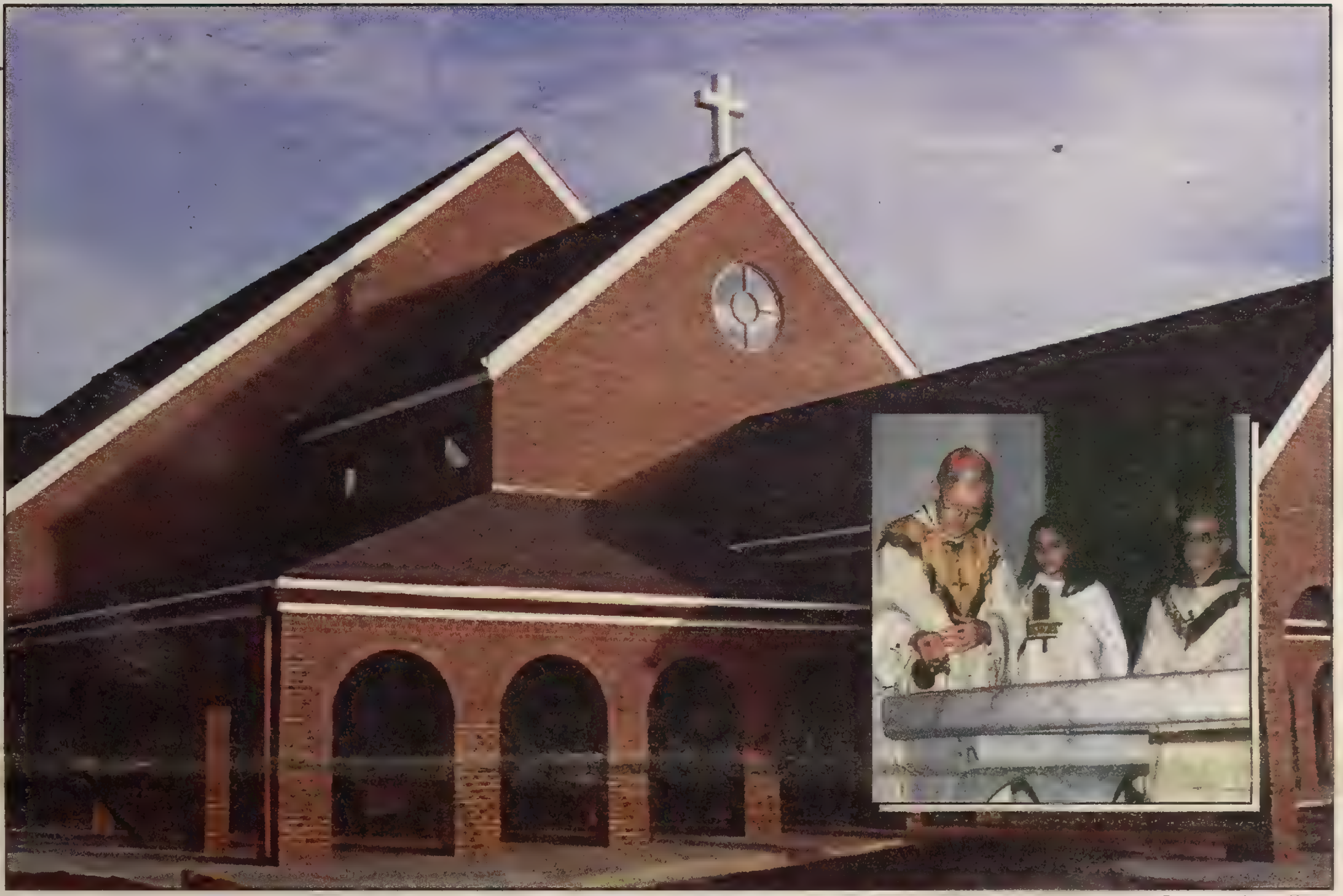
Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

> "Charity is the power of defending that which we know to be indefensible. Hope is the power of being cheerful in circumstances which we know to be desperate."
>
> — *G. K. Chesterton*



PHOTOS BY JOANN KEANE

"That seed already had history of the past, the treasure of the present and dreams of the future. What was future is now present, what was present is now past, and we are holding all three of them as we learn from our yesterdays, live our todays and shape our tomorrows," said Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia. The Immaculate Conception pastor's words come from a parish book published to coincide with the dedication of the new church.

Hendersonville parish retains past in new facility

BY JOANN KEANE
EDITOR

HENDERSONVILLE — "The church you wanted is here," exclaimed Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia, to resounding applause.

This church is the fourth facility to serve the Hendersonville community since the first cornerstone for the first church was laid 86 years ago.

"We had the church *family*, now we have the church *facility*. This is it ... the result of faith, hope and prayers," said Father Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception.

Father Aurilia's comments gave credence to those of The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, bishop of Charlotte, celebrant and homilist for the dedication of the newly built Hendersonville church.

To the parish community the bishop said, "I can only imagine the joy that fills our friars today, but I offer a special thanks to you, the parish family who built this church."

Though new construction surrounds the parish family of Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville, there is a sense of deja vu as many of the details of the parish are recycled items — reclaimed shadows of its former self.

Throughout the parish facility, from the main worship area to the lower level chapel, visual reminders of the former parish bear witness to the parish's nearly nine decades of faithful service in the foothills of western North Carolina. The lower chapel's altar is from the former church. It is supported on pedestals of rock and cornerstones from the former church. The chapel, with a seating capacity of about 100, utilized 14 pews from the former church. Worshippers recognize the stations of the cross, too, though they were reframed to accommodate mounting on the walls.

Into the new altar, relics — of Pius X, Rita of Cascia, Aloysius Gonzaga, Anthony of Padua and John Vianney — were placed and sealed.

To make the best of non-usable items, some of the former pews and doors were donated to Contemporary First Baptist Church in Hendersonville, while the lighting from the former church was donated to Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish in Kill Devil Hills — a Raleigh Diocese parish on the Outer Banks rebuilding from a serious fire that wreaked havoc earlier this year.

Over 30 months passed from groundbreaking to dedication. Along the way, the parish adopted a slogan rededicating its mission to that of worship and service to the greater community: "As disciples of Jesus Christ, we support one another as we go forward to serve God and all our sisters and brothers as a parish of concern and service for the indvidual, the family and the total community."

Today, nearly 1,500 families heed those words. The parish of Immaculate Conception is truly one in service to humankind. With offerings of a parish school, active youth group, women's guild, and a loyal membership of Knights of Columbus to outreach ministries for the homebound and sick, and a parish family outreach to those in need, parishioners prove time and again that their words are more than lip service.

Two and a half years ago, the family of Immaculate Conception banded with a mission challenging them to "enter to worship, leave to serve." On Dec. 5, Bishop Curlin reflected that sentiment: "As you leave the church facility, take Jesus into the community, like a river of love. That's what it is to be church." ▾

Foes question decision to delay execution until after papal visit

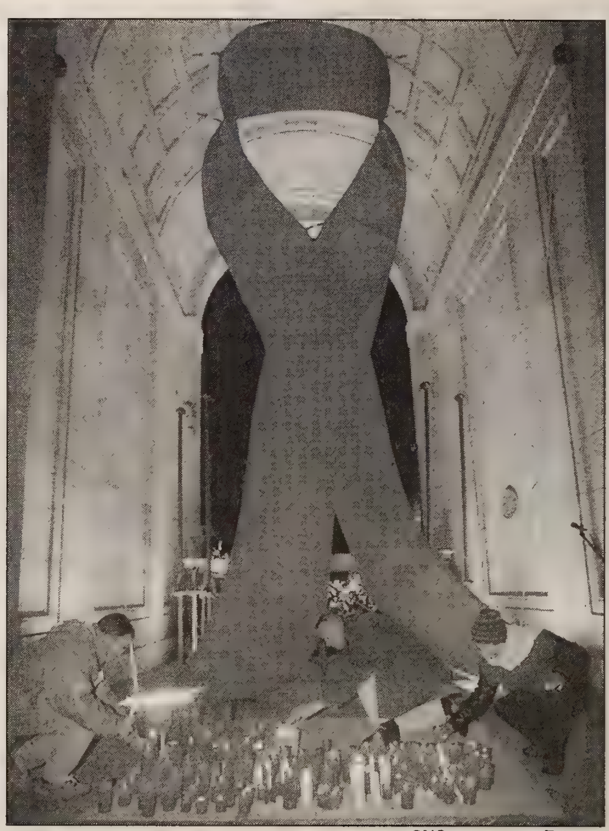
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Opponents of the death penalty have questioned a decision by the Missouri Supreme Court to postpone until February an execution originally planned for one of the days the pope is to be in St. Louis. The court Nov. 12 set Jan. 27 as the date for executing Darrell Mease, 42, but four days later without explanation it changed the date to Feb. 10. Missouri usually conducts executions beginning at 12:01 a.m. "Anybody can speculate as to why the date was changed but only those inside the court know why," Louis DeFeo, executive director and general counsel for the Missouri Catholic Conference, told Catholic News Service Dec. 3.

Albright asked to press religious rights with Pakistan leader

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., encouraged the State Department to include the concerns of Catholics and other minorities in discussions with the Pakistani prime minister in Washington. In a Dec. 2 letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Archbishop McCarrick, as chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, raised concerns about religious rights and freedoms. President Clinton met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Dec. 2 and Albright was continuing meetings with him throughout the week.

Holy See says archives have 'nothing to add' on Holocaust

ROME (CNS) — Responding to renewed criticism of its archival secrecy, the Holy See said there was "nothing to add" to published documents on the Vatican and the Holocaust. "Exhaustive scrutiny of documents from the Vatican archives allows the affirmation that there is nothing — I repeat: nothing — to add to that which is already published," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a Dec. 3 statement. "Whoever makes insinuations contrary to those that the Holy See has already reaffirmed many times must justify them with concrete proof," the spokesman wrote. "This, naturally, has never happened."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

World AIDS Day
Candles are lit below a giant red ribbon at Madrid's Alcala Gate in Spain. Marches and events to mark World AIDS Day were held around the world Dec. 1. An estimated 22 young people are contracting the HIV virus in Spain each day, according to one foundation.

Honduras launches probe into number of dead from Mitch

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — The Honduran government launched an investigation into the true number of dead left by Hurricane Mitch, as church and aid workers ruled out that authorities deliberately inflated the figures. Questions were raised after the official death toll from Mitch was lowered in Honduras and neighboring Nicaragua. Honduras revised downward by more than 1,000 the number of dead from the storms, to just under 5,660. Nicaraguan officials also admitted their estimate of 3,800 dead was too high and said the final count was closer to 3,045.

New Florida law encourages premarital counseling

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (CNS) — A new law which gives Florida couples a discount on their marriage license fees if they get premarital counseling is a confirmation of what the church already offers, according to a Palm Beach diocesan pastoral associate. "I think it is important that couples understand that these aren't hoops we are making them jump through, but that we are genuinely concerned about the quality of their marriage and hope they will put a tremendous amount of effort in being well-prepared," said Anthony Marchica, a pastoral associate in the diocesan vicariate for marriage and family. The new Florida law, one of the first of its kind in the country, takes effect Jan. 1. It provides couples with educational programs in conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities and children and parenting responsibilities.

Youths find Life Teen Masses full of spirit, energy, music

LITTLETON, Colo. (CNS) — On Sunday nights, up to 400 teens gather around the altar at St. Frances Cabrini Church in the Denver suburb of Littleton to participate in the Mass with spirit-filled energy and prayerful reverence. Even more surprising, rather than being dragged to church by their parents, youth ministers say that many of those teens are responsible for their families returning to Mass. The teens are part of the 13-year-old Life Teen movement, which exists in more than 500 parishes and has resulted in 50,000 teens gathering around altars across the United States and Canada every Sunday night.

Partnership seeks to get poor fathers involved

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When couples divorce, court and social service systems are set up to intervene so that both parents take a role in raising their children. When unmarried couples with children split up, however, the only structure that comes into play may be enforcement of child support laws. Hoping to address that problem, a new partnership of nonprofit organizations, child support agencies and the federal government has kicked off a $10 million initiative to promote responsible fatherhood and help single fathers develop skills and sustainable income. The demonstration project in 10 cities includes curriculum in values, manhood, anger management, self-sufficiency, health, sexuality, conflict resolution and substance abuse.

Montreal synod proposals on ordination, celibacy fail to pass

MONTREAL (CNS) — More than half of some 700 voters at the Montreal archdiocesan synod called for the ordination of women and an end to compulsory celibacy for future Latin-rite priests. Despite the numbers, both resolutions were defeated because they fell less than 1 percentage point short of the two-thirds majority needed for adoption. "The Montreal church will never be quite the same again," said Montreal Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte after the Nov. 28-29 synod. The meeting, attended mainly by lay people, represented the culmination of a three-and-a-half-year process, the first of its kind in the Montreal Archdiocese.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

December 11, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 15
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 17
Friends of Seminarians dinner
December 19 — 5 p.m.
Parish Mass and dedication of
Pro-Life Monument
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe
December 20 — 11 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tenth Anniversary of the episcopal
ordination of Bishop Curlin
Mass, St. Patrick Cathdral
December 24
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
December 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Day
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral
2 p.m.
Mass, Holy Angels, Belmont

Diocesan planner

December

12 CHARLOTTE — A gift-wrap service is offered at St. Ann School, 3635 Park Rd., today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wrapping paper is provided, or you may bring your own. Proceeds benefit the school. For more information, call Carey Jacobsen at (704) 362-2087 or Grace Narus at (704) 543-1237.

13 MINT HILL — A series of Advent penance services in Charlotte Vicariate parishes begins today at 7 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Services in local churches will be held through Dec. 22. Call your parish office for details.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today in St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, at 2 p.m. For details, call the parish office at (704) 867-6212.

16 HENDERSONVILLE — A series of Advent reconciliation services in the Asheville Vicariate continues today with a 7 p.m. service at Immaculate Conception Church. Call your parish office for other locations and times.

LEXINGTON — An Advent penance service is today at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St. Check your parish bulletins for details on other reconciliation services in your area.

17 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets in the St. Justin Center of the Basilica of St.

Farewell to Sisters

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Bishop William G. Curlin shares a laugh with Sister Francine Sartor (left), Sister Jane Schmenk and Sister Jean Linder during a farewell reception for the sisters at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center on Nov. 29.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Guests packed the dining room in Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center on the evening of Nov. 29 to express their gratitude and affection for three women who have made a difference.

Sisters Jane Schmenk, Jean Linder and Francine Sartor of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, will be leaving Living Waters at the end of December. Fathers Terrance Hyland and Francis J. Doyle and Brother William C. Harkin, of the Order of St. Augustine, will run the reflection center as well as St. Margaret Church.

Members of the parish, as well as sisters and priests from throughout the diocese, were on hand to pay tribute to the many years of service the three Franciscans have given to the Diocese of Charlotte.

"For me, they have strengthened the presence of Jesus in our midst," Bishop William G. Curlin said. "The love, the generosity that they have poured out, their Franciscan charism, have been special gifts. They leave a legacy of love that can only inspire those who follow them."

Sister Jane began her service to the diocese in Cherokee, and later came to Living Waters. She helped care for Father William Murphy, the builder and first pastor of St. Margaret.

Sister Francine, who worked at the nursing home the Tiffin Franciscans operate on their motherhouse grounds, came to North Carolina in 1988 to help care for Father Murphy, who died in 1990.

Sister Jean has held various positions in the diocese, including vicar for women religious and director of planning, as well as assistant director at Living Waters.

"They've been an integral part of the diocese over the years," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, who now serves as vicar for women religious in the diocese. "Their ministry has been one of welcome, hospitality, real spirituality. They've been leaders in that regard."

Sister Jane said earlier that she felt she had received good cooperation from the diocese during her tenure as Living Waters' director.

"I appreciate the trust that the leaders of the diocese have put in me, and I would like to thank Bishop Emeritus (Michael) Begley, in part because after the fire (which destroyed the House of Prayer that had stood on the grounds) he could have abandoned the whole project, but he didn't. He encouraged me to keep on.

"Monsignor (Joseph) Showfety was the chancellor then. I felt the same sense of trust with Bishop John F. Donoghue. I've had the same support from Bishop Curlin and Father Mo (West, the current vicar general and chancellor). They never questioned; they always trusted me.

"Without that trust I couldn't have done anything. I would have been discouraged from the start. You have to know the people at the other end of the line trust you."

Sister Jane plans to return to Maggie Valley early in 1999 to spend a sabbatical year writing a book about Father Murphy and the history of Living Waters.

Sister Jean will work with Father Eric Houseknecht as administrative assistant in the Diocesan Office of Vocations.

"I'm looking forward to going to Charlotte, but I have mixed feelings about leaving here," she said.

Sister Francine will spend six months on sabbatical visiting her sister, Sister Dione Sartor, also a Tiffin Franciscan, who is doing pastoral work in Custer, Ohio.

"I'll take time to visit Mom," Sister Francine said. "That's why I don't think it will be so hard to go. I'll get to spend time with her."

Still, leaving Maggie Valley is not easy. She'd like to take the mountains with her.

"If I could box the mountains, I would do that," Sister Francine said. "Our Lord, going up to the mountain, I think of that." ▼

Local Knights of Columbus Council receives top international award

HIGH POINT — Knights of Columbus Council #4507 of High Point has earned the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award, for the 1997-98 fraternal year. The announcement was made by the organizations headquarters located in New Haven, Conn. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program and sponsorship of service oriented activities. The award was presented to the membership by State Deputy Ed Campbell at a special ceremony held on Nov. 13.

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Virgil C. Dechant, president of the international organization, said, "Please accept my sincere congratulations upon attaining this prestigious award. The dedication to the principles and aims of the order shown by your officers and members is exemplified by the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead."

"The Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We're extremely proud of this accomplishment," proclaimed Joe Deering, head of the local group for the 1997-98 fraternal year.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization with nearly 1.6 million dues-paying members in more than 11,000 councils worldwide. In 1997, they gave more than 50.2 million hours of volunteer service and donated $107.1 million to charitable and benevolent causes. ▼

Lawrence today at 6:30 p.m. for a Christmas potluck dinner with caroling. For more information, call Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For more information, call Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 476-9717.

18 SYLVA — A support group for individuals who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief meets today at 7 p.m. at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. For more information, call Chuck or Mary Brogan at (828) 497-9452.

25 CHARLOTTE — The annual Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Cathedral is today from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for anyone who would otherwise be without holiday fellowship and celebration. The free dinner is in the school cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St., and is for those who, because of financial need, lack of family, travel, or for any other reason, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation is provided for those who need it, and the gathering includes entertainment and small gifts. Meals will be delivered to those unable to attend. To make financial contributions or to inquire about other gift needs, call the parish office at (704) 334-2283.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Committee of St. Vincent de Paul Church sponsors a Mass celebrating the feast of the Holy Innocents today at 9 a.m. A rosary for life will follow. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 554-7088.

January

12 GREENSBORO — Vincentian Father Robert Prior explains the kingdom Jesus spoke frequently of today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Father Prior will discuss how this kingdom works, lives and grows in relation to people of faith. For information on this and other sessions in the parish's adult education series, call the parish's religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

14 BELMONT — Prospective students are invited to visit Belmont Abbey College, a private Benedictine liberal arts college, today through Jan. 17 for an "Abbey Experience." The gathering includes meetings with current Abbey students and professors, campus tours, opportunities to attend classes, and a financial aid seminar. For reservations and other information, call the Office of Admission, (888) 222-6665.

16 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan African American Affairs Ministry hosts its annual celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The gathering includes Mass and presentation of the first Glenda Rollins-Gaither/John A. McDonald Service Award. For nomination information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd at (704) 370-3339. *Nominations must be received by Dec. 15.* Pre-registration for the event is encouraged. Cost is $10 per person, $15 per couple, $20 per family of four or less, and $25 for families of five or more. Registration includes materials and meals. Send checks and number of participants to African American Affairs Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says spirituality offers hope, not excuse for escapism

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Spirituality provides hope for earthly life and beyond but is not an excuse for escapism, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking to pilgrims at his Dec. 2 general audience, the pope warned that "the spirituality of the Christian can be neither an escape from the world nor an urge for activity that is subject to every trend." Believers, he said, must instead try to change the world with the Holy Spirit's help.

"The Holy Spirit is the source of a hope which does not disappoint," Pope John Paul said. "During Advent we are invited to consider the meaning of this hope for ourselves."

The pope noted that in the previous weeks, he had focused his audience talks on what he considered recent signs of hope for humanity.

"The Christian is a person who hopes," he added, "because he never loses sight of the aim of his existence."

Referring to a New Testament verse that describes "a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells," Pope John Paul said Christian hope "calls on us to be committed to bringing the transforming power of the Resurrection to bear on the cultural, social, economic and political realities of the present."

Celebrating the Eucharist, the pope said, "is not only a liturgical rite. It is also a social appeal. Through the Eucharist the church becomes bread which is broken for the world."

Also through the Eucharist, Pope John Paul said, the church finds the strength for its charitable activities and for its missionary work.

"In the Eucharist, the risen Lord is truly present," the pope said, "and in him, humanity and the universe assume the sign of the new creation. In the Eucharist the definitive realities are savored, and the world begins to be that which will be at the final coming of the Lord."

Pope John Paul said believers always must be prepared for the coming of God's kingdom at the end of time.

"The Holy Spirit prompts Christians to look forward to the fullness of life which Christ will bring, but in the meantime he gives them the strength to extend the kingdom throughout the world."

Pope expresses alarm at social turmoil in Papua New Guinea

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed alarm at increasing violence, poverty and corruption in Papua New Guinea and urged church leaders to help stem social disintegration. The pope made the comments Dec. 1 in a meeting with bishops from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands during their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. The bishops, who also spoke at the Synod of Bishops for Oceania, recounted a bleak picture of civil life: thousands of people still suffering the effects of a recent tidal wave, rampant "rascalism" or gang activities in cities, and other forms of violence.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Shopping with a conscience

The confirmation class of St. Clare's Church, Berea, Ky., sponsored a Christmas bazaar to help community organizations. They sold Hospice angels for a $20 donation, Habitat for Humanity house pins for $12 and a variety of small items for Peace Craft, an organization that markets directly for self-help groups in places like Peru, the Philippines, India and Honduras. Within an hour after Sunday Mass the eager kids marketed over $1,000 of merchandise by offering parishioners the opportunity to use their purchasing power to strengthen communities around the world.

Down the street, a half mile away, the local Wal-Mart also affects communities around the world. Larger than Sears, Target and Kmart combined, Wal-mart with 3,400 stores on four continents boasted sales in 1997 of $118 billion. Its enormous buying power affects suppliers in Third World countries who sew much of the apparel that hangs on the racks in its local stores. With suppliers stretching around the globe from Mexico to Indonesia to China Wal-Mart faces a formidable task of monitoring the factory conditions of those suppliers and their subcontractors.

The National Labor Committee (275 7th Ave., 15th floor, NY, NY 10001, 212-242-3002), a nonprofit group that monitors sweatshop conditions in the U.S. and abroad, reports finding deplorable conditions in factories sewing garments for Wal-Mart. In China where Wal-Mart contracts sewing in 700 to 1,000 factories, NLC routinely discovers wage rates between 20 cents and 35 cents an hour with 12 hour shifts, 7 days a week. In Honduras young women between 17 and 25 earning 31 cents an hour with only two bathroom breaks a day suffer mental and sexual harassment in order to help feed their families. While Wal-Mart has a Code of Conduct, NLC found few workers who knew about it. Wal-Mart's internal controls appear lax.

NLC has initiated the Corporate Disclosure: People's Right to Know campaign asking Wal-Mart to reveal the locations of factories that sew their goods so non-governmental organizations and independent human rights groups can monitor the working conditions. Acting as a globally responsible merchant demands this.

Catholic social teaching addresses the relationship between worker and consumer through the principle of solidarity, which focuses on the unity of the human family and the need to care about one another in an interdependent world. Pope Paul VI wrote in Populorum Progressio about the need to build a more humane world community "where the progress of some is not bought at the expense of others." The consumer in a wealthier country must demand respect for the worker in a poorer country.

A retailing behemoth like Wal-Mart could disregard the Corporate Disclosure Campaign as a mere annoyance, a pesky fly buzzing around its stores. Or, as customers of conscience write letters, make phone calls and pass to cashiers printed cards opposing sweatshops, Wal-Mart management could make a moral statement by cooperating with independent monitors. After nearly 30 years of innovative marketing, Wal-Mart might be overlooking a new trend discovered by the kids up the street at St. Clare's: people want to buy things when they know it helps others.

Letters to the Editor

E-mail Letters to the Editor at
jskeane@charlottediocese.org or mail to
The Catholic News & Herald,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

As the Advent and Christmas Seasons are upon us I wanted to give a special thank you to five young men, four of them CCHS graduates class of '84, and members of our Catholic and Charlotte community, who paused to remember my Kara and Megan Healy and our families. More than two hundred people came together to celebrate the lives of these beautiful young girls. Many were graduates of CCHS, their families and friends. Most played golf, many volunteered wherever they were needed and others came to offer their love and support for the Kloiber and Healy families. Together they raised $6,500.00 for the scholarships in Kara and Megan's names at CCHS. Kara's love of the years she spent at CCHS was so great that it was easy for our family to decide that a scholarship in her name, to be given each year to a student at CCHS, was a wonderful way to honor her. Any student applying should exemplify Kara's spirit, a zest for life, love of family and appreciation of his or her Catholic education.

I was reminded that day, as I have been often since Kara's death, of the reason we made many sacrifices in order for our children to be educated in our Catholic schools. In considering Catholic education for our children certainly academics were important, but more important was the Catholic tradition that reinforced our religious teachings and family values reminding our children always that they were in a loving caring environment that enabled them to grow in mind and spirit, always encouraged to 'give back' in thanksgiving for the blessings they had received. That beautiful Friday after Thanksgiving was a wonderful example of "giving back."

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this wonderful celebration. I am most thankful for my Kara and for Megan who remain always and forever in our minds and hearts.

Peace and gratitude, Diane Kloiber

Kids can make a difference

My name is Alex Jakubsen, and I'm eight years old. You've probably heard about the awful disaster that Hurricane Mitch caused.

My mom was talking to me about what I could do to help. I said I'd send all my money, but that I didn't think one dollar would help much. Then my grandmother said 'imagine if every kid in America sent a dollar. That would be a lot more than one kid's money!

So my family and I decided we would start a fund to help the people who lost loved ones and most or all of their belongings. We're calling it "The Kids' Can for Hurricane Mitch Relief." And my little brother, Ross, and I are asking every kid in our country to send $1 (or more, if you can afford it) to be used by the Red Cross to buy food, water, medicine, clothes and other needed items for the victims.

We're starting in the Triad, but we want to get the word out to the whole country. If we can collect a hundred dollars here, Bank of America will establish a special "Kids' Can" account, and we'll send this letter all over the country asking kids everywhere to give just one dollar.

You can send your dollar for "The Kids' Can for Hurricane Mitch Relief" to the American Red Cross, High Point-Thomasville Chapter, 815 Phillips Ave., High Point, NC 27262.

Imagine what one dollar can do when added to the dollars from all the kids in the Triad or United States even.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely, Alex Jakubsen

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Love your enemy! How?

On 18 December 1865, eight months after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the United States Congress ratified the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which prohibited slavery. Yet in the decades that followed, racial prejudice and violence already ingrained within the American culture continued unrelentingly. It took another set of leaders armed with a different strategy to combat racial injustice: the philosophy of nonviolence, or passive resistance.

In 1950s America, a cadre of black women and men used their intelligence, their will and their dignity to resist racism not with their fists, but with their feet. Among them was John Lewis, the current congressman from Atlanta, Ga. If you remember the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge or other critical moments when the struggle for civil rights finally penetrated the national psyche — John Lewis was there.

I recently sat with Congressman Lewis on the set of Christopher Closeup to discuss his eloquent and inspiring memoir, "Walking with the Wind." Any interview with Lewis has to answer one fundamental question: How? How, all through the flagrant abuse and unwarranted suffering inflicted on him and those with him, did Lewis refuse to acquiesce to hatred and violence?

His answer: "There is something in the very essence of unearned suffering that is liberating, cleansing, redemptive. Any one of us who suffers for what is right can redeem the perpetrator as well as the victim." Lewis explains, "Suffering can be nothing more than a sad and sorry thing without the presence on the part of the sufferer of a graceful heart, an accepting and open heart, a heart that holds no malice toward the inflictors of his or her suffering. This is a difficult concept to understand, and it is even more difficult to internalize, but it has everything to do with the way of nonviolence. We are talking about love here."

For Lewis, love accepts and embraces the hateful and the hurtful. When faced with an angry assailant, he often visualized him as an infant, as a baby. "If you can see this full-grown attacker as the innocent child that he or she once was — that we all once were — it is not hard to find compassion in your heart. Your attacker is as much a victim as you are, the victim of the forces that have shaped and fed his anger and fury."

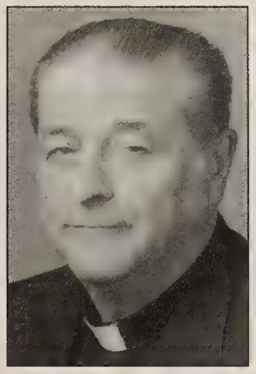
When you truly understand and feel this kind of love, even in the face of physical pain, says the longtime activist, then you are well on the way to a nonviolent life. He reminds us that Dr. Martin Luther King would often say that we must love the unlovable, love the hell out of them; if there is meanness and anger and hatred in someone, love it out!

John Lewis winced at my suggestion that he performed and continues to perform a heroic role in American social and political life. Indeed, in my book, he is an authentic hero.

One of the great proponents of nonviolence, Mohandas Gandhi, said that "suffering is the badge of the human race, not the sword." No one gets through life without pain. Yet some, forced to endure the hatred and violence of others, are able not only to learn peace, but also to teach it. And, we are so blessed that they call us brothers and sisters.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Why no Christmas story on Christmas?

Q. My question concerns the different Gospels read at Masses on Christmas. Why is the true Christmas Gospel read only at midnight Mass?

It is so anti-climactic to go to Mass Christmas morning, and there's barely a word mentioned about the reason we're even there. I don't think it's fair that when we attend a later Mass we cannot listen to the words of Christ's birth.

Whose decision is this, and can anything be done about it?

A. First, a bit of background for this question may be helpful. People who attend the same Christmas Mass each year may not be aware that three entirely different Masses are provided in the church's liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord.

The first is at midnight; it is often called the "main" Christmas Mass, since the Gospel passage tells of the birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14).

The Gospel for the second Mass, officially at dawn, is the story of the shepherds hearing the good news and coming to Bethlehem (Lk 2:15-20).

I suspect your concern centers mostly on the Gospel for the third Mass, later in the morning, the prologue to the Gospel According to John (1:1-18). While theologically one of the most magnificent passages in the New Testament, it contains no narrative connection with the birth of Jesus.

Reasons for these multiple liturgies go back to ancient times. Celebrations in Rome of the feast of the Lord's Nativity, beginning somewhere around the year 300, imitated somewhat the custom in Jerusalem of a midnight Mass in Bethlehem and a morning Mass on Calvary.

At least by the time of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), the pope (later other clergy) celebrated Christmas with three Masses. Midnight Mass took place at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the major basilica in Christendom in honor of the mother of Jesus.

From there people marched toward the Roman Forum, to the church of St. Anastasia, a martyr of the Byzantine Church, for Mass around daybreak. (This was, it seems, a courtesy to the large community of Byzantine Catholics living nearby at the time.)

Finally, the procession wound to the Basilica of St. Peter for a late morning Mass.

Some of this history is a little fogged by time, and details changed over the years. But the pattern of three Masses continued.

Obviously, at least theoretically, people participating in these processions, including the clergy, were present for all three Masses. It made sense, therefore, to have three different Scripture and prayer texts. The later dawn and morning Masses built, as it were, on what everyone had heard and prayed earlier in the day.

Equally obvious, that supposition has not been valid for centuries and certainly is not true today. The whole sequence is clearly unrelated to the necessary Mass schedules in most parishes on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

With few exceptions, people now participate in one Mass, determined of course by other Christmas plans and customs in their families. Whenever they come, as you indicate, they understandably desire to hear, and be spiritually fed by, the Gospel story of the Nativity.

Since the choice from these texts is flexible, a large number of parishes opt to use the Scriptures of midnight Mass, with its story of Mary and Joseph and Our Lord's birth, at all Christmas Masses, regardless of time.

An Advent Reflection

JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
Office of Justice and Peace

> **"We write to ask you, our sisters and brothers, to embrace with us our Church's responsibility to help shape our world so that the God-given dignity of every human being will be acknowledged, respected and protected."**
>
> *— "Of One Heart and One Mind," a pastoral letter to Catholics of North Carolina from Bishop William G. Curlin and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman*

Our responsibility to shape our world

What does Advent have to do with shaping our world? A hard question when the secular world is caught up in the "holiday season" of colorful lights, Christmas music, frenetic festivities, buying frenzies, Furby fights — celebrating Christmas ahead of time by accumulating things, filling our lives with stuff.

Yet we Christians are called to be in an attitude of waiting, a mood of expectation, while we prayerfully prepare ourselves for the coming of the Word made human.

Notice the Advent readings from Isaiah that describe something else we wait for: a world for which we must take "responsibility to help shape."

This is God's world and with God's help, one we are capable of shaping. But how seriously do we take such a vision? How fervently do we believe in "shaping" this kind of world?

What would this world look like today? A few characteristics might be a society where the presence of homeless men, women and families on our streets is not seen as normal. A culture where families do not worry about the casual acceptance of violence in settling conflict, and in entertainment. A place where all concur that material well-being is not about never having enough. A community that ensures that each one has access to that which is necessary to live a life of dignity.

The bishops give their vision of God's world: "God's Holy Spirit will embolden us to act as one body in building the reign of God, where because we share from our livelihood, each one among us will have access to that which is necessary to live a life of dignity." Notice that the bishops are not asking us only to give of money, but to work together to build a society of access to those things that translate into well-being, not one of accumulation that leads to excess.

The bishops describe a world that we are capable of building, *if* we take God's view to heart. In creating such a world, the bishops are not talking of acquiring things, except where they will enhance the dignity and worth of a person, the common good of all. Our *dignity* is derived from God, and is understood, and lived, through our relationship with people, not with things.

For a copy of the N.C. bishops' pastoral, "Of One Heart and One Mind," call the Office of Justice and Peace at 704-370-3231.

Covenant House head says U.S. crisis of troubled youths growing

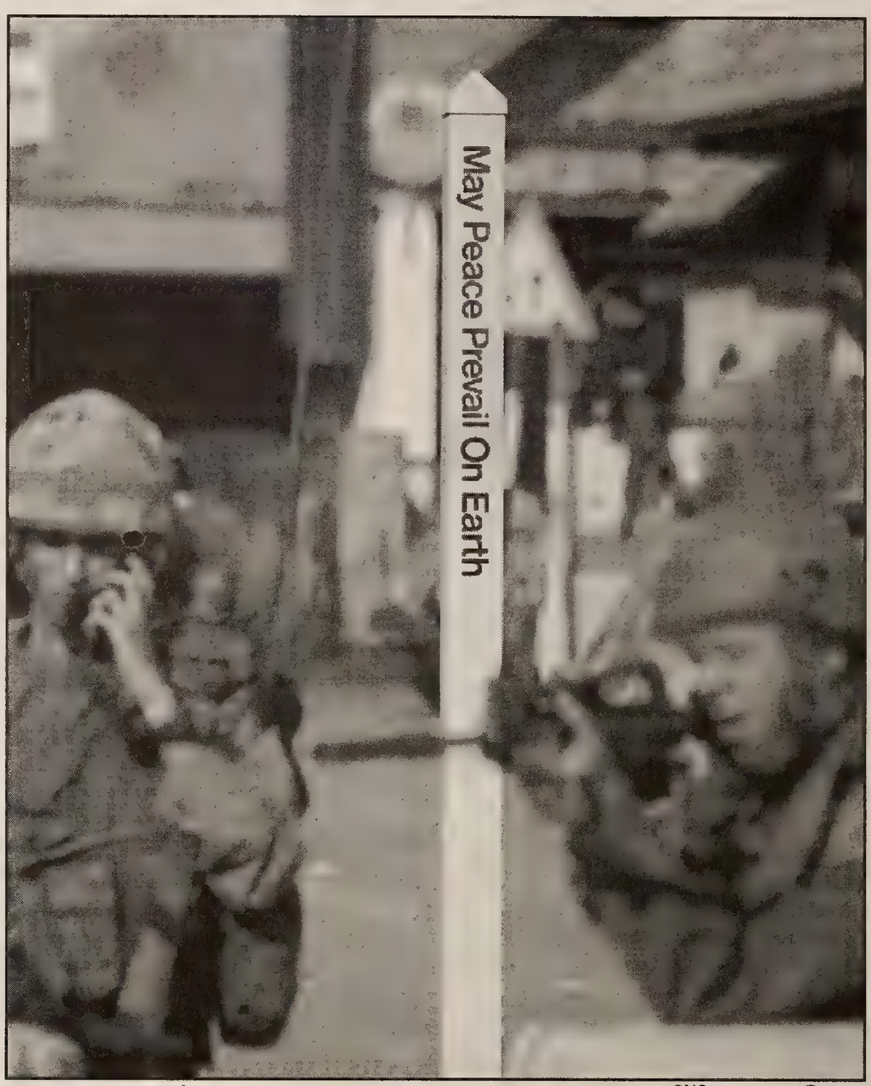
NEW YORK (CNS) — Sister Mary Rose McGeady warned at the annual candlelight vigil of Covenant House that "the crisis of children-at-risk and homeless youth keeps growing." "There are so many kids teetering on the edge of survival," she said. "Do you know that, as we speak, over 300,000 kids are sleeping on the streets of America tonight?" Sister McGeady, a Daughter of Charity who has been president of Covenant House since 1990, spoke Dec. 3 to hundreds of young people and supporters of the program who gathered in Times Square in New York.

Mexican bishops promote study of issues pope expected to address

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico's bishops are promoting a parish study of the issues they expect Pope John Paul II to address during his January visit. At the top of the Mexican bishops' list is what they called the "cruel and inhuman" economic difference between the mostly wealthy countries of the Northern Hemisphere and the mostly poor countries of the Southern Hemisphere. Between Jan. 11 and 15, all parishes in Mexico are expected to participate in a national week of catechesis. On the night of Jan. 21, the eve of Pope John Paul's arrival, Catholics can participate in a national prayer vigil.

Bishop Soens of Sioux City resigns; coadjutor assumes duties

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Lawrence D. Soens of Sioux City, who has headed the diocese since 1983. The resignation, submitted to the pope in a Sept. 21 letter, was announced at the Vatican Nov. 28. Coadjutor Bishop Daniel N. DiNardo, 49, who was installed in October 1997, automatically becomes the sixth bishop of the 24-county diocese in northwest Iowa.


May Peace Prevail On Earth

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Clash in Bethlehem

An Israeli soldier takes aim with a rifle, fit to fire rubber-coated steel bullets, during a clash with Palestinian stone throwers at the entrance to Bethlehem, where a marker reads "May Peace Prevail on Earth." Several hundred Palestinians confronted Israeli troops in a protest calling on Israel to free political prisoners as part of the Wye River peace accords.

Interfaith effort aimed at moral awakening of Americans

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — The former director of Florida's $4 billion social services agency believes Americans are losing respect for human dignity and their ability to distinguish right from wrong. "The premise is that we are morally and spiritually asleep," said Jim Towey, founder and president of the nonprofit Commission on Aging with Dignity who recently announced Awakening 2000, a Florida-based interfaith effort designed to prompt a spiritual and moral awakening. The two-year effort will include a "summit of faith" set for September of next year. The program calls for Florida leaders to refocus their attention on God and other people in an effort to commemorate the transition into the next millennium.

Archbishop gathers his deacons to discuss new Vatican documents

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The fact that two Vatican congregations have issued documents on the ministry of the permanent deacon "is witness to the important position of the permanent diaconate in the church," said Archbishop Francis B. Schulte of New Orleans. The archbishop spoke at an afternoon gathering of the permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to discuss the documents issued by the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education and Congregation for the Clergy. The Nov. 22 gathering was thought to be the first in the country between a bishop and his permanent deacons to discuss the documents.

Serving the investment needs of the community.

Stocks and Bonds
Mutual Funds
IRAs and Pension Plans
Money Management

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:

Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

YES, IT WORKS!

The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...

"Within 2 weeks of placing our ad, we were working with 4 new clients who had called because of our ad in The Catholic News & Herald."
— Sandy Petruso, President, 1st Choice Mortgage Equity Corp.

Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...
For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

MCKNIGHT · SMITH · WARD · GRIFFIN
ENGINEERS, INCORPORATED

PO Box 240826 4223 South Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28224
704.527.2112 FAX: 704.523.1315 E-mail: mswg@mswg.com

HVAC · PLUMBING · ELECTRICAL · FIRE PROTECTION

Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Vatican welcomes news that Cuba will reinstate Christmas

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican welcomed a Cuban announcement reinstating Christmas as a holiday nearly 30 years after the celebration was suspended.

"In the Holy See, this announcement was received with satisfaction," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls wrote in a Dec. 2 statement.

The spokesman said the Cuban declaration "responds to a precise desire of the people and of the Cuban church" and added that it "will not pass unobserved by the international community."

Cuba's Communist Party broke the news on the front page of its daily paper, Granma, Dec. 1. It recommended that "from this year on," Dec. 25 would be a permanent holiday in Cuba.

> **"It recognizes the purest religious sentiments of Cubans and reaffirms our authentic traditions, above all our family ones."**
>
> — *The bishops of Cuba*

Christmas celebrations were banned in Cuba in 1969 — officials explained that workers were needed in the fields to meet demand for the sugar cane harvest. The following New Year's holiday also was canceled. In subsequent years, Christmas in Cuba remained a working day, though celebrations of the arrival of the new year resumed.

The Granma announcement reinstating the Christian holiday said its abolition "was not inspired by any anti-religious spirit," and that mechanization had reduced the need for manpower during the harvest.

Cuba's bishops said the church in their country "appreciates" and "highly values" the Cuban authorities' gesture and "expresses its profound confidence that the road to Cuba's openness to the world will produce new motives for joy, unity and hope for the Cuban people."

In a Dec. 1 message signed by their press director, Orlando Marquez Hidalgo, the Cuban bishops said "although Christians in Cuba never ceased to celebrate this event, re-establishing the Christmas holiday is an act rendering justice to our Christian-centered culture.

"It recognizes the purest religious sentiments of Cubans and reaffirms our authentic traditions, above all our family ones," the message continued. "It also answers a request of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, of the Cuban bishops and without doubt of other Christian churches, and all those who share our feelings."

Cuban President Fidel Castro cleared the way for legal Christmas celebrations last December, 40 days before Pope John Paul II's Jan. 21-25 pastoral visit. At the time, Castro announced that he would make an "exception" and allow observances of the holiday, but he did not say for how long.

The pope had requested the step during Castro's November 1996 visit to the Vatican. ▼

CNS photo from Reuters

Lourdes Garcia decorates a Christmas tree at her workplace in Havana, Cuba, last year. The Communist-ruled country, which declared Christmas a holiday last year, have made it a permanent national holiday.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Opening a 2nd location late January...
72 Long Shoals Road • Arden, NC

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Amazed by Grace

By CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
Catholic News Service

It started as tiny specks of ice dancing on my car's windshield as I drove to my home in Baltimore, Md. There it took the shape of ribbons of dust, playfully swirling about my feet as it accompanied me from my driveway to the front door. By morning, everything outdoors was bedecked in white splendor as giant snowflakes parachuted down incessantly.

So began the blizzard of 1996. A day later the entire metropolitan area was practically immobilized.

Then it felt more like Christmas than at the time of the actual Christmas about two weeks earlier. I was glad we hadn't taken down our tree.

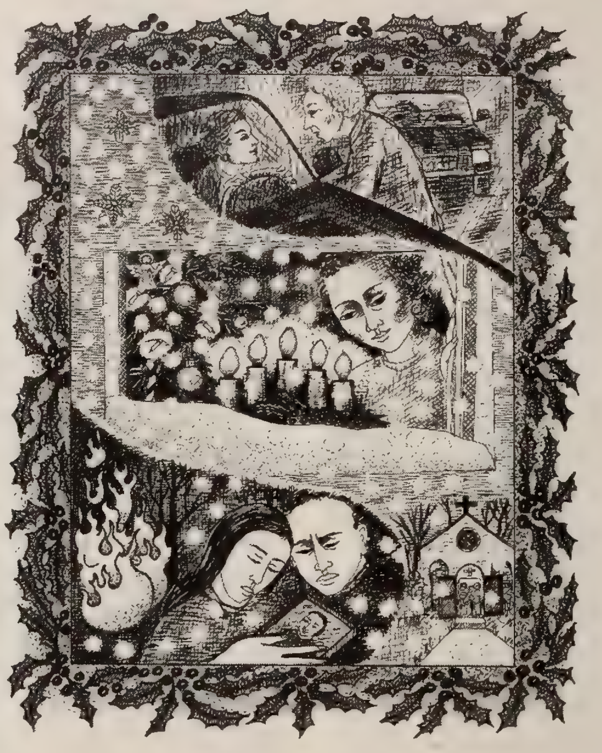
But more than images of Christmas came to mind as I beheld the winter wonderland. For if I had to give shape to my concept of the outpouring of God's grace — God's unmerited love and favor — it would take the form of snow, pure and majestic, gently falling, but at the same time able to arrive with the force of an avalanche.

Grace, like snow blowing hard against my face, must have been at work the summer night I was driving home from a prayer group across town. I had traveled the same route for years, yet on this particular night I missed my turn onto a road I always took to expedite my journey.

"If I had to give shape to my concept of the outpouring of God's grace ... it would take the form of snow ... gently falling, but at the same time able to arrive with the force of an avalanche," reflects Carole Norris Greene. This grace "enters our lives forcefully under circumstances that come close to overwhelming us."

How annoyed I was, realizing I now had to endure several additional traffic lights worth of inconvenience!

Then the unexpected happened. Out of the car in front of me at the next traffic light came a woman who needed directions. Before I could speak, the car behind me whipped around us. The young men inside shouted obscenities at us for holding up traffic. So I decided to lead her to her destination.


CNS ILLUSTRATION BY JOAN HYME

Before we parted she explained that she was going to see her husband in the hospital. They both were missionaries who had just returned from South America when they learned that he needed major heart surgery. She hadn't planned to visit long, so she threw a sweater over a thin house dress and left her home with only her driver's license.

When she exited the expressway too soon, she was not only lost, but was almost out of gas and had no money! It was dark, and she was terrified. Was it coincidence or the grace of God that put me on the road right behind her, giving me the opportunity to help her and bringing her the kind of safe help she needed at just the right moment?

I can envision the grace which accompanied us to our respective homes as once again a gentle swirling that would settle all around us as we retired for the evening. So peaceful, yet so strong and sustaining.

Then there is the grace that enters our lives forcefully under circumstances that come close to overwhelming us.

The Carpintieri family in East Baltimore was caught up in a hailstorm of grace after their 14-year-old son Angelo died along with two other boys in a fiery car crash in October. Their community held its breath for their response. Didn't the Carpintieries profess Christ boldly, even establishing a successful business they named Blessings Beauty Salon to underscore God's graciousness?

Angelo was an eager student, a dutiful son who looked after his younger brothers, Chase, 11, and Mario, 5. Angelo was active at church and studied Scripture regularly with his parents, Jonathan and Juneat.

Where was the blessing in the events surrounding this painful loss of a child?

But it was there all along, gushing forth like a blizzard, sustaining legs otherwise too numb to stand as the family arrived at the hospital. Later, the family would stretch out their arms to hug countless sympathizers who filled Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to overflowing.

The power of God's grace intensified with Chase's testimony. He too was in the car when its 18-year-old driver lost control on a rain-slick street, hitting two trees in succession before the vehicle burst into flames. He told how his big brother instantly shielded him upon the first impact, then let him go as he lost consciousness, allowing him to crawl through the Mustang's side window.

Once outside, grace froze all panic, giving the child the presence of mind to drop to the ground and roll to extinguish the flames erupting on the back of his shirt. And at no time, Chase assured, did Angelo and the other boys pinned inside ever say a word, scream or move. They did not suffer before God took them home.

"He was never ours," Angelo's mother said. "God loaned him to us for a while. Now he stands before the Lord forever. And for this I will still praise God."

Oh, the power of grace! ▼

Greene is an associate editor for special projects with Catholic News Service.

How to keep watch at Christmas

By SISTER THERESA SANDERS, RSCJ
Catholic News Service

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We don't like to believe that. We want to encounter God in familiar, comfortable ways.

And often God complies with our wishes. We find grace in dinner with old friends or in Scripture passages we nearly know by heart.

Yet, there are other times — times when God breaks through familiar routines so that the awesomeness of divine love strikes us with a force we would not have thought possible. I remember one of those times.

It was a hot, steamy summer day in Washington, D.C. I was looking forward to having lunch with an old friend. Karen and I had gone to high school together but had not kept in close touch. Then one day she phoned to say she would be in town. We arranged to meet at a subway station, then walk to a nearby restaurant.

On the day of our appointment, I completely lost track of the hour. I was already 15 minutes late for the lunch when, rushing out the door, I caught a cab to the subway station!

I scanned the faces in the crowds as they got on and off the escalator. There was no Karen.

Then it dawned on me that there are two exits at that subway station; perhaps Karen was waiting at the other. I ran across a busy intersection toward the other exit. No one was there — no one except the usual panhandler.

"Hey," a voice behind me said. I studiously ignored it. I was in no mood to be bothered by a stranger, much less a homeless one.

"Hey, lady," said the panhandler. I didn't turn around. I was looking up and down the street, craning my neck, still hoping my friend would materialize.

"Hey, lady!" he said again. "Are you looking for Karen?"

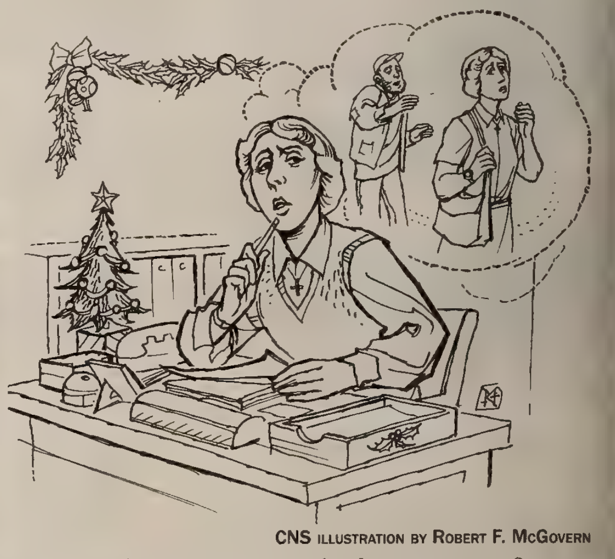
"What? Well ... well, yes, I am."

Then the man stood up and began shouting across the intersection. "Hey, Karen, here she is! Here she is!"

Out of the crowd, my friend turned around and ran over to meet me. We hugged as old friends do and together went off to the restaurant for lunch.

"Sometimes grace comes in the strangest of ways," recalls Sister Theresa Sanders, a Religious of the Sacred Heart. "In this case it came mixed with shame that to me the panhandler had been nothing but an annoyance, not even a person, really, but something to avoid and ignore."

As we talked, Karen told me about the homeless man who brought us together. While she waited, they had had a long conversation. She knew his name and all about his family. Karen said I should pray for him because there was a chance the man soon could reunite with his family.


CNS ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT F. MCGOVERN

Sometimes grace comes in the strangest of ways. In this case, it came mixed with shame that to me the panhandler had been nothing but an annoyance, not even a person, really, but something to avoid and ignore.

Yet, with that shame and regret came a profound sense of gratitude. My narrow, carefully constructed world had been broken open. My eyes were opened to the people around me, to people with names and stories and gifts to offer — gifts I needed and gifts I would miss if I did not allow myself to see them. ▼

Sister Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, teaches Christian theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

What is Room At The Inn?

Our mission of helping single, pregnant women is not an easy one. Many of the mothers who find Room at the Inn arrive broken in heart and in spirit-often rejected by their families and the fathers of their babies.

Room at the Inn is a unique, comprehensive program helping single, pregnant women with or without children to have a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery and to return to school or work after the birth of their child.

We provide housing, food, clothing, counseling and love in a structured environment. Transportation to the hospital, medical and social appointments, and to work and school is provided. Training in parenting, nutrition, budgeting, chastity and job skills is offered in our home as well.

Child care is provided to allow our moms to finish their education or to return to work. All medical appointments, medications, and immunizations are tracked and supervised.

Room at the Inn is a place where young mothers learn to become responsible for themselves and their children. All of our mothers do the cooking and cleaning in our home. Each resident contributes to the upkeep of our home to the extent that she is able.

While at Room at the Inn, all residents work to pay off past creditors and to restore their credit rating and good name. Our moms explore careers in fields that will enable them to support themselves without welfare. We provide the support and love that they need to make the transition to a life filled with hope and opportunities.

Offering homeless, single women facing crisis pregnancies and their children a new start is what Room at the Inn is all about.

Allison's Story

(used with permission)

Before I found out I was pregnant I was living at home with my parents for the first time since I was sixteen, when I left home. My parents allowed me to come back home shortly before my nineteenth birthday after I genuinely attempted to make it on my own. I was living in Charlotte at the time with my baby's father.

When I got to my parents' house I started my life over.I did my very best to do what was right for the first time in my life. I landed a great job at NationsBank and that made me very happy. I saved all my money and shortly thereafter, I bought my first new car. Soon after that my best friend and I put a down payment on a house we planned on moving into.

I was the happiest I had ever been with my life at this point. I was finally straightening up and it felt so good to hear my parents say they were proud of me.

I found out I was pregnant after I bought a home pregnancy test. I didn't believe it right away. I called my best friend to come over. She thought I should take another test to be sure, but I had no cash. That meant absolutely nothing to her. And that night we went to three different stores, and stole three different pregnancy tests and each one came up positive. I still didn't believe it. I went to the doctor the next day and they confirmed I was pregnant. That was the first time I cried about it.

I decided to be mature about the situation so I told my mom that night. We discussed all of my options and I decided to keep my baby. My mom didn't think I should live at home with the decision I had made. This didn't surprise me in the least. She made some calls and told me I had an interview at Room at the Inn the next day. Mom said I should go to the interview prepared to stay.

I came to Room at the Inn January 24. I was eight weeks pregnant. At first I had a problem dealing with the loss of freedom and the strict rules. However, I gradually began to realize I no longer came first – my child did. I got a job until I started college. My first day was May 25th. I think I've done very well and maintain a grade point average of 3.79. I am exited that I have the opportunity to go to college. I know that my education is what is going to be the foundation that I build my and my child's life upon. Because of Room at the Inn I have the skills and the confidence to be the best mother I can possibly be.

Madison's Story *(used with permission)*

I would like to tell you how I came to Room at the Inn. I moved here from Salt Lake City, Utah. I found out I was pregnant when my dad bought me a pregnancy test and it came out positive. Then I moved to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, on December 5, 1997 about four months later. I lived with my boyfriend for about seven months and that didn't work out with him. So, I called my cousin and she came and picked me up at one-o'clock in the morning on June 1st. I was with my aunt for about five days.

I came to find out about Room at the Inn by going to the Greensboro Pregnancy Center. My cousin took me; and I spoke to a counselor and told her that I wanted to find a teen home and that is how I found out about Room at the Inn.

My aunt called Terry, the residing house manager, and spoke with her and made an appointment for 2:00 Friday, June 5th. We got down there and I stayed.

I started having contractions at 6am that morning. Then I went to the doctor about 9:30am and they said I was 7 centimeters dilated. I called my aunt and told her I was going to the hospital, and she was on her way. At 4:36 I had Dakota; she weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces. Dakota is the joy of my life.

I had Dakota for eight weeks and gave her up for adoption. I told Terry that it was hard for me and I was not ready for a baby yet. Terry called Trish, the Residential Director, and Trish called the adoption agency. We left the house at 10pm Friday the 14th . We got to the adoption agency and the foster parents were there for her. I said goodbye to my daughter and then they left.

Trish, Terry, and Room at the Inn really helped me with the decision I made to give up Dakota. Now I believe that she will have a better life, one that I couldn't have given her. I am now going back to Salt Lake City, to continue my education.

Once Upon a Baby

I'll never forget the day my mom found out I was growing inside of her. "A life" she said, "A little tiny life." She was so scared, so very afraid of what lay ahead. She was still in high school, and didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. When she told our family, they asked her to leave.

"How will I take care of this child?" "How will I be able to provide for him?" she asked herself. Then she got on her knees and prayed.

"She lay him in a manger , because there was no room at the Inn." Luke 2:7,8. But, there was. We were welcomed into Room at the Inn with open arms. We had a safe place to sleep, with food and clothing, that we could call home. When we were there, my mom finished high school, received the love, support and counseling she needed to make a decision about our life. To give me up to parents who could provide for me, who could give me what she felt she could not, at this time in her life.

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." Prov.3:3 My mother's faith and love for me are what helped her make her decision. The faith I'd be taken care of. The love to know I needed more than she could give. I know I'll always be inscribed deeply in her heart, for she made the loving decision to carry me, give me life, and let me go. Thank you, Mommy!

On the Right Track

The importance of education is not taken for granted. At Room at the Inn, the mothers are required to get their High School Diplomas or G.E.D. It not only builds self-worth, but gives them self-confidence to move forward with their education. Some of our mothers have gone on to become Brick Masons and Certified Nurse's Assistants.

In our home, we provide the day care so the mothers can return to school. Tutoring is also offered, in a group or on an individual basis.

We are proud to share with you some moms who have received their High School Diplomas within the last year.

Room at the Inn

Making Christ Present to Single Pregnant Women in Need

Advent, 1998

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It was only four short years ago that we opened our doors in Charlotte and took in our first young mother, a fifteen year old who was six months pregnant and alone.

Since then we have seen the birth of dozens of babies and heard the joy of children's laughter throughout our home. Kids really do make the world a happier place.

Looking back, it is amazing to me to see all that God will do when people say yes to Him: young women facing up to their responsibilities as new mothers and mustering up the courage to change old ways of behavior; staff members and volunteers who daily experience the difficulties and demands of residents who come to us so wounded; and finally, the people of God who reach out and make Christ present to these forgotten ones.

This year, we have seen the Greensboro community rally around the Sternberger renovation project and help us prepare to open what will be the only licensed maternity home in the Triad. We can't wait until the February opening!

In addition, last summer we responded to the call from the Board of Angelplace to join forces and to help expand Room At The Inn into the Raleigh Diocese. We have acquired a house on Poole Road which the city has given us permission to develop into a licensed maternity care and child care program. We anticipate opening our Raleigh doors during the winter of 1999.

This Christmas, can you help us? We rely on the generosity of God's people and your support will help us open our doors and put food on the table for homeless pregnant women and children all over the state.

Please remember our moms and kids in your prayers as we remember the story of another pregnant woman and her unborn Child. May They bless you for your kindness and concern as you join us in making Room At The Inn.

Yours in Christ,

Albert

Albert Hodges
Executive Director

In Charlotte:
P.O. Box 30544
Charlotte, NC 28230-0544
(704) 643-0699 • (704) 643-7899 fax

In Greensboro:
P.O. Box 29584
Greensboro, NC 27429
(910) 275-0206 • (910) 275-0259 fax

In Raleigh:
Angelplace • P.O. Box 99124
Raleigh, NC 27624
(919) 388-8493 • (919) 388-8545 fax

Who we are

Room At The Inn is a pro-life ministry of the Catholic Church and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory (P.J. Kenedy and Sons). *Room At The Inn* is a non-profit agency with a 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to *Room At The Inn* are fully deductible from taxable income.

Mission Statement

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room At The Inn is a safe haven for single, homeless, pregnant women and their children, born and unborn. Invoking the patronage of Saint Joseph, and guided by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, Room At The Inn seeks to help these young families move toward a new life of hopeful, independent and healthy living.

Room At The Inn ***Charlotte***
3737 Weona Avenue
Post Office Box 30544
Charlotte, N.C., 28230-0544

(704) 643-0699 Office
(704) 643-7899 Fax

Room At The Inn ***Greensboro***
734 Park Avenue
Post Office Box 29584
Greensboro, N.C., 27429

(336) 275-0206 Office
(336) 275-0259 Fax

Room At The Inn ***Raleigh***
2428 Poole Road
Post Office Box 99124
Raleigh, N.C., 27624

(919) 388-8493 Office
(919) 388-8545 Fax

Room At The Inn......Making Christ Present to Single, Pregnant Mothers and Children in Need.

A young family's new Christmas tradition

By HEATHER BARNHART
Catholic News Service

As I watch my 3-month-old son trying with open mouth to find his thumb, I reflect on Christmas and what it means or should mean to our family. Donovan's thumb finds its mark, his dimpled fingers stiffen for a moment, then with a contented sigh his eyes close and his hand relaxes across his little nose and chubby cheeks.

I am wondering, not so much because of the baby, but because my first son, Campbell, already is 2 and one-half and beginning to have a greater awareness of what is going on around him. At age 26, with two young children, it dawns on me that because I am a parent, my whole attitude toward Christmas needs to be re-examined.

Up until now I have been approaching Christmas from more of a child's perspective, sitting back and expecting my parents or someone else to be there and take the lead. And regardless of the fact that my parents just moved three states away, the responsibility of teaching our children about Christmas falls primarily on my husband and me.

"It is rather daunting to realize what a large duty we have to instill in our children an appreciation of what Christmas means," writes Heather Barnhart. "So this Christmas we will begin a new tradition and anonymously 'adopt' a family in need," while continuing favorite traditions such as cutting down our Christmas tree at a local tree farm and trimming it as a family.

It is rather daunting to realize what a large duty we have to instill in our children an appreciation of what Christmas means, especially in the midst of the commercialized holiday frenzy. And at the spectrum's other end — the religious end — I feel particularly ill-equipped to educate my sons when I consider my own limited understanding of church teachings and traditions.

So what does Christmas mean to me?

Christmas is about being grateful for all we've been given, appreciating and spending time with loved ones, remembering that Jesus was born and died for us, looking beyond ourselves, giving to others and making them feel special.

It is about staring at the two little people we've created and realizing that no matter how limited our religious education, God is making miracles all around us.

I asked Danen, my husband, his thoughts about Christmas. "We tend to focus on that one day," he said. "I want to teach our children that Christmas is more than one day a year."

One of our greatest challenges will be figuring out how to get Campbell's and Donovan's eyes to light up with wonder, not greed. To have them become excited by giving, not just getting. To have them appreciate all that we already are blessed with.

CNS photo of the Barnharts

"I don't just want it to be about presents," Danen agreed. "But Christmas is about giving and receiving. It's the one time of year when you've taken the time to really think about people — what they would like, what they need or want."

While Christmas is a time to reflect and remind us what is important, we also need to remember those who aren't as fortunate.

"I like the idea of giving anonymously," Danen said. "It makes it more special. It's sort of a growing experience. You're not saying, 'Look what I did.' I think that's as close to grace as we can get, when we give to others without one bit of recognition for ourselves."

So this Christmas we will begin a new tradition and anonymously "adopt" a family in need of assistance. As the children get older, we might expand on this and volunteer at a mission or a home for seniors.

And as we did last year, now four of us will bundle up and go to one of the many local tree farms. We will arm ourselves with hot chocolate and a saw, hike through the mud, pick out a tree, cut it down and drag it back to the car together. We will bring it home and decorate it as a family.

We have an Advent wreath, which the children will be able to appreciate more in the coming years as they wait excitedly to light the next candle in anticipation of the slowly approaching Christmas. We will attend church together, rotating child duty each week so at least one of us can pay attention to the homily. Midnight Mass is also a tradition we plan to continue.

And as the years pass and Campbell and Donovan grow, I only hope that as they have inspired me, I can nurture them to be an inspiration to others, spreading peace, joy and love wherever they go. ▼

Barnhart is a free-lance writer in Marysville, Wash.

No greater gift

By MAUREEN DALY
Catholic News Service

The Christmas that I was 12 the St. Thomas Apostle Children's Choir took its act on the road. Our choir director, Father Robert Oldershaw, who later co-edited the widely used hymnal "Worship," taught us a repertoire of international songs.

The girls bought red middy blouses with the wide square collar and red neckerchief, and the boys acquired red neckties. Bundled up against Chicago's winter we set out on foot to visit community centers and old folks homes within walking distance of our school in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago's South Side.

Our touring circuit that first season was limited to a radius of a few city blocks, but it opened up a whole new world. Inside buildings we often had walked past but never entered, we were surprised to find utilitarian public spaces of linoleum floors, cinder block walls, molded plastic furniture and the fragile elderly who were so thrilled to have us visit.

Since we rarely met groups of elderly, we were astonished by how pleased they were to have us visit. Their attention was flattering, their applause gratifying, but it was the gratitude that we found truly touching.

In the coming years the St. Thomas Children's Choir would have other exciting performing opportunities. It would even release an album, but I always remembered that first experience of the gratitude of strangers.

The great grace of the Christmas season is the widespread impulse to generosity.

One of the greatest gifts to give children is the sense that they have something to offer to the wider world, something the world will be grateful for. If adults don't provide opportunities, children will invent them.

Growing up in the Polish Catholic neighborhood of Buffalo, N.Y., Deb LeClaire and her friends created "The First Noellers." They made white satin robes to drape over their winter clothes and clothes-hanger halos, and trudged around the snowy streets singing.

It was the season for pouring creativity and generosity into projects to give away. At the kitchen table, her mother taught her to make the traditional 72-point Polish Christmas star out of used wrapping paper — cut and folded, sewn together at the center with needle and thread. Because gifts made in secret heighten Christmas excitement, she very nearly set her friend's attic on fire melting wax and crayon shavings to make candles in cut-off quart milk cartons.

At St. Pius Parish in Baltimore, Gene Ellis, a landscaper, knew teen-age boys and young men of the parish were looking for a chance to be of use. He organized the Christmas tree sale that for a dozen years provided money for parish activities. More important, it gave the young men a chance while hauling trees and warming hands around the fire to make friends and give to the church. ▼

"One of the greatest gifts to give children is the sense that they have something to offer to the wider world, something the world will be grateful for," offers Maureen Daly. She recalls the Christmas she and other parish children were enthusiastically welcomed as they sang carols at area community centers and old folks homes.

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

Books

Catholic Bestsellers

Here is the Catholic Bestsellers List for December 1998, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. "Portrait of Jesus." Joe Girzone (Doubleday)
2. "Maurice and Therese." Patrick Ahern (Doubleday)
3. "Letters to Gabriel." Karen Garver Santorum (CCC of America)
4. "Butler's Lives of the Saints — August," John Cumming (Liturgical Press)
5. "Butler's Lives of the Saints — February," Kathleen Jones (Liturgical Press)
6. "Sabbatical Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
7. "Twelve Months of Monastery Soups." Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette (Liguori)
8. "Reluctant Dissenter." William Shannon (Crossroad)
9. "Introduction to the New Testament." Raymond Brown (Doubleday)
10. "Living a Gentle Passionate Life." Robert J. Wicks (Paulist)

Paperback

1. "Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers." Lawrence E. Mick (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. "The Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Doubleday)
3. "At Home With the Word '99." Brey & Ward (Liturgy Training Publications)
4. "Catholic Prayers and Devotions." A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
5. "Henri Nouwen Writings Selected." Robert A. Jonas (Orbis)
6. "Handbook for Today's Catholic." A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
7. "Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons '99." Peter J. Scagnelli (Liturgy Training Publications)
8. "The Cup of Our Life." Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria Press)
9. "Gold In Your Memories." Macrina Wiederkehr (Ave Maria Press)
10. "Believing in Jesus." Leonard Foley (St. Anthony Messenger Press)

Children and Young People

1. "St. Francis Celebrates Christmas." Mary Caswell Walsh (Loyola)
2. "Do Angels Watch Close By?" Mary Joslin (Loyola)
3. "Can You Find Jesus?" Gallery & Harlow (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
4. "Advent Is For Children." Julie Kelemen (Liguori)
5. "Saints for Young Readers," Vols. 1 & 2, Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)
6. "Children's Daily Prayer '98-'99." Elizabeth M. Jeep (Liturgy Training)
7. "My First Missal." Maria Luisa Benigni (Pauline)
8. "Can You Find Bible Heroes?" Gallery & Harlow (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
9. "God's Paintbrush." Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (Jewish Lights)
10. "Our Father" Piera Paltro (Pauline)

Spanish-language

1. "Manual Para Proclamadores de la Palabra '99." Marina A. Herrera (Liturgy Training)
2. "Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica." (Doubleday)
3. "Palabra de Dios '99." Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
4. "Manual Para el Catolico de Hoy." A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
5. "El Matrimonio en Perspectiva." A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori/ACTA)
6. "Juntos Para Toda la Vida." Joseph Champlin (Liguori)
7. "Los Ministros de la Comunion." Office for Worship/Chicago (Liturgy Training)
8. "Guia Para la Misa Dominical: Reunanse Fielmente en Asamblea." Rogelio Mahony (Liturgy Training)
9. "Palabras y Cantos de Jesus Activity Book." Walker & Freeburg (Oregon Catholic Press)
10. "Palabras y Cantos de Jesus." Walker & Freeburg (Oregon Catholic Press)

Word to Life

Dec. 13. Third Sunday of Advent. Cycle A. Readings:
1) Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:7-10
2) James 5:7-10
3) Matthew 11:2-11

By JEAN DENTON

Great question Jesus asks of his followers in today's Gospel: What did you go out to the wasteland to see? A reed swaying in the wind? Of course, he knew they weren't looking for some weak-kneed loser out there. They went knowing what they would find, that is, the promise of the coming of Christ into the world. Why'd they know to go to the wasteland? Because that's where Christ always enters the world — its ungodly quarters.

And Jesus' followers always are drawn out to the wasteland to welcome — facilitate, if you will — his entrance. The Advent season typically calls us. On several occasions our family participated in our church community's "Angel Tree" project in which church families choose an anonymous person in need for whom they provide a gift of new clothing and food at Christmas.

First we had to go out into the crowded wasteland of Christmas shopping, but selecting an overcoat for someone who had none was infinitely more meaningful than picking something suitably stylish for one who was simply tired of both coats he already owned.

Then we spent a morning in the wasteland of the nearby public housing project, escorted into the neighborhood by police, where we shyly delivered food and gifts to a number of families living in obvious poverty.

Again and again Christ entered the world at the moment when the act of giving and the act of receiving become indistinguishable from each other because it is all an act of Christ's love, trust and compassion. The Lord has assured his faithful of his continued presence with them — as in Jesus' parable in which the father tells the Prodigal's brother that "you are with me always, and all I have is yours." He is constantly present in our church communities, our families and our lives. But Jesus' followers continue to be drawn to the wastelands of the sinful world, the places of poverty, broken families, disease, crime and oppression. Because that's where Christ enters the world he has come to save.

Questions:

What wasteland are you drawn to this Advent season, and what are you going out there to see?

"The blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead men are raised to life, and the poor have the good news preached to them."
— Matthew 11:5

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 13 - 19, 1998

Sunday, Isaiah 35:1-6,10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11; **Monday**, Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; **Tuesday**, Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25, Luke 7:18-23; **Thursday**, Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Friday**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24; **Saturday**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25

When he came to us as man,
the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world,
and filled this holy night with his glory.
May the God of infinite goodness
scatter the darkness of sin
and brighten your hearts with holiness.
Amen.

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(800) 331-0768 (704) 663-7007

Come celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.

Christmas Eve Masses
4:00 pm — Children's Mass
6:00 pm — Children's Mass
Midnight — Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant

Christmas Day Masses
8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

December 26 Mass
11:00 am — Holiday Mass for the Montagnard communities of Charlotte, Raleigh, and Greensboro

St. Patrick Cathedral

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary
Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams
Deacon: Reverend Mr. Nicholas T. Fadero
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org
1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Out on Video

Video Reviews

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Almost Heroes" (1998)

Comedy clunker about inept explorers (Chris Farley and Matthew Perry) starting out from St. Louis in 1804 to beat the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Ocean. Directed by Christopher Guest, the witless wilderness proceedings are of the dumb-and-dumber variety and its crude sense of humor is tiresomely unamusing. Slapstick violence, sexual innuendo, outhouse humor and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner, rental)

"A Bright Shining Lie" (1998)

Fact-based account of the short, unfulfilled life of career Army officer John Paul Vann (Bill Paxton) who resigns after clashing with his superiors in 1964 Vietnam, then returns as civilian obsessed with showing the military how to win the war until his death in a 1972 helicopter crash. Directed by Terry George from Neil Sheehan's 1988 Pulitzer Prize-winner, the dramatization portrays Vann as a flawed, contradictory figure whose actions in Vietnam raise questions about the war that divided Americans then and are still troubling today. Wartime violence, sexual situations, rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (HBO, rental)

"Go Now" (1998)

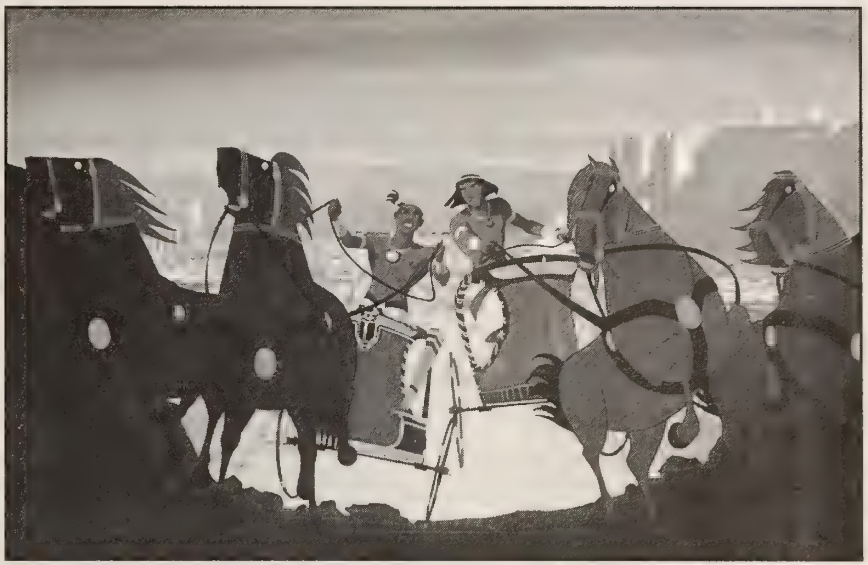
A young soccer-playing Scotsman (Robert Carlyle) working as a plasterer in Bristol, England, begins a serious love affair (with Juliet Aubrey) only to find himself facing life in a wheelchair when he is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Director Michael Winterbottom chronicles the effects of the insidious ailment on the athlete and his lover with unsentimental gravity that gives way to an uplifting climax. Sexual encounters, brief nudity, occasional profanities and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Polygram, rental)

"Hurricane Streets" (1998)

Urban youth drama in which a depressed Manhattan teen (Brendan Sexton III) whose thieving pals are verging on more serious crime gets involved in an accidental killing just as he's about to move to New Mexico with a troubled girlfriend (Isidra Vega). Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman's gritty tale presents adolescent frustrations with some sensitivity but the narrative is drawn out to a contrived, unconvincing finish. Brief violence, numerous thefts, some recreational drug use and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (MGM, rental)

"The Parent Trap" (1998)

Slow-paced but often charming remake of the 1961 tale of 11-year-old identical twin sisters (Lindsay Lohan as both) whose parents had divorced when they were infants, one going to England with the mother (Natasha Richardson) while the other remained in California with the father (Dennis Quaid), until the sisters finally meet in summer camp, then switch places on their return home and set to work reuniting their parents. Directed by Nancy Myers, the sentimental premise yields a number of heart-warming moments and the mischievous antics of the twins provides some comic relief, but the feel-good results are superficial at best. Some unamusing pranks and a scene of amateur ear-piercing. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney, rental) ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM DREAMWORKS PICTURES

"Prince of Egypt"

The two young princes of Egypt, Rameses and Moses, careen through the city in a breakneck chariot race in the animated feature "The Prince of Egypt."

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE

THE CATHOLIC
COMMUNICATION
CAMPAIGN

"I have a desire to learn about everything from teachings and writings to my faith and the world around me. I had no desire for these things before. When I came to the Abbey, I began to desire to grow in knowledge."

MAUREEN DAVIS, CLASS OF 2001

Harrisburg, NC

Northwest Cabarrus High School

Major: Psychology

Maureen Davis is on a mission. Her goal is to share hope with young people who have none — and she's off to a blazing start.

Prior to beginning her journey at Belmont Abbey, Maureen went on a mission trip which sent her and co-workers to 140 towns across America. In each, they offered retreats for struggling youth.

"I know what it's like to be a troubled teen and to have a difficult time growing up. In high school, I didn't care much about anything. Then God made me realize how important He is — and doors started opening."

As a freshman at the Abbey, Maureen received one of the College's most highly-respected awards, the Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders. Since then, she's found that Belmont Abbey College's close-knit community, family-oriented environment, and "approachable" faculty provide the combination she needs to prepare to accomplish her life's mission.

"For me, success is truly making a difference in other peoples' lives. There's no greater joy than knowing that, because of something I did, someone else's life is better. To do that, you've got to develop the gifts you've been given to better serve others. Belmont Abbey is helping me do that. It's been a real gift in my life."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

BELMONT, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • TOLL-FREE 888.BAC.0110

Best wishes to Immaculate Conception Church.

HOLLAND HAMRICK & PATTERSON
ARCHITECTS, P.A.
325 WEST GROVER ST., P.O. BOX 1238, SHELBY, NC 28150
(704) 487-8578 (704) 487-8579 FAX
E-MAIL: hharch@connectu.net

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte

#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast

#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336

"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Photo by Marla Murphy

Christmas poinsettias

Recently, Asheville Catholic School students visited Jack Young Greenhouses in Candler, N.C. Pictured from left are Natalie Burns, Meloney Murphy, Caitlin Bradley, Daniel Bradley and Tommy Burns. The greenhouse grows over 65,000 poinsettia plants each year.

Charlotte seminarians installed into ministry of acolyte

LATROBE, Pa. — Tien Hung Duong and Christopher Roux, two seminarians studying for priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, were among 23 candidates installed last month in the ministry of acolyte at St. Vincent Seminary. Bishop Anthony G. Bosco of Greensburg presided over the installation, held at the St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

It is the acolytes' duty to attend to the service of the altar and to assist the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass. Acolytes are also permitted to distribute Communion as extraordinary ministers.

Benedictine Father Thomas P. Acklin is rector of the seminary. ▼

NCCW donating garden for pilgrims at National Shrine

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Council of Catholic Women is donating a garden for pilgrims on the grounds of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

NCCW president Joann Hillebrand made the announcement in Washington.

Hillebrand, who is chairing the project, said the new Mary's Garden "will allow visitors to learn the story of NCCW, to recognize the lives of faithful women as modeled by Mary and to experience the gifts of God's creation."

The garden, to be installed behind the apse of the basilica, will offer some 500,000 annual pilgrims an outdoor place to rest, reflect and pray after they have completed a pilgrimage and shrine tour.

Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis, a member of the shrine's board and chairman of its Iconography Committee, said the garden will embellish the grounds and bring great honor to the shrine.

"At the same time," he said, "it will render honor to the National Council of Catholic Women that is so zealously committed to this project."

When the basilica was being constructed in the 1920s, some 30,000 women named Mary donated the main altar — called the Mary Altar — in the Crypt Church. Now, said the NCCW statement, the organization is inviting Catholic women of all names to contribute what they can to the project to honor Mary and recognize the lives of faith-filled women.

The firm of Brian Kane Landscape Architecture, which has designed numerous public spaces and gardens in the metropolitan Washington area, will design the garden.

Groundbreaking has been set for spring 1999, with completion expected in June 2000. ▼

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS
3000 Angels, Collectibles, & Gift Baskets

Special Men's Day!
Tuesday, December 15 10am-9pm
Free gift wrapping & hors d'oeuvres

A Piece of Heaven, Inc.

155 Jonestown Rd./Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799

Holiday Hours:
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday

Christmas Cards, Gifts, & Creches

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676

$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

HOMEOWNERS

Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.375%

We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation

Rates subject to change.

1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION

Charlotte	(704) 543-9815
Burlington	(336) 538-0213
Gastonia	(704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver	(828) 466-7701
Marion	(828) 659-6750
Mooresville	(704) 664-3577
Salisbury	(704) 638-0285
Shelby	(704) 482-6900
York	(803) 684-1095

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Scientists must integrate ethical reflection, Princeton head says

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ethical reflection must become an integral part of the scientific agenda, said the chairman of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission in a talk at Georgetown University.

Harold T. Shapiro, president of Princeton University and commission chair since 1996, said this has become an acute obligation for scientists, given their "enhanced capacity to transform all manner of life."

And because of scientific advances, particularly in contemporary biology, he advocated more serious conversations between scientists and other thoughtful citizens, "where both sides ... hope to come out of that interaction changed in some way."

Such dialogue is "an absolute requirement for sustainable democracy in a morally pluralistic environment," he said.

Shapiro gave the Andre Hellegers Lecture Dec. 4 at the annual members' symposium of Georgetown's Kennedy Institute of Ethics. He spoke on "Bioethics and Public Policy."

"One of the great responsibilities facing us in the 21st century," he said, "is to consider the social and human repercussions of our rapidly accumulating new knowledge and the appropriate stance of public policy with respect to these matters."

The relationship between bioethics and public policy suggests a simple question, he said, "namely which moral imperatives that arise out of the study and consideration of bioethical issues should be reflected in public policy that governs all."

But the answers are difficult, he said, "because we live in a society where even the most thoughtful citizens do not share a moral consensus on bioethical issues."

Shapiro noted much anxiety today, not only about such developments as cloning and the creation of human embryonic stem cells, but over moral disagreements surrounding issues of birth and death.

"Astonishing as it may sound," he said, "we are increasingly uncertain about what it means to be human either in the biological or cultural sense."

He said he believes these anxieties will be around for quite a while, and that, as society struggles to "select the most ethically acceptable applications of our ever-expanding knowledge base," both old and new moral propositions will be tested and retested.

An economist, Shapiro said, "Public policy influences science through the problems it deems worth solving, the methods it finds acceptable and the resources it makes available for the task."

The impact already is widespread but largely unnoticed, he said. It includes the size and distribution of government support, as well as laws and regulations covering taxes, drugs, the environment, the use of animals in research, patent policies and the design of clinical trials.

He thinks "a more systematic articulation of the ethical values that lie behind these existing and long-established policies would not only be salutary but would prepare us better for the much more complex set of challenges on the horizon."

Shapiro said much greater notice is taken when public science policy "impacts morally contestable areas such as human cloning, embryo research or genetic engineering." Then, society may look to "negative constraints," instructions not to do something on the scientific agenda or to stop an application.

"Within a remarkably short period of time," he noted, "genetic engineering — that is, the capacity to manipulate genes or to isolate and transfer genes both within and across species — has become a center of both stunning scientific advances and a good deal of ethical controversy."

This new technology could help meet growing nutritional needs, promote environmental health and advance medical discoveries, he said. Yet some worry that scientists are proceeding too quickly and along a dangerous path.

In short, there is both enthusiasm and uneasiness, he said.

And, in Shapiro's view, a general lack of serious conversation between scientists and other members of society contributes to some of the hostility directed at scientific developments.

"Scientists and others should understand," he said, "that one of the great unresolved challenges of the scientific revolution is our ongoing failure to adequately consider its implications in moral terms."

What is required of scientists, he said, is their willingness to work with others and their continued commitment to society. This process is social and political, as well as scientific, he added, saying "social and political decisions cannot be left to scientists alone."

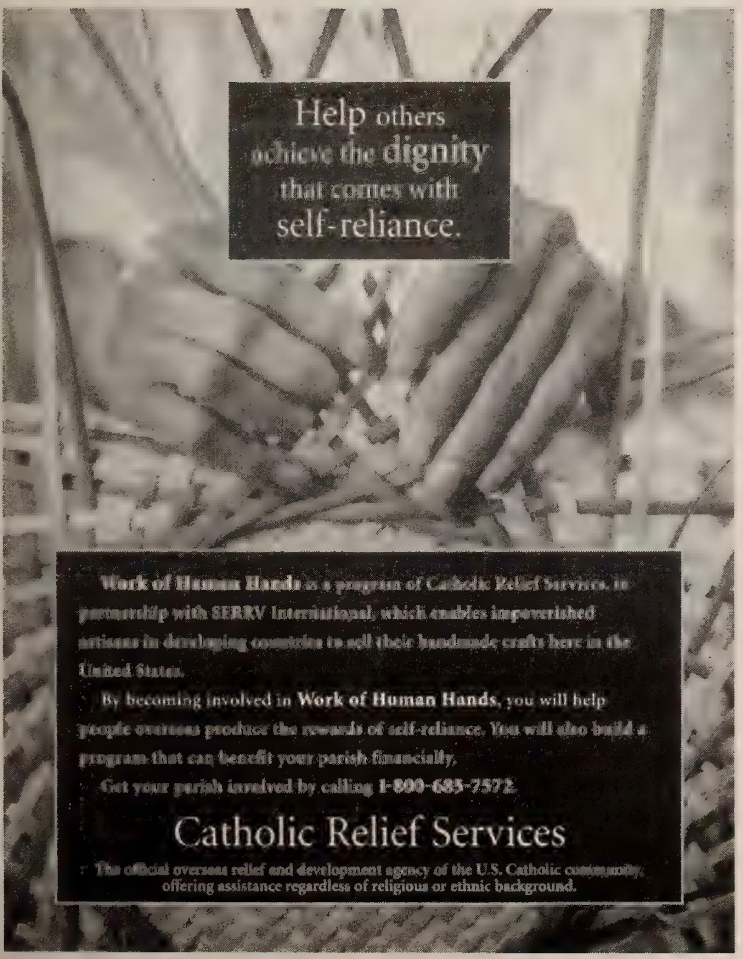
He recommended that scientists participate in "preventive ethics programs" that are meant to encourage ethics. These are based on the principle of moral prudence, he said, a principle that "suggests a certain caution in order to avoid leaving difficult questions to a lottery of future circumstances."

Following his talk, Shapiro was asked to comment on the November report that two teams of U.S. scientists had developed ways to create human embryonic stem cells, the primordial cells that are believed to contain the blueprint to develop into all 210 kinds of human cells.

"We just don't know what was produced," Shapiro said of the experiments. "So it's very hard to know what the ethical content of this is going to be."

Any speculation would be premature, he added.

Scientists have said they hope to use the cells to grow new human tissue for transplant into patients' bodies. ▼


Help others achieve the dignity that comes with self-reliance.

Work of Human Hands is a program of Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with SERRV International, which enables impoverished artisans in developing countries to sell their handmade crafts here in the United States.

By becoming involved in **Work of Human Hands**, you will help people overseas produce the rewards of self-reliance. You will also build a program that can benefit your parish financially.

Get your parish involved by calling 1-800-685-7572.

Catholic Relief Services

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, offering assistance regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Work of Human Hands is a ministry of the Office of Justice and Peace.

Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
For information and materials call 1-800-685-7572

Work of HUMAN HANDS

Fred B. Blackley, ASLA
Landscape Architect

Shelby, NC (704)484-1731

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

N.C. State team discovers world's oldest Christian church

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — Beneath the sands of the modern city of Aqaba, Jordan, lies the ruined, ancient city of Aila.

A team of archeologists — students and faculty — from North Carolina State University probed the sands, and discovered what is believed to be the oldest known Christian church.

Thomas Parker, history professor at N.C. State, said that the first "circumstantial evidence" indicated that this was an early Christian church, but "the evidence now seems pervasive."

The church was a "monumental building," Parker said, complete with a nearby cemetery. Found among the ruins were several examples of fine pottery, an incense burner, whole oil lamps usually found in church chandeliers, a tile identifying the city as Aila, and, in the grave of a centuries-dead person, a half-inch portion of a corroded bronze cross.

The overall plan of the building "clearly conforms to later Christian buildings," Parker said, and was oriented toward the east, according to tradition. They found a clear entry hall, two side aisles, space where the altar would have stood and a crypt.

Not much is known about the church, but history says that Aila had a bishop named Peter, as he is reflected in the records of the Council of Nicea in the year 325.

Parker does not know exactly when the church was built, but he does say that it was probably built in the late third or early fourth century, maybe around 300, based on dating the coins and glass samples found on the site. He is anxious to find the building's cornerstone when he returns to the site in 2000.

CNS photo from Reuters

Thomas Parker (front) stands at the site in Jordan where he believes he has discovered the oldest Christian church. The archeologist and his team from North Carolina State University have been excavating in the area since 1994.

However, he does know that the church met a "catastrophic end" on May 19, 363, when a major earthquake collapsed the roof and set the building afire.

After that, he said, sands gradually filled in the ruins, and the church was lost in time and sand dunes.

Today, Parker believes it is the "oldest structure in the world built as a church."

There is a church in Dura Europas, on the Euphrates River in Syria, built in 240 A.D., he said, but that church was built as a house, and converted into a place of worship.

Parker also said there were certainly other churches built before this period, but that this is the "oldest that has yet been found."

"There were many large and beautiful churches," he said, and between the years 260 and 303 there was a "de facto toleration" for Christianity. The Aila church was "one of the churches built in the de facto period of toleration."

But that toleration later turned into persecution under the Emperor Diocletian and most Christian churches were destroyed, he said. The Aila church was located on the southeastern frontier of the Roman Empire, Parker said. "It may have escaped notice," he said, "or the authorities might have been happy to have simply closed it during that time."

When the persecution ended with Constantine in 313, the church was reopened to worshipers.

Parker stressed that the site is more important than simply being the "world's oldest." If the archeological findings are correct, the Aila church was used for less than a century, and then buried in sand, never touched until 1998. Ancient churches that survived into modern times were added upon, changed, renovated. The Aila church has rested for centuries, "largely intact."

Parker said Aila was one of the most important port cities in the far-reaching Roman Empire, a city that specialized in such luxury goods as frankincense, myrrh and spices, and in industries for such goods as metal and pottery.

Parker and his students began brushing away the sands covering Aila in 1994, finding domestic and industrial complexes, and small artifacts over the years. They probed deeper into the church ruins just this past summer, not far from Aqaba's beaches. ▼

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

JOHN S. CLARK COMPANY, INC.
• MT. AIRY
• WINSTON-SALEM
• HIGH POINT
CLARK
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville.

Quality installations and service to meet commercial, residential and industrial needs
GRIGG ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.
Asheville, NC (828) 232-0021

Building up the body of Christ

Strategic plan to take ministry beyond millennium

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan strategic plan for ministry, being plotted by representatives of various pastoral agencies, will serve as the blueprint for building up the church in the Diocese of Charlotte into the new millennium, said officials directing its implementation.

"The strategic plan for ministry is to be a living document," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor. "This plan will steer and guide diocesan efforts and directions in ministry for the next 20 years."

The plan, introduced this summer, will focus on ensuring outreach to men, women and children throughout western North Carolina.

" ... The Diocese of Charlotte is experiencing remarkable growth in our Catholic population and in the diocesan ministries committed to serving the people of God," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "We as church must continue to assess the needs of the faithful and carefully plan for the future of our growing congregations."

Within two decades, an estimated 130,000 families will be registered as Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte. Thousands more unregistered families, including immigrant populations, are also expected to settle in the western half of the state.

Bishop Curlin said the diocese should have in place the means to serve these and any other populations in need of ministry.

"No one is outside the circle of God's love," added Father West. "Our organizations and structures must become more community-sharing, more faith-sharing oriented. In so doing, we will be better positioned to reach out in service to the poor, the unchurched, the inactive, the hurt and the alienated."

> **"The strategic plan for ministry is to be a living document," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor. "This plan will steer and guide diocesan efforts and directions in ministry for the next 20 years."**

A steering committee of clergy, religious and laity was appointed earlier this year by Bishop Curlin and Father West.

The steering committee advises 11 groups working in the following areas:

— worship and liturgy;
— parish facilities and ministry;
— Catholic social ministries, including human concerns and social concerns ministries;
— human resources for future ministries, and how to best utilize the talents of clergy, religious and laity;
— ecumenism;
— Catholic education, including schools and faith formation;
— multi-cultural ministries;
— finance and development.

This type of comprehensive plan is something new in Catholic dioceses around the nation. "We are literally in the hands of the Holy Spirit," said George Cobb, diocesan director of planning, who is supervising the process. "We are breaking new ground."

"We are trying a process never before done ... to bring a large number of people from across the diocese to discuss openly and in detail" plans for ministry for which the diocese will be responsible, he added.

The process allows for review of ministry now and for the new millennium, Bishop Curlin said. The plan, he added, will address the needs of the faithful of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

"I believe in team ministry," the bishop said. "I'm committed to it. We have to work together to build up the body of Jesus Christ. That's what makes the church."

Current discussions combine new findings with planning recommendations of a diocesan synod that closed in 1987. A study outline was issued based on conversations with Bishop Curlin, Father West, ministry staff and pastors. The outline includes vision statements, references to church documents, background material, and histories of particular ministries in the diocese.

Specific plans for respective ministries are currently developing. Each group is called to involve as many people as possible, to examine all ideas and comments, and to outline budgets and schedules for introducing their recommendations.

The committees' plans will be submitted by the summer of next year. "We do not want this process to be rushed, said Cobb. "This process will continue; the plan will be dynamic."

Short-range operational plans, most covering a three-to-five-year period, will ensue following the bishop's approval. Elements of the plans will be carried out and reassessed on a regular basis.

Bishop Curlin expressed hope that the process will ensure that the church remains relevant in people's lives. "At the heart of what we're here for is Jesus," he added. "He must be the center of everything." ▼

Carolyn's Stitchery
Monogram, Embroidery, Digitizing and sew-on...
(704) 552-8084
(704) 643-4177 fax

Shining Stars
Adult Day Respite Care
Enroll your loved one for Mass, a nutritious snack, and socialization activities at 3 Charlotte area churches:
Every Tues. 8:30-1:00 pm
St. Patrick
Every Wed. 8:30-1:00
St. Gabriel
Every Thurs. 8:30-1:00 pm
Our Lady of Assumption
Program begins Jan. 5,
so call NOW for reservations.
First come, first served basis.
Cost $35 per day or sliding scale.
Call Suzanne Bach 376-4135
Sharon Mayfield 563-6103
Connie Stover 568-6289

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
CHRISTMAS IDEAS!! Cards, Ornaments, Nativities, Angels...
plus Bibles, Religious Plaques, Medals, CDs, and over 700 book titles!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Development and Alumni: Needed beginning January 1999. Please send resume and request for application to Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Principal: St. Bridget's School, serving 475 students grades K through 8, invites applications for the position of Principal starting August 1, 1999. The school is part of St. Bridget's parish, a Catholic community of 2500 families, located in Richmond, Virginia. The Principal is responsible for overseeing all aspects of school life in keeping with a vision of Catholic education. Therefore, the applicant must be a practicing Catholic, hold a Master's degree in educational administration or related field, and have a minimum of five years teaching and/or administrative experience, and be certified in Virginia. Interested persons should submit a resume no later than December 31, 1998 to: Principal Search Committee, St. Bridget's Church, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC Windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Human Resources Clerk: Part-time Human Resources Clerk needed to work at Catholic Pastoral Center from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting January 18, 1999. Applicants must have a high school or business college degree, and possess strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills. Interested applicants should submit resumes before December 18 to: Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, Vice Chancellor, Catholic Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator.. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you Holy Spirit and St. Jude. -JR

Thank you St. Jude. -RF

Wreath pins help New York Catholics 'take back Advent'

By MAUREEN McGUINNESS
Catholic News Service

RENSSELAER, N.Y. (CNS) — With the help of a small wreath, St. Joseph's Church in Rensselaer is standing up to the malls and shopping centers that began their Christmas merchandising even before the first trees began to lose their leaves.

Under the leadership of Mercy Sister Julia Mary Werner, pastoral associate for administration, 70 parishioners are making wreath pins that serve as a reminder of the Advent season.

"My primary goal is to help people take back Advent," Sister Werner told The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese.

The idea for the pins originated three years ago when Sister Werner's housemate, Mercy Sister Kathleen Pritty, a Catholic school principal, decided to hang a wreath on the door of their house as a symbol that they were preparing for Christmas but not celebrating it yet.

The wreath had purple and pink ribbons, representing the traditional colors of the Advent candles.

The following year, when Sister Werner was preparing for the parish's Christmas boutique, "I thought if you can put a wreath on a door, you can wear them." So she made the first pin.

The next year, she and two parishioners made 300 wreath pins to sell at the parish's Christmas boutique and after Mass. They found they couldn't keep up with the orders.

Then last February, Sister Werner said, "I thought if this can work for 300, maybe it can work for 20,000."

In March, parishioners began meeting to make the pins to sell this Advent. More than 70 parishioners have been involved. Groups of people have met each week to make the wreaths that now come in two styles — the original with hand-stitched bows, and one that has small purple and pink flowers.

Parishioners have surpassed Sister Werner's dream of 20,000 wreaths and have already turned out 23,880 wreath pins. Orders have been steady.

Sister Werner reports that 5,000-plus pins have already been sold at $1 each. Some parishes and stores are permitted to resell the pins for $2 each.

In addition to wearing the pin, Sister Werner suggested, those wanting to celebrate Advent could find out what their home parish is doing, attend daily Mass when possible, spend an extra 10 minutes in prayer and do some Advent reading.

While the goal of the wreaths is to help people reclaim Advent, Sister Werner said the project has another goal. The parish hopes the sale of the pins can replace funds that bingo used to generate for the school.

The parish held its last bingo on New Year's Eve 1997. The parish had budgeted $30,000 a year from the game, but in recent years, it became increasingly difficult to raise that amount from bingo.

Pin-makers said they have been attracted to the project both for the opportunity it provides to reclaim Advent and for the opportunity to assist the school.

"Lately, things have become so commercial," said Margaret Baum. "It gets out of proportion. We are on the road getting ready for Christ, and Santa Claus has taken over."

Dan Lioi and John Cavanaugh said they joined the wreath-making efforts because Sister Werner invited them to help and because they wanted to help the school.

"We did away with bingo, so we have to raise funds," Lioi said. "It's important to keep the school going." Cavanaugh agreed it is important to help the school. "There are some good kids around," he said.

During a recent wreath-making "marathon," Lioi and Cavanaugh sat with 9-year-old Phillip Savrine and his 13-year-old sister, Elizabeth, students at the school. The children said that participating in the wreath project has helped them appreciate all of those supporting their school.

"It feels really good," Phillip said. "It's good that a lot of people are trying to raise money." Elizabeth added, "It shows you should give back."

The students said that they have learned about Advent as well. "Christmas isn't just 'gimme-gimme-gimme,'" Phillip said. "It's the day Christ was born."

Many people in the parish have supported the project in one way or another, Sister Werner said. For example, when she celebrated her 40th anniversary as a Sister of Mercy, she asked that in lieu of gifts, people contribute to the wreath supply fund. She received $1,000. ▼

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio for a Marian Pilgrimage visiting shrines in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

May 1999

Finalized tour information is expected in January. Want to be on our mailing list?
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Feel the Warmth of the Holidays at Colchester Place

GARDENS & NURSERY

Festive Gifts & Decorating Ideas

Poinsettias
Over 20,000 assorted colors and sizes
Beautiful 6" potted poinsettias
from $2.99 ea., ten count case $25.

Christmas Trees
Fresh Cut, Carolina Grown

Frasier Fir
Grade /Premium 6-15'

Wreaths & Garland
Many Sizes *25' & 75' Coils*
Designs *White Pine & Frasier Fir*

Miniature Christmas Trees
Dwarf Alberta Spruce
from 12" to 48"

Holiday Flowering Cactus
Perfect house plant that blooms just in time for the holidays, year after year.

Extended Holiday Hours thru Dec 24
Mon-Sat: 8:30-10pm, Sun: 11-6pm
341-2200
10605 Park Road, Charlotte at BLACKLION

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42,083 S299 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 18, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 16

Inside

Faith journey leads to transitional diaconate ...PAGE 12

Man carves nativity in memory of daughter ...PAGE 3

Christmas shopping at Vatican brings unique gifts ...PAGE 7

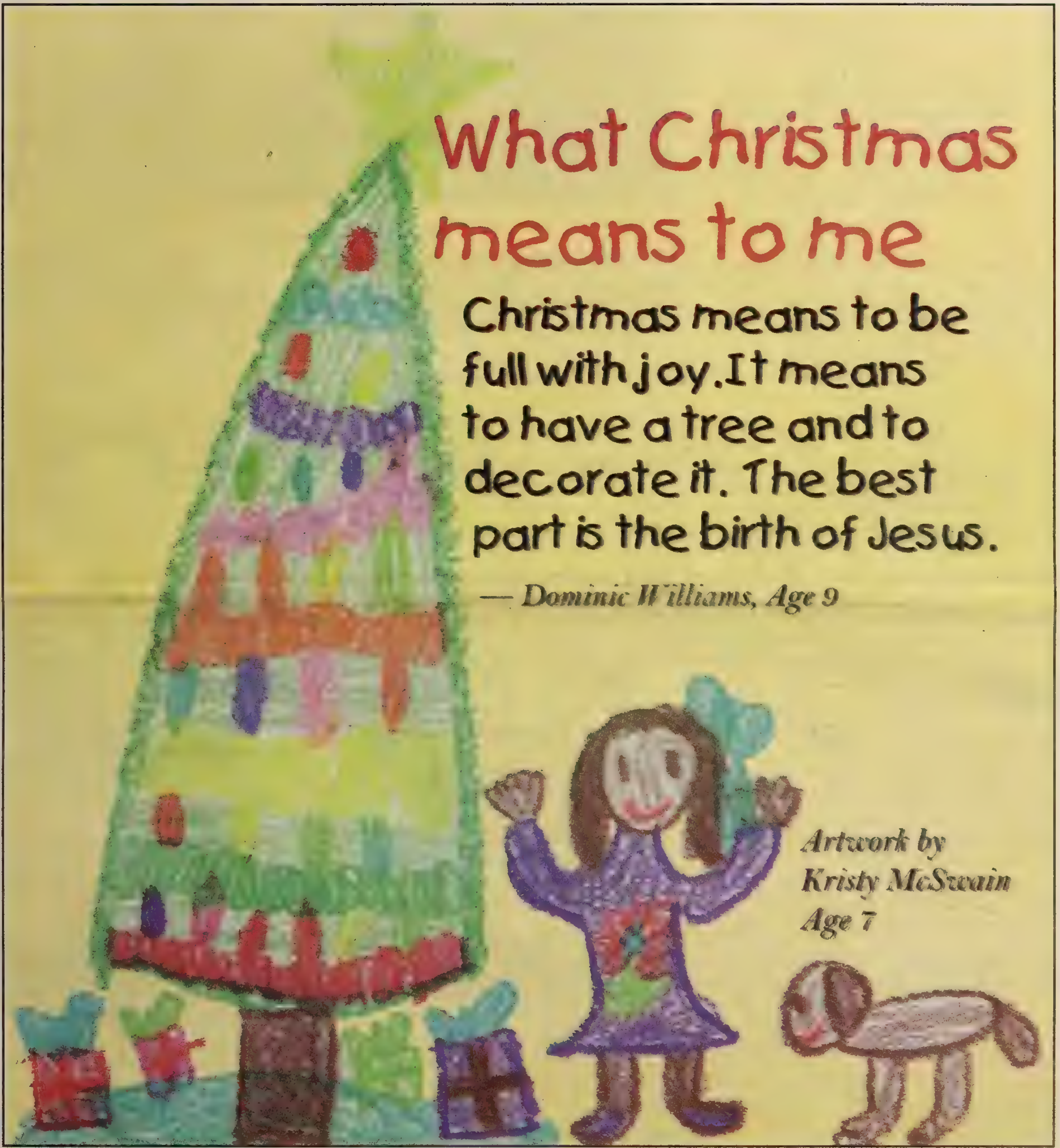
Local News

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration ...PAGE 3
Communiquémonos

Every Week

Diocesan Planner ...PAGES 2-3
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Readings ...PAGE 8
Entertainment ...PAGE 9

Don't miss Communiquémonos in this week's The Catholic News & Herald!



What Christmas means to me

Christmas means to be full with joy. It means to have a tree and to decorate it. The best part is the birth of Jesus.

— Dominic Williams, Age 9

Artwork by Kristy McSwain Age 7

Holiday visions inspire Christmas stories of the heart

SALISBURY — Recently, The Catholic News & Herald asked Sacred Heart Catholic School's second- and third-graders to share their thoughts on the meaning of Christmas. We hope their poignant writings, mixed with a little humor, will make your day merry and bright.

Second- and third-graders write "What Christmas Means to Me"

Christmas means to spend time with my family. And getting ready for Jesus' birth. And decorating the Christmas tree.

— Garrison Stevens, 7 years old

Christmas means to me a time to share and time to be kind to others, and to help others that cannot do something. We do not hurt others, and do not lie. We give people gifts.

— Brandon Lomax, 8 years old

Christmas means to me I give special presents to my family. I spend time with my family and my friends and laugh with them.

— Whitney Corriher, 7 years old

Christmas is a time to forgive and share. Christmas is a time for celebrating Jesus's birth. Christmas eve is to prepare for God's forgiveness.

— Joshua Roepke, 8 years old

Christmas means to me spending time with my family. And helping with the lights and the ornaments. And giving thanks to everyone.

— David Taylor, 7 years old

Christmas is a time for giving and sharing to me. I like Christmas. You get presents and candy at Christmas.

SEE CHRISTMAS STORIES, PAGES 10-11

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Notre Dame renewal

An artisan applies a cleaning solution to the facade of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Dec. 14. The work is part of a complete refurbishment of the cathedral's western face which began in 1993 and is due to be completed in 2000.

On feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, cardinal urges renewal

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexican Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera said Christianity must re-awaken today as it did among the country's indigenous population 500 years ago, following Mary's apparition to Blessed Juan Diego. "Everywhere we look, we do not see peace, but its opposite: wars and ferocious hatred, assaults, robberies and massacres, from which, shamefully, we are not exempt in our country," Cardinal Rivera, archbishop of Mexico City, said in his homily at Mass in the city's Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Youths thirsty for 'faith that matters,' conference told

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Catholic young people are thirsty for "teaching that matters, service that matters (and) faith that matters," said Mike Carotta, a veteran of youth ministry, in a Dec. 3 keynote address at the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in Cincinnati. The three-day annual meeting was attended by some 1,300 youth ministers from throughout the United States. Young Catholics want religious education that takes them and their faith formation seriously, observed Carotta, a member of St. Patrick Church in Louisville, Ky.

Catholic official urges Congress to restrict embryo research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic official urged Congress to continue its ban on funding human embryo research, saying that "in trying to serve humanity we should not support actions that are fundamentally wrong." "Scientific progress must not come at the expense of human dignity," argued Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, during a December hearing before a Senate subcommittee. Doerflinger addressed the U.S Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Education in the wake of reports in November that two U.S. research teams developed ways to collect human embryonic stem cells, which are believed to be capable of developing into any of the various types of body cells.

YMCA gives nation 'D' grade for poor support of families

WASHINGTON (CNS) — YMCA of the USA has given the nation a grade of D for its poor support of U.S. families. At a Dec. 9 press conference in Washington, David R. Mercer, YMCA national executive officer, released the organization's first "Nation's Report Card: Assessing the Risk to the American Family." Despite years of economic growth, said Mercer, "more and more Americans are facing an increasingly difficult task of providing for their families — not just economically, but in education, health and safety issues in a society with a shockingly high level of violence."

More jobs created but at lower pay, report says

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (CNS) — More jobs are being created in the United States but the workers who get those jobs are not being paid a livable wage, according to a report from the Northampton-based National Priorities Project. In its study, "Working Hard, Earning Less," released Dec. 8, the organization noted than 74 percent of the jobs in categories with the most growth pay less than a livable wage for a family of four, and 46 percent pay less than half a livable wage. CEO salaries in the meantime keep soaring, from 28.5 times the average worker's wage in 1978 to 115 times the average worker's wage in 1997, it said.

Jewish group calls for 'accounting' of church's WWII activities

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The World Jewish Congress called on the Catholic Church to make a "frank accounting" of its activities during and after World War II. In a policy dispatch, "A Great Leap Backwards?," the congress said that without an accounting, actions such as the canonization of St. Edith Stein "chip away at the bridges of dialogue" between Jewish and Catholic communities. But in Washington, Eugene Fisher, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said the policy dispatch was "factually erroneous in a number of places" and "certainly doesn't help" dialogue.

Irish bishops call for changes in N. Ireland police force

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish bishops called for a "new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland," including a change in the name of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force. After submitting a brief on the matter to the Independent Commission for Policing in Northern Ireland, the bishops issued a statement but refused to comment further because of the sensitivities of the unionist population. In their Dec. 9 statement, the Irish bishops said changes were needed to "demonstrate the right of Catholics to have a police service that is politically and culturally neutral."

Philippine bishops say rights commemoration 'almost farcical'

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — The Philippine bishops said seemingly endless violations of human rights make the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "almost farcical." The bishops cited "a long litany of injustice against civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development." Despite significant progress toward restoring civil and political rights lost during martial law from 1972 to 1986, human rights violations remain a reality in many Filipinos' lives, said the pastoral letter, issued Dec. 1 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and signed by its president, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

December 18, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 16
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 19 — 5 p.m.
Parish Mass and dedication
of Pro-Life Monument
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

December 20 — 11 a.m.
Tenth Anniversary of the episcopal
ordination of Bishop Curlin
Mass, St. Patrick Cathdral

December 24 — 12 midnight
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

2 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass
Holy Angels, Belmont

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The docents of the Basilica of St. Lawrence host free tours of the historic church following each weekend Mass. Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (in Spanish). The basilica is located at 97 Haywood St. For more information, call (828) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action youth ministry of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is coordinating a Christmas wish tree program to benefit individuals staying at the Battered Women's Shelter in Charlotte. Donations of toys and toiletries are being accepted. For details, call Nanette Lide, (704) 536-2340, or Leslie Johnson, (704) 542-2255.

December

19 MONROE — The unveiling and dedication of a monument to the unborn, purchased and prepared by the parish's Knights of Columbus, are today following the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, located at the corner of Franklin and Deese streets. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside. A light reception follows.

20 ASHEVILLE —The high school youth group of the Basilica of St. Lawrence reenacts the Nativity story in Spanish at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 97 Haywood St.

CHARLOTTE — A community Advent reconciliation service is today at 4 p.m. in St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. *Other Charlotte services will take place at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. and St. Thomas Aquinas Church Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.* Call your parish office for details on services in your area.

WINSTON-SALEM — Lessons & Carols, a service of Scripture and mu-

Man carves Nativity sets in memory of daughter killed as child

By MARY GRIECO
Catholic News Service

HAZELHURST, Wis. (CNS) — Vern and Erma Reigel's six adult children have a pretty good idea what they'll be getting for Christmas each year, but there's still great anticipation before the packages are opened.

Four years ago Vern Reigel began carving intricate Nativity sets for each of the children and their families, and every year they receive additional figures.

His work is now almost complete, with just a few Wise Men and some angels still waiting to take shape.

While he wanted to make something that will stay in the family for generations, he said that the Nativity sets are also a way of remembering their daughter Rolinda, who was hit by a car when she was 6 years old. The fatal accident occurred when she was walking to classes at a Catholic school in Wausau.

"After her death, we decided that as soon as we could afford it, we would buy a good Nativity set in her memory," Reigel explained in an interview with the Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Superior Diocese.

The one they chose was made in Germany, and he uses its figures as a models for his carving.

Until recently, he had no idea that he had the talent to do wood carving.

But he got some lessons from three professional carvers who live in the retirement area in Florida where Reigel and his wife have spent the last five winters.

"I was surprised that I enjoyed it so much. The only carving I had done before was on Ivory soap bars when I was a kid," said Reigel, who also regularly plays the organ for Mass and for 30 years has been part of a musical group known as the Odds and Ends.

While the annual project his Florida instructors give him is to make a different-style Santa, Reigel decided not to stop there. When he told them about his plans for the Nativity sets, they gave him a few tips, but indicated that he was pretty much on his own.

"As with anything you do, practice makes perfect," he said. For about a year he had more time to practice than he wanted. While recuperating from an accident in which his leg was crushed, he had endless hours of free time and found that his new hobby was a blessing.

His family notes that his work just keeps getting better.

"I love what he makes," said daughter Vickie. "We all have orders in for lots of stuff."

He has done other carvings, and most have been given as gifts; he does not sell any of his pieces.

Although Vern has worked with several types of wood, he finds that basswood is the best for the Nativity sets.

"It is easy to carve, and you don't have to worry about it slivering," he explained.

Intricate facial features are the most challenging, but Reigel is a patient man and has been known to spend several hours on one face. The figures he makes are 12 inches high and finished with 10 coats of stain.

"If only these guys could talk and tell us what it was really like," he said. "I think about how big an event the Nativity really was."

The Reigels, who are secular Franciscans, will head for Florida after Christmas, temporarily leaving behind their parish, Our Lady Queen of the Universe, where they are active in a charismatic group. ▼

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
Office of the Bishop

December 18, 1998

My dear friends in Christ,

What a wonderful outpouring of concern our people have shown for our sisters and brothers whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Mitch. From donations flowing in from individuals and parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, we have sent a check for $100,000 to Catholic Relief Services, which is the U.S. Catholic Church's official relief effort in Central America. The funds are being used to purchase emergency goods such as food, medicine, cooking utensils, water jugs, bedding, shelter materials, tools and blankets.

In expressing his thanks to us, Ken Hackett, CRS Executive Director, wrote, "Overnight, Hurricane Mitch destroyed the livelihoods, shelter, and belongings of millions of Central Americans. Thanks to the generosity of the Diocese of Charlotte, they have not lost their dignity or their hope. Through your support, Catholic Relief Services is meeting urgent and basic human needs. But more importantly, we are dedicated to support the Church in Central America rebuilding a new and more just society."

I express deep gratitude to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte for opening your hearts to those in need. With these generous offerings, thousands of people will be spared further disease and possible famine. They will be able to begin regaining physical, material, and spiritual strength to help each other rebuild their lives.

Wishing you and your loved ones God's Blessings during this Holy season, I am,

Prayerfully yours in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

---

sic, is today from 5-6 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. Featured are a 45-voice choir of children and adults, and nine readers. Call the parish office, (336) 722-7001, for more information.

23 ASHEVILLE — The high school youth group of the Basilica of St. Lawrence reenacts the Nativity story in English at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 97 Haywood St.

25 CHARLOTTE — The annual Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Cathedral is today from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for anyone who would otherwise be without holiday fellowship and celebration. The free dinner is in the school cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St., and is for those who, because of financial need, lack of family, travel, or for any other reason, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation is provided for those who need it, and the gathering includes entertainment and small gifts. Meals will be delivered to those unable to attend. To make financial contributions or to inquire about other gift needs, call the parish office at (704) 334-2283.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Committee of St. Vincent de Paul Church sponsors a Mass celebrating the feast of the Holy Innocents today at 9 a.m. A rosary for life will follow. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 554-7088.

January

2 HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, located at the corner of Montlieu and Denny streets, celebrates Epiphany and cultural diversity with a covered dish supper various ethnic foods at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Please bring a dish that represents your heritage. Call (336) 884-5212 for details.

12 GREENSBORO — Vincentian Father Robert Prior explains the kingdom Jesus spoke frequently of today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Father Prior will discuss how this kingdom works, lives and grows in relation to people of faith. For information on this and other sessions in the parish's adult education series, call the parish's religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church gathers for its monthly meeting today at 11 a.m. Sandwiches, coffee and dessert are provided, and entertainment will be featured. For details, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

14 BELMONT — Prospective students are invited to visit Belmont Abbey College, a private Benedictine liberal arts college, today through Jan. 17 for an "Abbey Experience." The gathering includes meetings with current Abbey students and professors, campus tours, opportunities to attend classes, and a financial aid seminar. For reservations and other information, call the Office of Admission, (888) 222-6665.

16 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan African American Affairs Ministry hosts its annual celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The gathering includes Mass and presentation of the first Glenda Rollins-Gaither/John A. McDonald Service Award. Pre-registration for the event is encouraged. Cost is $10 per person, $15 per couple, $20 per family of four or less, and $25 for families of five or more. Registration includes materials and meals. Send checks and number of participants to African American Affairs Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mary continues her cooperation with Holy Spirit, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Blessed Virgin Mary cooperated with the Holy Spirit in bringing Christ to birth on earth, and she continues cooperating with the Holy Spirit in her maternal concern for all believers, Pope John Paul II said.

"The consent she expressed at the Annunciation 2,000 years ago represents the point of departure for a new history of humanity," the pope said Dec. 9 at his weekly general audience.

In what he described as "crowning" a 28-part series of audience talks on the Holy Spirit, the pope said that when Christians deepen their devotion to Mary, they open the way for the Holy Spirit to work more powerfully in their lives.

"Mary continues to exercise in the church the maternity with which Christ entrusted her," the pope said.

"The humble servant of the Lord does not place herself in competition with the role of the Holy Spirit," he said. "On the contrary, she is called by the Spirit to cooperate with him in a maternal way."

In the mystery of Christ's incarnation, Mary's cooperation with the Holy Spirit was essential, the pope said.

In giving birth to Jesus, raising him and following him to Calvary, she continued to follow the prompting of the Spirit in her life, and her cooperation with the Spirit will last until the end of time, Pope John Paul said.

"A true woman of prayer, the Virgin asked the Holy Spirit to complete the work begun at conception so that the baby would grow 'in wisdom, age and grace before God and men,'" the pope said.

"In this way, Mary presents herself as a model for parents, showing the need to turn to the Holy Spirit to find the right way in the difficult task" of raising and educating children, he said.

Greeting groups present at the audience, the pope had special words of encouragement for young people participating in an Italian pro-life conference marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

"You have come to reaffirm the right to life of unborn babies," the pope said. "I hope from my heart that this commitment to defend the great gift of life from birth to its natural end would be shared by all."

Pope calls for increased charity in World Day of the Sick message

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church and society must accept the "duty of charity" and do more to help the world's sick and suffering, Pope John Paul II said. "No request leaps from the human heart with such depth as the request for soundness and health," the pope said in his message for the 1999 World Day of the Sick, to be celebrated Feb. 11. The text was made public at the Vatican Dec. 10. The pope said the plight of the sick represents a challenge to the church and in particular to health care workers.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Cherishing family moments & memories at Christmastime

The holiday rush is upon us already. Our calendars are being assaulted by holiday parties with co-workers, friends and neighbors. Our "to do" lists are ever expanding. In many ways this is the typical Christmas season. However, this year we are very different.

This is the first Christmas without Andrew's father, who died this past February. The times when we gathered as a family since Dad's death, we experienced a gaping hole in ourselves — an incomplete feeling. It lets us know that the healing is yet completed.

The Christmas season is a particularly special family time. Thinking about our last Christmas with Dad, it is comforting to know that it was exceptionally festive.

A particular evening last year stands out. Andrew was performing as Santa at the local mall. Mom and Dad brought some of the grandchildren to visit Santa.

We took pictures of Dad and everyone with Santa. Later that evening we splurged for a holiday dinner at a nearby upscale restaurant. The restaurant was known for its elaborate holiday decor. The Christmas lights, intricately laced throughout the interior and exterior, were captivating. Dad was especially open in his conversation. He spoke with more passion than we were used to hearing. We feasted on the love at the long table as much as we did on the delicious food that was served. We ate too much, and we spent too much.

But it felt so right.

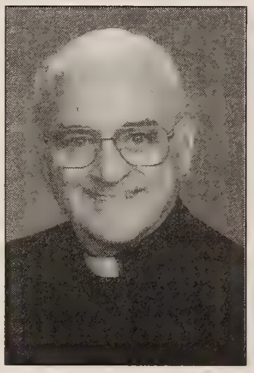
Our regular family Christmas party was special, too. With less mobility because of the wheelchair, Dad was more settled than usual. Surrounded by children and caroling, Dad seemed especially content with his family. He even sang Christmas songs, something he rarely did. There was a gleam — possible the welling of tears — in his eyes that evening.

In this memoir of a Christmastime with Dad, we derive the gift of presence.

The memories and the warm feelings temper the feelings of loss — that gaping hole. In this sense Dad is with us in our minds and hearts. He is missed, for sure. But he is remembered and celebrated. His story is entered into the book of family folklore that shapes us as a family of faith. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

As we enter into a holiday season without Dad for the first time, we carry with us the lessons learned from our last Christmastime with him. Tomorrow is not promised to any of us. Our family times are more cherished. And we try to celebrate and to feast as though it may be our last time together.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

This season's real message

I came across a marvelous quote from an anonymous medieval author. It has an interesting bearing on this holiday season's message.

"You are called to be holy with all your heart, mind and soul; but if because of weakness you cannot be holy, then at least be good with all your heart, mind and soul.

"However if you cannot be good because of overpowering temptations, then at least be wise with all your heart, mind and soul. But alas if you cannot even be wise because of your sinful nature, then bow deeply before the Lord and beg for his mercy with all your heart, mind and soul.

"If you do this with humility and with a confident spirit, you will soon become aware of the tenderness of God's love for you, and you will become wise and good and holy."

The real message of the Christmas season gets lost in all the frantic rush. This real message is hidden in the indescribable humility of the Christ child. Jesus teaches us to love the Father by submitting to his will. From the moment of his conception, Jesus surrendered to his Father's will.

We often hear the words, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,"(Jn 3:16) but his Son had to be willing to accept his mission. His surrender was an act of love from the very beginning — love for the Father and for us. His humble submission in becoming a human child serves as a model for us. The Spirit of self-giving is his gift to us.

I have searched the Scriptures to find out how this example of humility can help us to grow more in the love of God. It was in the 12-Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous that I found an answer. I had seen it many times before, but I failed to grasp its full impact. Surrender is at the heart of that program too.

Here is a synopsis of the basic elements of the 12 steps to serenity and sobriety:

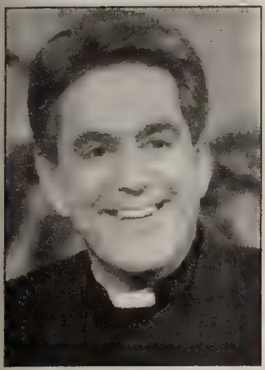
"Realize that you are powerless, and surrender yourself to your higher power. Ask the God of your understanding to show you the way to freedom and light. Admit your wrongdoing. Have a firm purpose of amendment. Pray to know God's will, and pray for the grace to follow it. Help others, and become a carrier of God's love."

These words summarize the Gospel that Jesus preached so effectively.

As you may know, I am presently the executive director of a drug and alcohol treatment center. The men and women in treatment use the 12-Step Program every day. It is a map of life, telling them how to live and love.

The 11th step reads as follows: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood him, praying only for the knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out."

Pray "for a knowledge of his will" this holiday season. The spirit of surrender will bring you closer to the heart of Jesus, and in him you will find your peace and your joy.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

A Christmas story revisited

After the many columns I've written since becoming the director of The Christophers, I have gotten some wonderful responses. But one holiday article clearly touched readers in a particular way. I offer it again in the hope that, like all special Christmas stories, it will bring healing and joy.

It was Christmas Day in Germany in 1969 that I had the good fortune to witness a play performed in a school gymnasium in a small village just outside of Nuremberg. It has become my fondest and most profound experience of a nativity drama.

The townspeople approached their little Christmas pageant with an enthusiasm one usually associates with their epic German productions of the Passion Play at Oberammergau or "Everyman" on the steps of the Cathedral at Salzburg. Young and old, just about every villager had a role to play.

What I didn't expect was the haunting episode that unfolded in the first scene. Let me set the stage.

The curtain rises on a tableau of Mary and Joseph snuggled closely against the crib of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. It is a bleak scene underscored by wind howling through an eerie silence. There is a faint tapping at the barn door, and a startled Joseph moves haltingly towards it, seemingly uncertain as to who or what might be there. I, and presumably the rest of the audience, expect to see the Shepherds or perhaps the Three Kings make their entrance. But, no. At the threshold appear an ancient-looking couple, bent over with age and exhaustion. As they move into the dimly lit barn, a shaft of light crosses their wrinkled faces baring the marks of indescribable sadness and remorse. In their feebleness they seem weighted down with a terrible secret as they ask Joseph if they might see the Child.

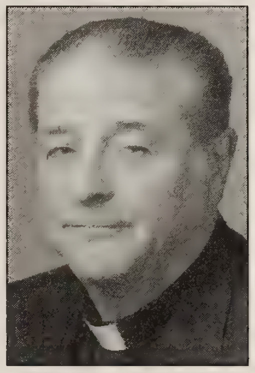
Perplexed and hesitant, Joseph and Mary step aside and allow the trembling pair to shuffle toward the crib. With their backs to Mary and Joseph, as well as the audience, the old woman reaches under her thread-worn shawl to retrieve something which she quickly places into the crib with the Child Jesus.

"Who are these people and what are they up to?" Suddenly and briskly, the old couple turn to Joseph and Mary. And there is now a radical change in their demeanor. As if invigorated by what they have just accomplished, their wrinkles and contorted postures are gone. Instead they move sprightly to the door, and in tones of grateful relief and with smiles that radiate absolute joy, they thank Mary and Joseph, and exit solemnly erect.

Mary crosses to the crib to find what the old couple had just placed there. Under the Child's blanket, she discovers a piece of fruit, like an apple, which she hands to Joseph questioningly. Studying the fruit closely, Joseph brightens to his own explanation and whispers to Mary, "Could it be?" "What?" begs Mary. "That couple — Adam and Eve — at long last returning to God that which they had stolen!"

And with this recognition, the audience broke into a steady applause that swelled as the lights dimmed on the scene. For these German villagers that first Christmas began with an act of forgiveness.

For me, this experience was a splendid reminder that God's love is greater than our sins, and His promise of new life is stronger than our mistakes. At the first Christmas, in a little town just a few miles from Jerusalem, God forgave humanity by becoming one of us.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The church's position on organ transplants

Q. In a recent column on cremation you briefly mentioned organ transplants. Please advise about the church's position on this subject. Some people are much opposed to the idea for reasons I don't understand.

A. To donate a needed organ at the time of death, or even before death if that can be done with proper conditions and safeguards, is a wonderful act of charity and certainly morally good.

Several years ago, Pope John Paul II addressed the shortage of available donors for patients awaiting transplants. It is a matter of Christian generosity, he said, and "no solution will be forthcoming without a renewed sense of human solidarity."

In this matter, he reminded us, Christ's own example "can inspire men and women to make great sacrifices in the service of others" (April 30, 1990).

Most states now have donor forms on the back of, or attached to, drivers' licenses. Funeral directors could offer more detailed information. And be sure to tell your family of your desires.

Joining the Catholic faith

Q. The information you have offered in our diocesan newspaper for people desiring to return to the Catholic faith has been most helpful. I have a similar question.

A friend frequently accompanies me to Mass and now wishes to join the Catholic faith. He was baptized as a child in another Christian denomination. Later his family joined another, but he was away from any church for years until he began attending with me.

I couldn't help much, except to tell him to talk with a priest. Would he need to go through the catechism? Do we provide special programs or retreats for people like him? Any suggestions of books to read?

A. The advice you have already given is still the best in the end. He should discuss his situation with a priest or other parish minister who works with people in his situation and follow their advice.

Much will depend, of course, on how much Christian background he received and remembers from his past.

Most parishes today, certainly larger parishes, follow the liturgical process called the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Usually it takes place each year; sessions begin in the fall and conclude during the following Easter time.

Properly planned, the process includes shared prayer and reflection on the Scriptures, and on experiences of faith and sacrament along the way, as well as instruction.

In spite of its name, the program is not only for individuals now preparing for baptism. It is valuable also for people to become acquainted with the Catholic faith they have, for whatever reason, never really known.

It could be just what your friend needs. As the rite explains, individuals previously baptized in another denomination "have already become members of the church and children of God."

Their conversion, assisted by the RCIA program, is based on the baptism they have already received, the effects of which they must further develop in their faith journey (RCIA 401).

Your suggestion about reading is also excellent. Dozens of helpful books are available. Take him to a good Catholic bookstore (there are several in your area), and let him browse. The experience will help him become more aware of what he knows, and doesn't yet know, about the Catholic faith.

Planned Giving

JAMES E. KELLEY
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

A blessed time to give

With the end of the year upon us, the spirit of generosity and thankfulness abounds as we celebrate Thanksgiving and, later, the birth of Christ at Christmas. Traditionally, these are times when people choose to show their caring and appreciation through gifts to family members and dear friends.

Many in the diocese also lovingly make gifts in support of their parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the Diocesan Foundation. These multifaceted gifts hold benefits not only for the diocese and the future of the Catholic Church in Western North Carolina, but also for the giver who feels personally rewarded for having furthered the faith held so dear. Those who give at the end of the year may also reap financial benefits as a result of their gifts.

A season for giving and receiving

Charitable gifts made to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese, or the Foundation before Dec. 31 may bring you tax savings next spring if you itemize on your federal income tax return. If your gift exceeds the deductible amount, you may carry over the deduction into as many as five future tax years.

Gifts of appreciated property such as stocks, some bonds, and certain mutual funds can also bring tax savings if you have owned the assets for at least 12 months and a day. An income tax deduction for the current value of the property becomes available at the time the gift is made, and capital gains tax will not be due on the increase in value.

Plan now to give later

A number of individuals tell us that they regularly review their overall estate plans at the end of the years and that they use these pans to include a charitable dimension that will provide future benefits to Catholic causes important to them, their families, this community, and the church.

I meet people from all walks of life who add a charitable gift of support to a will, living trust, or other estate plans during a year-end review. Retirement accounts and life insurance proceeds also offer convenient opportunities for giving and a variety of plans exist to supplement retirement income and help achieve other goals.

Opportunities abound

It is a wise idea to discuss gift options with your professional financial advisor. You may find certain methods that better suit your giving desires.

Gifts to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the Diocesan Foundation strengthen and continue Christ's work on earth. All gifts, regardless of size, are greatly appreciated.

Please contact your financial advisor if you would like more information about different ways to give and possible tax savings. You may also contact me at the Diocesan Development Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301 or my associate, Cindy Rice (704) 370-3320. We are available to assist you throughout the year, in confidence and without obligation.

Oceania bishops say Gospel must be used to help solve problems

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Proclaiming the Gospel will have little effect unless it is lived by each member of the church and is used to help solve the religious and social problems facing Oceania, bishops from the region said. "If the church is to be a teacher, she must first be a witness," said the final message from the Synod of Bishops for Oceania. The message, a brief review of topics discussed during the synod, was published at the Vatican the day before the assembly's closing Mass.

Priest offers suggestions for improving ministry to Hispanics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders need to become better attuned to the thinking and practices of Hispanic immigrants to the United States if more Hispanics are not to be lost to evangelical and other churches, according to an official of the Hispanic priests' association. Father Miguel Angel Solorzano, director of communications for the National Association of Hispanic Priests, outlined some suggestions for improving ministry to Hispanics in a five-page document made available to Catholic News Service. A priest of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, the 33-year-old Father Solorzano was born in Mexico.

South Miami pastor spends three months ministering in Cuba

MIAMI (CNS) — He went to Cuba to evangelize the Cubans, but in bidding them farewell, Father Daniel Kubala realized they had evangelized him. "I came to help the church in Cuba, and I was the one who was helped," he told the faithful of the Diocese of Cienfuegos during an emotional farewell Mass. The pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in South Miami is the first of two priests from the Archdiocese of Miami to serve in Cuba since the communist revolution of 1959. The second priest, Father Jose Espino, has since been granted a visa to work in Cuba permanently, becoming the first archdiocesan priest to do so.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Lustiger and Dalai Lama

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris greets Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, Dec. 8 in Paris during ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was adopted by the United Nations Dec. 10, 1948.

Bishop says Iraq sanctions violate U.N. human rights declaration

DETROIT (CNS) — U.S.-supported United Nations sanctions against Iraq violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton said Dec. 6 as he prepared to depart the airport en route to Baghdad. Bishop Gumbleton said he and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and other embargo foes were traveling to Baghdad for a Dec. 8-10 international gathering marking the declaration's 50th anniversary.

German cardinal says Catholics should oppose use of RU-486

BONN, Germany (CNS) — Catholics should oppose plans by leading political parties to approve the use of the abortion pill RU-486, "an instrument of death" that should not be allowed in German society, said Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne, Germany. Writing in the Dec. 5 issue of Dusseldorf's Rheinischen Post newspaper, Cardinal Meisner said RU-486 was not a medicine, but rather the exact opposite: "a chemical instrument of death specially designed for unborn children."

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

For all your gardening needs!

10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Carolyn's Stitchery
Monogram, Embroidery, Digitizing and sew-on...
(704) 552-8084
(704) 643-4177 fax

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.
Only 90 minutes from Charlotte
(800)813-9676
$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding. Some restrictions apply

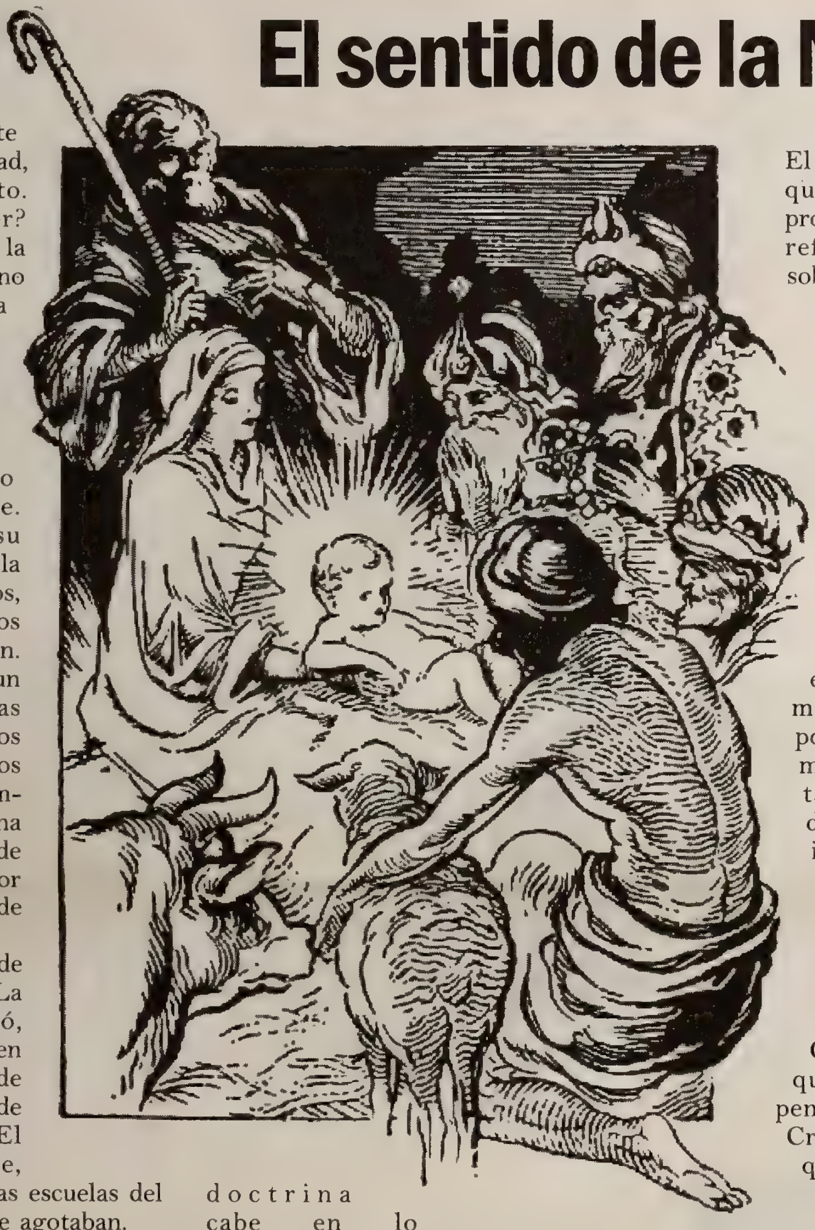
Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

18 de diciembre de 1998

Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

El sentido de la Navidad

Por MEDARDO VITIER



Nace un niño que va a ser fundador de la religión más influyente de la historia. Navidad, Natividad, Nacimiento. ¿Y qué es nacer? Biológicamente lo sabe la ciencia, pero el hombre no queda explicado con la Biología tan sólo. Su naturaleza requiere que otras disciplinas la estudien y aclaren. El Cristo nace y es en lo humano, un individuo de la especie. Morfológicamente, su anatomía no difiere de la de Tiberio o la de Pilatos, o la de cualquiera de los Magos que le adoraron. Era, en punto a raza, un semita que conoció las posturas religiosas de los saduceos, los esenios, los fariseos. Fue sin embargo, en la Historia, una nota nueva, un judío de excepción, iluminado por un temprano sentido de humanidad.

Nacer, en el caso de Jesús, fue innovar. La doctrina que enseñó, introdujo una fuerza en la Historia diferente de los cultos orientales y de la filosofía griega. El Cristianismo aparece, precisamente, cuando las escuelas del pensamiento helénico se agotaban.

En la Navidad conmemoramos la aparición de un Evangelio de amor porque en efecto, lo que iba a nacer, con Jesús, era un mensaje de fraternidad entre los hombres. Ese mensaje nació. Viene aquí una pregunta terrible:

—*¿Creció?*—

Si por "crecer" entendemos, en este caso, extenderse, difundirse una enseñanza, afirmamos que creció, a virtud del interés de los apóstoles y de las primitivas comunidades cristianas, aquéllas a quien San Pablo dirigió sus famosas Epístolas, es decir, las de Corinto, Galacia, Efeso… Pero si por "crecer" entendemos, tratándose del Cristianismo, su esencial aceptación por los hombres, la verdad es que no creció. Quedó, y ahí refulge como una sugestión al espíritu, como una esperanza que hasta hoy alientan los mejores. Porque ni la mayoría lo practicó ni las minorías (de la raza del Santo de Asís), han prevalecido. Si no queremos engañarnos, lo cierto en todo esto es que la fuerte innovación de una hermandad universal y de un amor a los enemigos está pendiente de aceptación. Ha habido casos individuales para indicar que la doctrina cabe en lo humano, pero ninguna sociedad, ninguna raza, ningún pueblo de la historia ha vivido el ideario ético del Maestro a quien Reyes de Oriente ofrecieron dones en el pesebre, mientras un astro, dicen que lucía señor de los espacios, guiador de los peregrinos.

Herodes mandó a los rabinos que consultaran sus textos reveladores. Herodes se sobrecogió. ¿Extrañeza? ¿Terror? ¿Presentimiento? Su actitud es un símbolo. El mundo iba a cambiar. La esencia cristiana quedará virgen en cuanto a su acogida y práctica universal, pero la pugna, la voluntad de alteración que llevó al fluir de la Historia, cambiaron el rumbo de los acontecimientos. La cultura de Occidente se tiñe entera de voluntad cristiana. No digo de espíritu cristiano. No es la esencia del Cristianismo lo que da estructura y sentido a Europa sino la lucha por el triunfo de esa esencia. La doctrina, por otra parte, lucha ya, en algo desfigurada, medio rendida al adaptarse a realidades.

Por manera que "creció" agónicamente. Tal era su destino. Tal es la suerte de todo empeño mejorador. Así, que no ha fracasado. El fracaso está y grita en quienes no aceptan el programa de Cristo. No me refiero a su contenido sobrenatural, que es cosa de fe, sino a sus elementos humanos de ética fecunda, de amor coherente. Razonan mal los que sostienen que el Cristianismo ha fracasado. El fracaso es de quienes lo rechazan.

Apenas recuerdan el episodio de Belén los que festejan en días de Pascua. El motivo se desdibuja un poco. Nos quedamos no más con "la fiesta". Esa es también una desfiguración. No importa. La memoria humana procede así en muchos casos. Hay, no obstante, un signo de fecundidad en la Pascua, y proviene de la fecundidad del Cristianismo. Es cierto que en estos días no pensamos gran cosa en el Cristo y muchos ignoran que se divierten en fecha sagrada. Pero al juntarse la familia, al acercarse los hombres, al saludarse, al sonreír en estos días del año, disfrutan de un efecto cristiano. Si el mensaje tropezó y anda maltrecho, resuena todavía cuando junta a los hombres. Es la fecundidad del árbol que, en clima impropio, da frutos.

Razonan superficial, falsamente, quienes afirman perturbados por los horrores de la guerra, que fracasa el Cristianismo. Antes resalta su eficacia. Pero ésta no se da sino a condición de voluntad. Recuérdese que es también doctrina de libertad. Amor a los buenos y a los malos. Libertad de la conciencia. En eso consiste el lado humano del Evangelio. El divino, aparte de los misterios que no toco, ¿no radica ya en lograr esos postulados?

Muy actual es la misión de Juan el Bautista, precursor, que anunciaba a Jesús. Están por preparar "sus caminos". "Vox vociferantis in deserto. Parate viam Domini, complanate calles ejus".

Una Navidad espera el mundo. Esa no ha llegado nunca. Está en potencia. Hay quienes creen en su advenimiento, pero son pocos. La Navidad en que estemos contentos de ser hombres; la Navidad en que hayamos vencido al Demonio interior que señorea; la Navidad en que gobierne lo mejor de nuestra naturaleza. Instintos, pasiones, gobiernan ahora buena parte del mundo. ¿Qué Navidad celebramos? ¿La de Cristo? Está bien. Desfigurado y todo, el espíritu, todavía tiene fuerza para sugerirnos que el amor revela y engrandece, en tanto el odio confunde y achica.

La Navidad, alta, genuina, es una aspiración todavía. ▼

Medardo Vitier fue un escritor cubano [1886-1960]. Este escrito ganó el Premio "Justo de Lara" en 1940.

Vaticano da bienvenida a noticia de que Cuba restablecerá la Navidad

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Vaticano dio la bienvenida a un anuncio procedente de Cuba que restableció la Navidad como día de fiesta casi 30 años después que fue suspendida su celebración.

"Este anuncio fue recibido con satisfacción en la Santa Sede", el portavoz del Vaticano, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, escribió en una declaración del 2 de diciembre.

El portavoz dijo que la declaración del gobierno cubano "responde a un deseo preciso del pueblo y de la Iglesia de Cuba" y agregó que la misma "no pasará sin ser observada por la comunidad internacional".

El Partido Comunista de Cuba anunció la noticia en la primera página de su periódico diario, Granma, el 1ro. de diciembre. El mismo recomendaba que, "desde este año en adelante", el 25 de diciembre sería un día de fiesta permanente en Cuba.

Las festividades de Navidad fueron prohibidas en Cuba en 1969 — los funcionarios explicaron que se necesitaba a los trabajadores en los campos para satisfacer las demandas de la cosecha de caña de azúcar.

El anuncio de Granma restableciendo el feriado religioso decía que su abolición "no fue inspirada por ningún espíritu anti-religioso" y que la mecanización había disminuido la necesidad de mano de obra durante la cosecha.

CONTINUÁ EN LA PAGINÁ 2

Mensaje del Padre

Amigos y amigas,

Leemos las siguientes frases en el Salmo 8:

¡Oh Señor, nuestro Dios,que glorioso es tu Nombre por la tierra!...
Al ver tus cielos, obra de tus dedos,la luna y las estrellas que fijaste,¿quién es el hombre, que te acuerdas de él,el hijo de Adán, para que de él cuides?

La historia de la humanidad y nuestra propia historia personal nos ayudan a preguntarnos: "Señor, ¿qué es el hombre para que te acuerdes de él?" ¿Quién soy yo para que te acuerdes de mí? Dios ha hecho algo más que acordarse de nosotros. El nos ha ofrecido a su Hijo y, para que lo reconociéramos mejor, se ha revestido de nuestra propia carne.

Ningún suceso merece ser llamado grande si en él no aparece la entrega, el amor, el desprendimiento e incluso el dolor. Pensemos en nuestra vida. ¿Qué hechos recordamos después de muchos años? ¿No son aquellos en los que hubo más entrega y amor? Pensemos en la Navidad, ¿no es un perfecto resumen de amor y desprendimiento?

No siempre resulta fácil sentir lo que uno quisiera. Con frecuencia nos sentimos alegres y no acertamos a descubrir quien ha puesto esa alegría en nuestro corazón. Otras veces nuestro estado de ánimo está más bien decaído y tampoco tenemos unas causas significativas que lo expliquen. ¿Qué desearías sentir esta Navidad? Es casi seguro que Dios te lo va a conceder si procuras ofrecerles a las personas que comparten tu vida eso mismo que tú deseas experimentar.

La Navidad es una invitación a pensar en el otro antes que en uno mismo. Jesús tanto pensó en nosotros que "se despojó de su rango y tomó la condición de esclavo". María aceptó ser esclava para que la humanidad pudiera ser libre. Aunque a lo largo del año te agobie el peso de haber elegido ser siervo de los demás, de ser cristiano, deja que se alegre tu espíritu durante la Navidad por la vocación cristiana recibida.

En muchas situaciones el dinero ha desvirtuado la Navidad. Los regalos, más que expresión de amor, son expresión de poder. Jesús no nos ofrece más regalo que su propia vida; su pobreza y humildad, su cercanía y perdón. Saben ustedes por experiencia que muchas de las personas a quienes sirven a lo largo de un año, tienen más hambre de afecto que de cosas. Antes de mendigar el amor de Jesús, socorran la necesidad de amor que tienen las personas cercanas.

Celebremos la Navidad un año más con gozo, porque por otro año más podemos agradecer la mirada de niño que tiene Dios y otro año mas podemos sembrar en nuestro corazón sonrisas de Dios. ▼

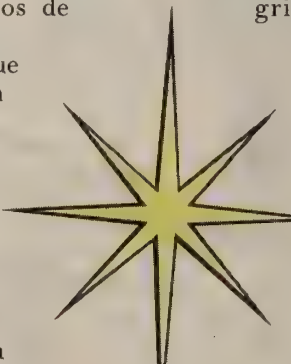
viene de la paginá 1

Los obispos de Cuba dijeron que la Iglesia de su país "aprecia" y "valora altamente" el gesto de las autoridades cubanas y "manifiesta su profunda confianza de que el camino hacia la apertura de Cuba al mundo producirá nuevos motivos de gozo, unidad y esperanza para el pueblo de Cuba".

En un mensaje del 1ro. de diciembre firmado por su director de prensa, Orlando Márquez Hidalgo, los obispos dijeron que la decisión "reconoce los sentimientos religiosos más puros de los cubanos y reafirma nuestras auténticas tradiciones, sobre todo las de nuestras familias".

El presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, despejó el camino para las celebraciones legales en Navidad en diciembre último, 40 días después de la visita pastoral del Papa Juan Pablo II entre el 21 y el 25 de enero. En aquel momento, Castro anunció que haría una "excepción" y permitiría las observancias del feriado, pero no dijo por cuánto tiempo. ▼

Esperando a Jesús con María



El Evangelio de estos días es realmente lo que significa: "Buena Noticia". Buena Noticia para todo el mundo, pero especialmente para los pobres, los sencillos, los de corazón puro.

Evangelio de los que esperan al Señor y esperan en el Señor. Buena noticia desconcertante porque llega en el silencio y a los que no tienen importancia para el mundo.

Jesús va a nacer en un pueblito insignificante, o, mejor dicho, en una cueva de los alrededores, porque para El no hubo lugar en ninguna casa. Un pueblillo sin personajes importantes en la política o en las finanzas de aquellos tiempos. Un pueblo al cual la Biblia atribuye el único mérito de haber sido la patria de David, un humilde pastorcillo, antecesor y figura de Jesús, al que Dios exaltó hasta hacerlo rey de Israel.

Ahí va a nacer Jesús, pobre y humilde, rechazado por los hombres que debía recibirlo con los brazos abiertos.

La protagonista de esta "Buena Noticia", que escuchamos de la boca del ángel, que hoy es apenas un susurro y que dentro de poco será un grito de esperanza y de liberación para todos, es María, una virgen del pueblo, apenas una adolescente, que lleva en sus entrañas al Hijo de Dios y al único Salvador. Y somos también nosotros que esperamos con ansia el día de nuestra redención y de nuestra liberación.

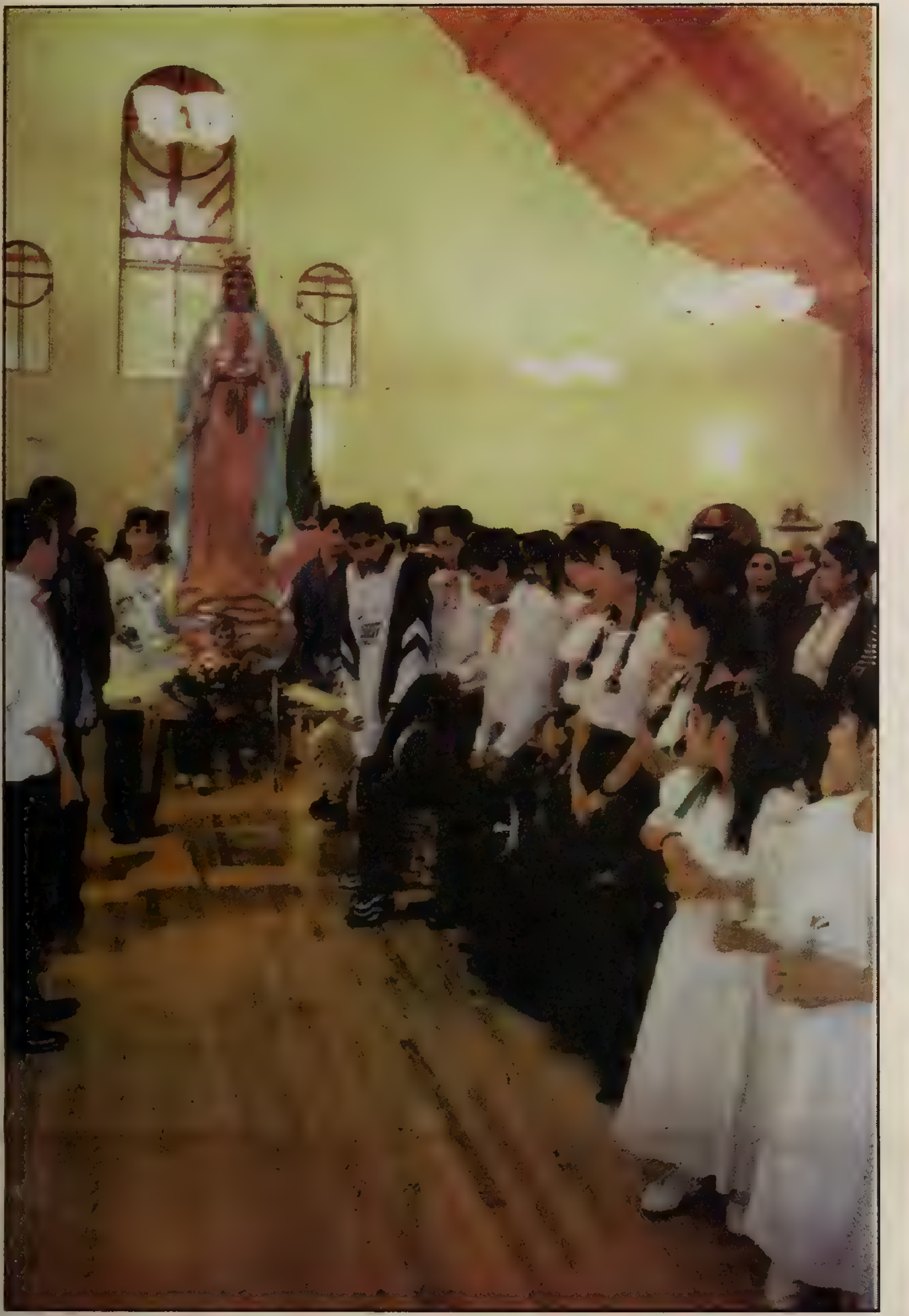
Preparémonos con María y como María a la venida del Señor. Acudamos a la cita con el Dios hecho hombre con los mismos sentimientos de aquellos bienaventurados pastores que tuvieron la dicha de ser los primeros en saber que Dios había cumplido su promesa de enviar a la humanidad entera un Redentor y un Salvador. ▼

Reimpreso de "Unidos en la Oración", con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 6 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

Festival de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Hendersonville



Feligreses de la iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción transportan la estatua de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe después de haber participado en la procesión de una milla que comenzó en el parque Jackson. Este año es la primera vez que una procesión es parte de esta celebración.

Parishioners carry the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe into Immaculate Conception Church at the end of a mile-long procession that began at Jackson Park. This was the first year a procession was part of the festival.

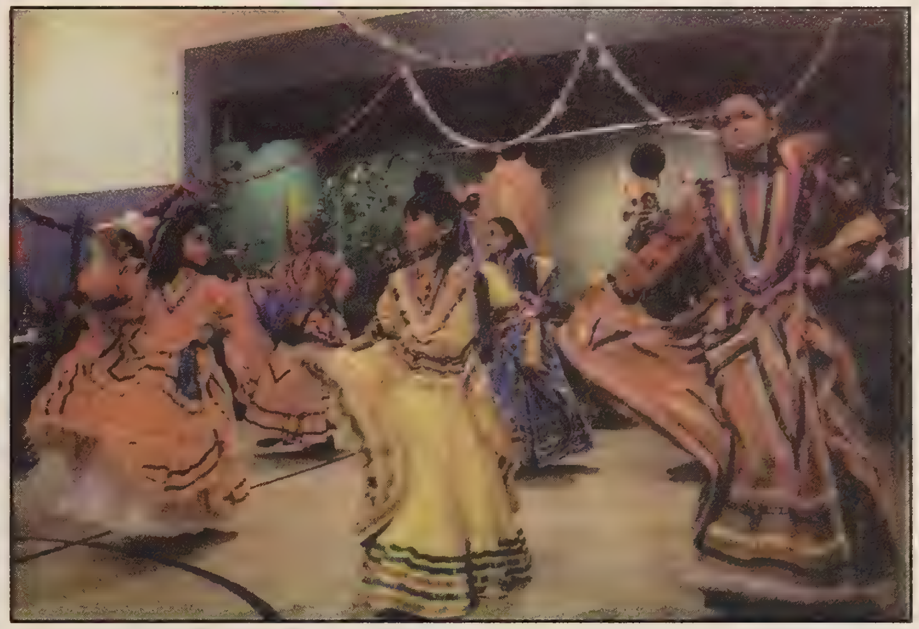
María Carmen Calbrillo con su hijita Nancy, de 16 meses de edad, quien está encantada con el globo rojo.

Maria Carmen Calbrillo holds her daughter Nancy, 18 months, who is fascinated by her red balloon.

El Mariachi México proporcionó la música durante la Misa, la comida y la fiesta que hubo en el gimnasio de la escuela.

Mariachi Mexico provided music for the Mass as well as for the dinner and entertainment that followed in Immaculata School gym.

Fotos de Joanita M. Nellenbach

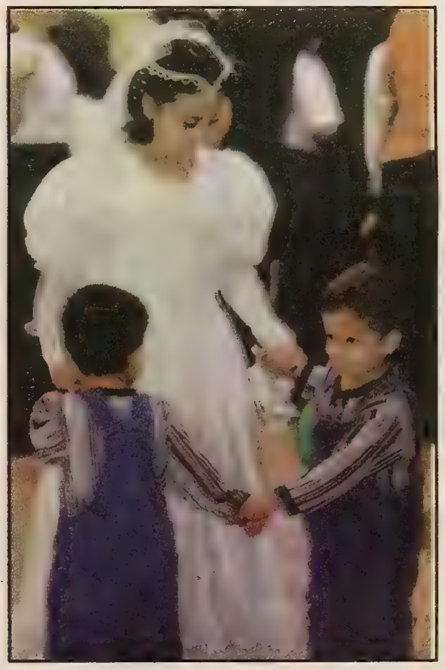


Bailarines del grupo de Ballet Folklórico y Popular Las Américas.

Members of the dance troupe Ballet Folklore y Popular Las Americas perform.

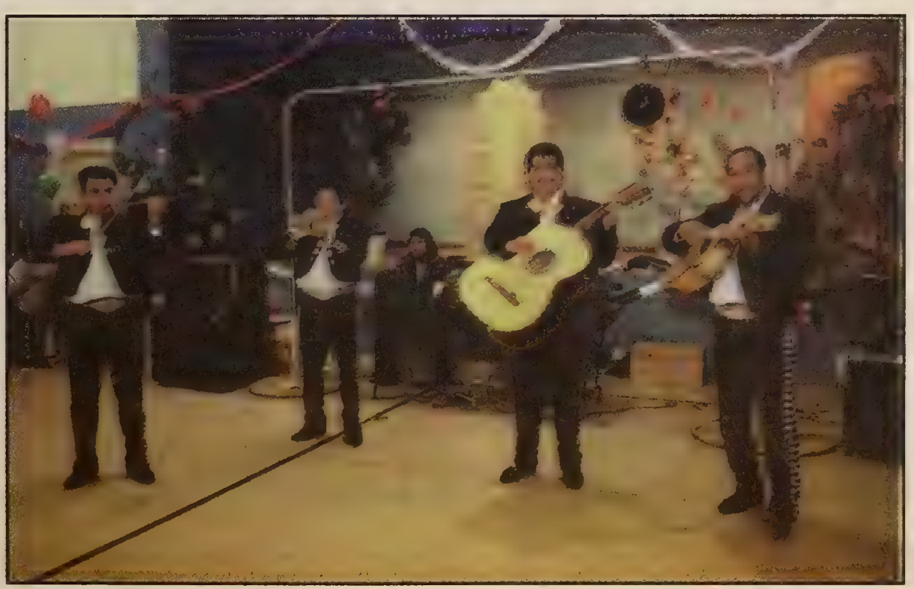
Al terminar la Misa, los bailarines ejecutaron algunos bailes en la iglesia.

Following Mass, dancers performed in the church.



Verónica Córdova de 9 años de edad, baila con sus hermanitos gemelos de 2 1/2 años de edad: Carlos y Henry.

Veronica Cordova, 9, dances with her brothers, twins Carlos and Henry, 2 1/2.



Después de Mitch, obispos instan a más que 'simple reconstrucción'

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Los obispos de la América Central han instado a sus gobiernos a ir más allá de la «simple reconstrucción» de sus países en la estela del Huracán Mitch y a "atacar a la pobreza extremada ... y edificar una nueva América Central".

En una declaración publicada al final de una reunión de cuatro días en la capital salvadoreña, los 29 miembros del Secretariado Episcopal Centroamericano agregaron sus voces a los pedidos cada vez mayores por un programa de reconstrucción y desarrollo amplio en las zonas más afectadas por Mitch.

Los obispos de la América Central dijeron que el huracán, que afectó a principios de noviembre, "reveló una cantidad de problemas no resueltos en la América Central: La concentración de tierra en pocas manos, el modelo económico, el deterioro ambiental y el valor bajo que se da a la vida humana".

Los obispos reiteraron los sentimientos de una declaración del 19 de noviembre de la Comisión Pontificia para la Justicia y la Paz, diciendo: "La etapa actual (de reconstrucción) no debería ser la de repetir las mismas injusticias y los mismos sufrimientos del pasado, sino que debería ser un paso determinado hacia adelante".

Ese paso debería incluir la cancelación de la deuda exterior de las naciones más afectadas, Nicaragua y Honduras, que es una demanda central de ambos gobiernos, dijeron los obispos centroamericanos. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Caridad de los Santa Claus

Los anuncios de modas compiten por la atención con los Santa Claus de las aceras en la Quinta Avenida de Nueva York el 27 de noviembre. Los Santa Claus hacen sonar sus campanas para pedir donativos para las caridades de Nueva York.

Nueva ley de Florida anima al asesoramiento pre-marital

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (CNS) — Una nueva ley que da a las parejas de la Florida un descuento sobre los honorarios de sus licencias de matrimonio si obtienen asesoramiento pre-marital, es una confirmación de la práctica eclesiástica, según dijo un asociado pastoral diocesano de Palm Beach.

"Creo que es importante que las parejas comprendan que éstos no son aros a través de los cuales estamos haciéndoles saltar, sino que estamos genuinamente preocupados por la calidad de sus matrimonios y esperamos que dediquen una cantidad tremenda de esfuerzo para estar bien preparados", dijo Anthony Marchica, asociado pastoral en el vicariato diocesano para el matrimonio y la familia.

La nueva ley de la Florida, una de las primeras de su clase en el país, entrará en vigor el 1ro. de enero próximo. La misma proporciona a las parejas programas de enseñanza en el manejo de conflictos, las habilidades de la comunicación, las responsabilidades económicas y los niños y las responsabilidades de los padres.

A cambio de terminar un mínimo de cuatro horas de preparación, las parejas ahorrarán $32.50 en el costo de sus licencias matrimoniales. ▼

Nombrada coordinadora nacional para 'Encuentro 2000'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amalia R. Mamaed ha sido nombrada como directora nacional de "Encuentro 2000", un programa de diálogo multicultural sobre la identidad cristiana en la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos.

Ella trabajará con los directores regionales y diocesanos del ministerio hispano y las organizaciones nacionales para dar impulso al nivel local para una celebración nacional del Encuentro fijada para entre los días 13 y 16 de julio del año 2000 en Los Angeles.

Mamaed tiene ocho años de experiencia en relaciones públicas, mercadeo, administración de conferencias y publicación.

Antes de ser designada para su nueva plaza, Mamaed era especialista de proyectos en la Oficina Episcopal de Servicios de Publicidad y Promoción.

El tema del "Encuentro 2000" es: "Muchas Caras en la Casa de Dios: Una Visión Católica para el Tercer Milenio". Los encuentros anteriores fueron efectados en 1972, 1977 y 1985. ▼

Obispos mexicanos fomentan estudio de asuntos que enfocará el Papa

CIUDAD MéXICO (CNS) — Los obispos de México están fomentando un estudio parroquial de los asuntos que ellos esperan que el Papa Juan Pablo II enfocará durante su visita en enero próximo.

En el primer lugar de la lista se halla lo que ellos calificaron de la diferencia económica "cruel e inhumana" entre los países más ricos del Hemisferio Septentrional y los países mayormente pobres del Hemisferio Meridional.

Entre los días 11 y 15 de enero, se espera que todas las parroquias de México participen en una semana nacional de catequesis. El Papa estará en Ciudad México entre el 22 y el 26 de enero antes de hacer una visita de dos días a St. Louis, Missouri.

En preparación para la visita, Ciudad México terminará dos proyectos de obras públicas importantes: La renovación de una de las dos calles importantes que llevan a la Basílica de Guadalupe, la Calzada de los Misterios, y la construcción de la Gran Cruz de la Evangelización en la misma calle.

La semana catequética enfocará también asuntos de migración ocasionada por los problemas económicos y políticos; la proliferación de las sectas religiosas; el secularismo cada vez mayor; la separación de la fe y la vida; y la cultura de la muerte reflejada en la pérdida de los valores cristianos.

Monseñor Abelardo Alvarado Alcántara, Obispo Auxiliar de Ciudad México, secretario general de la Conferencia Episcopal Mexicana, y Monseñor Onésimo Cepeda Silva, Obispo de Ecatepec y presidente de la comisión de comunicaciones sociales, dijeron que los asuntos fueron tomados de los temas más debatidos durante el Sínodo de Obispos para las Américas en diciembre de 1997 en el Vaticano.

El propósito principal de la cuarta visita del Papa a México será la presentación de su exhortación apostólica sobre el sínodo.

Con respecto al conflicto de Chiapas, Monseñor Alvarado dijo que si el Papa Juan Pablo no hablara específicamente sobre Chiapas, él hablaría sobre la situación de los pueblos indígenas en todas las Américas, o acerca de los conflictos armados, tales como los que están ocurriendo en México y otras partes de la región.

Los funcionarios del gobierno han dicho que el conflicto de Chiapas "no es importante" en el contexto de la relación mayor entre el Vaticano y México, pero muchos católicos mexicanos esperan que el Papa haga declaraciones enérgicas en apoyo de los derechos y la cultura indígenas.

Los funcionarios del gobierno han dicho que el gobierno no hará aportes financieros a los costos de la visita, más allá de proporcionar apoyo logístico y seguridad. ▼

Los miembros de
The Catholic News & Herald
y del Comuniquémonos
desean a todos una

Feliz
navidad

Shops near Vatican offer wide selection of Christmas gifts

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Like business districts around the globe, the shops near the Vatican are busy ringing up holiday gift purchases.

But what sets apart the narrow streets of the neighborhood just east of the Vatican is the wide selection of sacred and secular presents, from a designer silk scarf to a glow-in-the-dark Baby Jesus for that special creche.

In the shadow of the papal apartments is a corner store called Al Pellegrino Cattolico, which translates roughly to "the Catholic pilgrim's place."

Manager Olga Patrizi said the 100-year-old shop is often the first stop for out-of-town Vatican visitors — the No. 64 bus, which crosses Rome and is usually loaded with tourists, comes chugging to a halt at the store's doorstep.

Nativity scenes fill the windows: hand-carved wood from Italy, porcelain from Spain.

They are mostly for show, Patrizi noted — since the tourist season peaks in the summer and dwindles by late October, the bulk of the sets for this year are already sold.

But the ones in the windows "draw the people inside," she added, "and then there are a lot of other sacred objects to choose from."

Bulky purchases such as statues are constantly being shipped; the most popular take-away gifts are the rosaries made of polished, colored stones.

On the next block is an annex of the Vatican Museums' gift shop. In addition to offering the books, posters and other items available inside the museums, it has reproductions from state and privately owned collections throughout Italy.

But what sets apart the narrow streets of the neighborhood just east of the Vatican is the wide selection of sacred and secular presents, from a designer silk scarf to a glow-in-the-dark Baby Jesus for that special creche.

A cashier laughed when asked about the most sought-after objects at this time of year.

"You would be surprised at how many people look right past the gold-leaf jewelry in the display case and ask about the horse," she said, pointing to a little bronze equestrian statue draped with golden earrings. It is a copy of a figure found at an Etruscan grave site north of Rome. And yes, it is for sale.

Down the street from the St. Anne's Gate entrance to the Vatican, a store bears the name of the Serpenti family, which founded a business of cassocks and liturgical vestments in 1820 and continues to sell them, handmade, today.

Now, however, they have five branches in three cities, a toll-free line for customers in Italy and a Web site in three languages for the rest of the world.

Sales clerk Salvatore Ferraro said the vestments are best sellers, especially the pallium embroidered with the Vatican's official seal for year 2000 celebrations.

About half of those who come into the store are clergy, Ferraro said, while the rest are their "friends and family."

Around the corner, Enzo Astrologo confided that priests and religious are his favorite customers because "they always know what they want — if they want a medallion, they know what saint, what size, everything."

In Astrologo's store, there is not much room for browsing. When he stretches out both arms, he can touch the walls of the shop, known by its address, Borgo Pio 129.

Fortunately, the place is a lot longer than it is wide. In back, Astrologo has stacked boxes of his most asked-for item at Christmas time — plastic rosaries, which sell in bulk for about nine cents each, 2,500 to a box. Astrologo said he gets annual orders from schools and charitable organizations as far away as the United States, where the rosaries are distributed as gifts.

Just across the street is a toy shop. The owner, who prefers to be known only as Massimo, still has leftover jack-o'-lantern flashlights from Halloween. But other shelves are stuffed with more timely toys, including a velvet Santa Claus that emits an electronic "Ho-ho-ho" from deep within his fluff-stuffed chest at the press of a button.

Massimo declared that he deliberately stays away from selling religious items, because he cannot compete with the great array of them available in the neighborhood.

"And after all," he said, taking in his entire stock with the sweep of an arm, "ask a child, and you would find that he would rather have something like this for Christmas." ▼

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
· DEBT CONSOLIDATION
· LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
· CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Christmas Cards, Gifts, & Creches
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(800) 331-0768 (704) 663-7007

Remember His Will In Yours.
"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin
You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Book Review

"The Banality of Goodness"

Reviewed by JOHN H. CARROLL
Catholic News Service

"The Banality of Goodness," by Enrico Deaglio, translated by Gregory Conti. University of Notre Dame Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 1998). 165 pp., $18.00.

In recent years more and more true stories have surfaced about intriguing events in World War II. "The Banality of Goodness" certainly is an excellent example of such a development.

Enrico Deaglio, an Italian journalist, tells the interesting story of Giorgio Perlasca, an Italian businessman who posed as a Spanish diplomat and saved the lives of thousands of Jews in Hungary during World War II. This true story of charity and courage in the face of danger and adversity reads like a real intrigue thriller.

Perlasca was a member of a Northern Italian family. They moved throughout the region because Perlasca's father, a government functionary, served in various locations.

The young Perlasca, an enthusiastic Fascist and follower of Benito Mussolini, volunteered for service with Italian forces in Ethiopia and Spain during the Civil War there. However, he became disenchanted with the establishment of the Rome-Berlin Axis and the Italian government's anti-Semitic policy.

When World War II broke out, Perlasca, a veteran of two wars and married, was working as a meat importer in the Balkans buying cattle for shipment to Italy. Shifts in the fortunes of war eventually found him in Budapest in 1944. He feared the Nazis, who were rounding up Italians in occupied Europe, would arrest and deport him.

Perlasca had a certificate given to him in Barcelona by the Spanish government in gratitude for his military service. He turned to the Spanish Embassy for protection. Angel Sanz Briz, the charge d'affaires, gave Perlasca Spanish documents and hired him to work at the embassy. When Sanz Briz left in late 1944 for Switzerland, Perlasca took over.

Perlasca directed the mission from Dec. 1, 1944, to Jan. 16, 1945. In that time Budapest fell into chaos. The Red Army encircled the city. The anti-Semitic Fascist Arrow Cross party took over the government. The Nazis and their Arrow Cross militia partners, the Nyilas, continued to arrest Jews for deportation to the camps.

Perlasca and his neutral associates issued identity papers to Jews. Perlasca, at great risk of exposure as a fraudulent diplomat, personally sought out Jews in a city under siege.

According to the author, this mission of mercy succeeded in saving about 260,000 of the approximately 825,000 Jews in Hungary before the war. At the end of the war, Perlasca returned to Italy and lived in obscurity until 1987. Then survivors of the Holocaust discovered their heroic savior. After that, the Hungarian, Italian, Israeli and Spanish governments honored him with awards. He died in August 1992. ▼

Carroll is a retired U.S. civil servant and free-lance writer in Silver Spring, Md.

Word to Life

December 20. Fourth Sunday of Advent. Cycle A. Readings:
1) Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-3, 4ab, 5-6
2) Romans 1:1-7
3) Matthew 1:18-24

By JEFF HENSLEY

The mystery of Jesus coming to be with us, among us, one of us, is always one that stretches our imaginations, lifts us higher than we are capable of rising on our own power, fills us with wonder and awe.

The psalm expresses just how much of a reach it is for us. Actually it is the rest of Psalm 24 beyond today's readings that make the point for me, for it's not really possible to understand the first part of that psalm without reading the second part.

The image that is offered is the literal stretching of the gates to allow "the King of Glory" to come in. "Lift, up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!"

What an image. It is the perfect Advent admonition to us, as well. Lift up our eyes, expand our hearts, prepare for an unprecedented openness to the love and the majesty of God.

Each of us has our own ways of readying ourselves for the birth of Jesus in our lives at Christmas, our own ways of opening our hearts to receive him anew, to share him more widely with those around us — those who are in need as well as with our loved ones and our neighbors.

What will signify that new openness for you and me? Will we spend more time in prayer, simply waiting for the gift of God's presence, as we ponder his amazing love in this season? Will we extend a welcome to one who is far from home and needs a touch of the family of God? Will we sacrifice time and money to assure those who otherwise would have no real celebration of Christmas that others care? Whatever it is that opens our hearts wide to the King of Glory born in a stable, let us be about it, for the wondrous miracle of God's love is pushing out the limits of the doors of our hearts.

Questions:

What special actions will you take to help you better know Jesus' presence as he enters into your heart at this season of his birth?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 20 - 26, 1998

Sunday, Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24; **Monday**, Song of Songs 2:8-14, Luke 1:39-45; **Tuesday**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Wednesday**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Thursday**, Isaiah 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Matthew 1:1-25; **Friday**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Saturday**, Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22

Christmas Eve Masses
4:00 pm — Children's Mass
6:00 pm — Children's Mass
Midnight — Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant

Christmas Day Masses
8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

December 26 Mass
11:00 am — Holiday Mass for the Montagnard communities of Charlotte, Raleigh, and Greensboro

Come celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary
Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams
Deacon: Reverend Mr. Nicholas T. Fadero
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org
1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store

CHRISTMAS IDEAS!! Cards, Ornaments, Nativities, Angels...
plus Bibles, Religious Plaques, Medals, CDs, and over 700 book titles!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

RESPECT LIFE

When the Word became man,
earth was joined to heaven.
May he give you his peace and good will,
and fellowship with all the heavenly host.
Amen.

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Holiday TV

"The Christmas Angel" is spiritually uplifting episode

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Memories of recently lost family members threaten the holiday spirit in "The Christmas Angel" episode of the "Little Men" series, airing Tuesday, Dec. 22, 8-9 p.m. EST on the new Pax network.

The new series is based on the writings of Louisa May Alcott, author of the well-loved novels "Little Women" and "Little Men."

Since the untimely death of her schoolteacher husband, Jo (Michelle Rene Thomas) has been burying her grief by keeping busy running their rural Massachusetts boarding school for boys. The Christmas of 1871 is fast approaching and some of the children as well have lost parents, but are trying to practice caroling to cheer Jo and lessen the sad atmosphere.

"The Christmas Angel" episode of the "Little Men" series, airs Tuesday, Dec. 22, 8-9 p.m. EST on the new Pax network.

On the way to find a Christmas tree with caretaker Nick (Spenser Rochfort), the youngsters come across a beaten, pregnant woman, Sarah (Alexa Gilmour), and take her home.

Her husband (Jonathan Higgins) is notified she has been mugged, but just before he arrives Jo realizes the spouse is in fact the batterer. Promising Sarah protection, Jo sends the abusive husband away, giving Sarah time to recover and consider her future.

When the man returns, Nick's anger gets the better of him and he comes to blows with the cowardly wife-beater who vows to return.

After reminding Nick that no one deserves to be attacked, including her husband, Sarah is able to help Jo express her repressed grief. And Jo's encouragement allows Sarah to stand up to her husband and reject his abusive lifestyle.

This is a visually lovely and spiritually uplifting episode, capped off by the children's charming re-creation of the Nativity scene and a rendition of "O Holy Night."

Nor does the theme and brief depiction of violence prevent it from being family fare. On the contrary, the point is made that violence is no solution to frustration and harms both the victim and the perpetrator.

Jo's healing begins when she accepts that she can take time to mourn deeply, consoled by the knowledge that God will give her the strength to go on with her life and her good work with the children. "Little Men" would appear to be a quality series families may wish to check out on a regular basis. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV programs of note

Week of Dec. 20

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Dec. 20:

Monday, Dec. 21, 8:05-10:05 p.m. EST (TBS) "Holiday Festival on Ice." Showcasing the skating talents of Olympic gold medalists Kristi Yamaguchi and Ilia Kulik, performing to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Winter Wonderland" among other holiday classics.

Wednesday, Dec 23, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) "The Christmas Box." Rebroadcast of the fine drama about a family moving into a mansion to care for an elderly lady (Maureen O'Hara), in the process learning the true meaning of Christmas.

Thursday, Dec. 24, 8-9 p.m. EST (CBS) "The American Red Cross Celebrates Real-Life Miracles." Inspirational special hosted by Roma Downey that celebrates heroic efforts of its workers, and featuring entertainment by Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

"I have a desire to learn about everything from teachings and writings to my faith and the world around me. I had no desire for these things before. When I came to the Abbey, I began to desire to grow in knowledge."
MAUREEN DAVIS, CLASS OF 2001

Harrisburg, NC
Northwest Cabarrus High School
Major: Psychology

Maureen Davis is on a mission. Her goal is to share hope with young people who have none — and she's off to a blazing start.

Prior to beginning her journey at Belmont Abbey, Maureen went on a mission trip which sent her and co-workers to 140 towns across America. In each, they offered retreats for struggling youth.

"I know what it's like to be a troubled teen and to have a difficult time growing up. In high school, I didn't care much about anything. Then God made me realize how important He is — and doors started opening."

As a freshman at the Abbey, Maureen received one of the College's most highly-respected awards, the Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders. Since then, she's found that Belmont Abbey College's close-knit community, family-oriented environment, and "approachable" faculty provide the combination she needs to prepare to accomplish her life's mission.

"For me, success is truly making a difference in other peoples' lives. There's no greater joy than knowing that, because of something I did, someone else's life is better. To do that, you've got to develop the gifts you've been given to better serve others. Belmont Abbey is helping me do that. It's been a real gift in my life."

Belmont Abbey College
The Catholic College of the Carolinas
BELMONT, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • TOLL-FREE 888.BAC.0110

Give the gift of Catholic programming.
through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus, watch all your favorite cable channels via satellite all at a SPECIAL PRICE of
$198*
Includes 18" dish, receiver and installation, PLUS 2 months of programming!
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area
dish NETWORK
* special price through 12/31/98

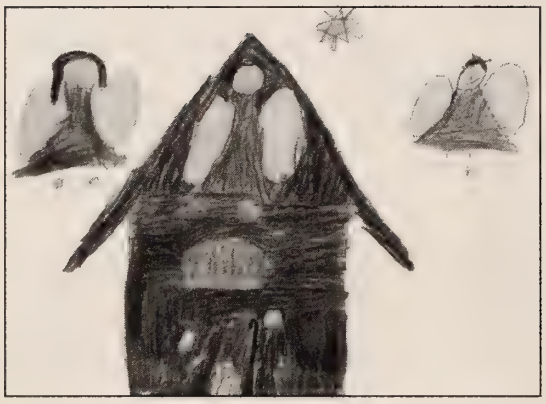
Christmas stories,
from page 1

What Christmas means to me

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. Christmas is a time for presents.
— Josh Pring, 7 years old

Christmas means to me joy and happiness. Loving family and friends. Getting gifts from people. Having fun.
— Mackenzie Myers, 7 years old

I think what Christmas means is giving and sharing and learning about Jesus's birth. And I think Christmas is about being with family and being kind to others and praising God. Christmas is about loving other people and God.
— Wallis McElroy, 8 years old



Christmas means to me sharing with friends, people. Spending time with people. Spending time to buy poor little children toys because maybe they don't get presents at Christmas. Christmas means to me not telling lies and following God's ten commandments.
— Chely Sanchez, 7 years old

I get to see my family and to make cookies with my mom and to decorate the tree. And to love others. And pray for people we do not know. And Jesus was born too. It's not to just get gifts. It's about loving and helping and giving and loving.
— Raleigh Watson, 8 1/2 years old

What Christmas means to me is getting ready to get a Christmas tree and decorate for good old Santa Claus. And wrapping presents for my nice friend and praising Jesus Christ. That's what Christmas means to me.
— Stephanie Renn, 7 years old

I think Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birth and giving gifts to other people. It's a time for decorating and wrapping presents.
— Steven Burges, 7 years old

I think Christmas means getting gifts and giving gifts. I also think it is a time for preparing and celebrating. I think that it is a time for getting together with family and friends.
— Anthony Girell, 8 years old

Christmas means to me we give presents to our family. We spend Christmas together. We celebrate Jesus's birth.
— Christina Miller, 7 years old

Christmas is a special time of the year when we put up things like Christmas trees and Advent wreaths too. It is remembering the time when Jesus Christ was born, also my family and I are going down to Florida on Christmas week too.
— Alisa Renten, 8 years old

Christmas is the important day the birth of Christ the Lord, Jesus. It is a jolly Holiday! This Holiday is great! It is about the giving and sharing. The Lord takes away the sins. Christmas is the great day! It is very IMPORTANT!!! It is the BIRTH OF CHRIST the Lord.
— Christopher Riley, 7 years old

Christmas means to me spending time with my Mom and Dad. And riding in a one horse open sleigh.
— Alex Lawson, 8 years old

Christmas means to me about being with my family, opening presents and celebrating the birth of Jesus. I like singing Christmas carols. I also like being with friends.
— Jay Duke, 9 years old

Christmas means to me that you decorate the Christmas tree and put it up. Santa checks his list to see if you been bad or good. If you have been good he'll bring you presents. If you been bad he will bring you coal and snowman's poop. So be good for goodness sake!!
— Andrew Allen, 8 years old

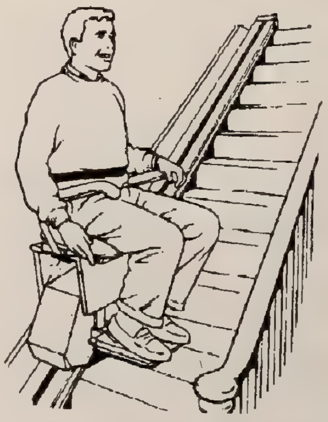
Christmas means a time of loving and sharing and being kind to others. And the time to sing carols on the sidewalk. And we're honoring Jesus. And when little children get presents from Santa. It is not just the presents, we are celebrating Jesus' birth.
— John Simpson, 8 years old

Christmas means to me the time of giving to others. And to celebrate Jesus's birth. People think about presents right? But they should also think about Jesus. Have a Merry Christmas.
— Justin Hernandez, 8 years old

Christmas is about Jesus. When shepherds came to give their presents to Jesus, that is why we get presents. It also is about God. Also love and care. Also about people.
— Alex Freese, 8 years old

Christmas means to me celebrating with family. Singing Christmas carols together. Spending time with family. Decorating the Christmas tree. Finally, the richest thing you can have through your entire life is love.
— Jordan Miller, 8 years old

It means to me that it is a special day when our family gets together. And it means to me that we are celebrating Jesus's birthday and when he was born. I don't think it's special because we get presents. It means that


Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

we're there to be with our family. And to be together. I like Christmas because I'm celebrating Jesus' birthday and I'm together with my family.

— Lauren Triplett, 8 years old

Christmas means to me, a time of cheer. And about Christ. And about family. And to give.

— Cara Marshall, 8 years old

Christmas means to me to be happy. And that Jesus was born. And not to be angry. And to love. And to serve the Lord. And sing carols. And to help others.

— Ashley Inge, 9 years old

Christmas is when you celebrate Jesus' birth. Christmas is also when you celebrate Advent. I like Christmas because you get to celebrate Jesus' birth. Christmas is a very special time of the year. I like Christmas!

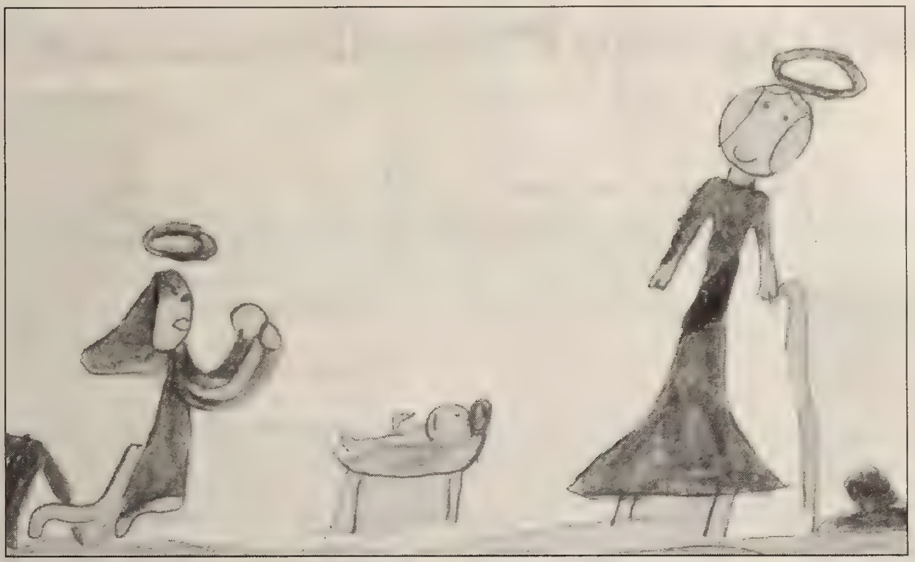
— Kaitlyn Cuevas, 9 years old

Christmas is not about receiving gifts. My mom says its better to give then to receive. You should be like that. I go to my grandmas for Christmas. It's Jesus' birthday. You be happy being with your family. I know I'm happy. So should you be. Some people in my class ask I wonder what I'm going to get for Christmas but not everybody in my class is like that. I love Christmas for Jesus' birthday.

— Joe Goodman, 9 years old

Christmas really means to me love and happiness. It does not mean getting but giving. It also means caring for others. You may buy a gift someone would not like it but another person would like it and give the person lots of joy.

— Ryan Stout, 8 years old



Christmas to me means Jesus was born. When it's Christmas we remember Jesus when he was born. I like the presents but I like Jesus better.

— Maxwell Grimes, 8 years old

What Christmas means to me is family time. Christmas also means the day of Jesus' birth. The day that Jesus our savior was born. On Christmas I want to open those presents so bad but I also think of Jesus' birth and how he loved us. On Christmas I know to be giving and sharing.

— Jaclyn Pastorini, 8 years old

What Christmas means to me is Jesus's birth. I also think Christmas means Santa Claus and joy and love. We should celebrate Christmas by loving others. I also think we should celebrate Christmas with joy and love. Christmas is a very loving holiday.

— Neil Herrington, 9 years old

What does Christmas mean to me? I've never really thought about it. But now that I'm starting to, what Christmas means to me is that we celebrate Jesus' birth and remember he loves us. I think that we get presents because the wise men brought presents to Jesus. It's not all about getting but giving. On Christmas Eve families go to church to celebrate Jesus' birth. Christmas is a very special time of the year.

— Maria Tonseth, 9 years old

Christmas means joyful and happiness to me. And we also celebrate about Jesus. It really doesn't matter if you get a lot of presents or candy or money. I mean some people don't even get Christmas presents. But they still celebrate Christmas with happiness in their heart. I think you should spend Christmas with your family. I do. For example if you were an ornament on a tree, you wouldn't want to fall off. If you fall off, you will not be with your family any more and you will be unhappy and won't be able to spend Christmas with your family. And that is what I think Christmas is.

— Katie Cox, 8 years old

Christmas means to me is that Christ is born. It also means you should be kind during this time. It means to pray. It also means you should find the joy inside of you. So I think you should be nice to people.

— Susie Wear, 8 1/2 years old

To me Christmas means to celebrate Jesus' birth and give thanks to God. Also to celebrate with your family and friends. It means to give and to receive. To have fun and to play. Have a Merry Christmas.

— Meghan L. Holmquist, 8 years old

Christmas is a time to celebrate! Stay home, and play in the snow. Be happy, and not sad. It is the time when Jesus is born! Christmas is a time to get presents. Not only that, but lots of love. A lot of love. The warmth comes from your heart, not the fireplace or the candles. That's what Christmas means to me.

— Stephanie Lee Jarvis, 8 years old

Shining Stars
Adult Day Respite Care
Enroll your loved one for Mass, a nutritious snack, and socialization activities at 3 Charlotte area churches:
Every Tues. 8:30-1:00 pm St. Patrick
Every Wed. 8:30-1:00 St. Gabriel
Every Thurs. 8:30-1:00 pm Our Lady of Assumption
Program begins Jan. 5, so call NOW for reservations. First come, first served basis.
Cost $35 per day or sliding scale.
Call Suzanne Bach 376-4135
Sharon Mayfield 563-6103
Connie Stover 568-6289

Attention Parents!
Medical
Career
School Uniforms
SAVE TIME and MONEY with...
▸ A+ school approved uniforms in stock
▸ Competitive pricing
▸ Free delivery to your school
Toll-free Order Hot Line 1-888-895-0071
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

A Piece Of Heaven, Inc.
LAST MINUTE SPECIAL GIFTS
CHRISTMAS EVE — OPEN UNTIL 3 p.m.
155 Jonestown Rd./Summit Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 774-9799
Holiday Hours:
Mon-Wed 10-6 Thurs-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-5 Closed Sunday
Closed Dec. 25 — Jan. 3

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Religion Teacher: Charlotte Catholic High School needs a full-time Religion teacher beginning January 1999. Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or Religious Education from a Catholic college or university. Send resume and request for application to: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Pastoral Administrator: The Pastoral Personnel Board of the Diocese of Raleigh is seeking Pastoral Administrators to direct parishes. Candidates must have pastoral and administrative experience, preferably in North Carolina, as well as pastoral and theological training. A master's degree is preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic. Individuals must be able to work with people and encourage the development of gifts of the parishioners. Send resume to: Sister Carol Loughney, I.H.M., St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 124 Palmer Street, Raeford, NC 28376. Deadline: January 15

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Seminarian's faith journey leads him to transitional diaconate

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Joseph Long Dinh felt a calling to the priesthood at an early age, in a time and place of religious and ideological suppression. Nearly three decades, many setbacks, and thousands of miles since then, that calling is one step closer to realization.

Joseph Dinh is now Rev. Mr. Joseph Dinh, a transitional deacon. His ordination to the transitional diaconate begins the final stage of his preparation for the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Dinh will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte in June 1999.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the diaconal ordination liturgy Dec. 13 at St. Patrick Cathedral. During the liturgy, Rev. Mr. Dinh committed himself to a life of celibacy, obedience to his bishop, and service rooted in profound faith.

"God will give you every grace you need to be a holy deacon, but you must work with it," Bishop Curlin told Rev. Mr. Dinh in his homily. "To really live a holy life takes a personal commitment. Be for us a holy deacon, and eventually a holy priest. Be for us like Jesus in our midst."

The long road

Rev. Mr. Dinh's journey began in Hue, his hometown in central Vietnam. He said his family's tradition of promoting religious life got him thinking about the priesthood. He was 11 years old when he entered minor seminary.

"At this young age, certainly I didn't have an adequate understanding of what the priesthood meant to me," he said. "However, through learning and praying, I gradually explored my vocation and determined that I really had a religious calling."

He graduated from high school seminary in 1977, against a backdrop of political upheaval. The Communist North Vietnamese had descended through the South two years earlier, collapsing Southern defenses and occupying the city of Saigon. Dinh's own father was one casualty: He died in a concentration camp in 1976.

Dinh said he himself "barely survived" three years in a labor camp following graduation. The local government had promised he could return to seminary after the camp, he said. But upon release, he learned the government had closed the seminary he was to attend.

With little hope of advancing seminary studies in Vietnam, Dinh sought a new beginning. "By this time, leaving Vietnam was illegal and fraught with danger," he said. "After several years, several attempts, several near-captures and consumption of my family's savings, I finally set out on a small boat with 20 others and found safe haven in Thailand."

He spent a couple of years in refugee camps. Finally, through a sponsorship by an American priest, Dinh arrived in the United States in 1989.

In 1990, he enrolled in Divine Word College Seminary in Epworth, Iowa. After graduating from the college seminary, Dinh welcomed his family to the United States. It was then that he was introduced to Charlotte, where his family settled.

Laying on of hands

In this essential action of ordination, Bishop William G. Curlin prepares to lay hands on the head of the candidate in silence. This scripturally based gesture is used by the church to signify the conferral of the Holy Spirit.

Photos by Joann Keane

"I learned about the Diocese of Charlotte, and in accordance with my wish of being close to my family, I decided to join this diocese for continuing my priestly vocation," he said.

Rev. Mr. Dinh currently attends St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md., where he will continue his studies until next year. All told, he has been a seminarian for almost 30 years.

"He has worked extremely hard by becoming a part of the American culture," said Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan director of vocations. "He has shared beautifully his story and his journey. He's been very faithful in that regard."

Father Houseknecht added that Rev. Mr. Dinh's times of difficulty helped the seminarian in his learning process.

"I believe strongly in a God of providence," Rev. Mr. Dinh said. "Whenever things seemed hopeless, I just put my fate in God's hands, and somehow I survived."

Transition

"I beg you to be determined to be a saint," said Bishop Curlin to Rev. Mr. Dinh. "To be a saint is to live for Jesus, because saints say, 'I want to live as Jesus would have me live in this world, preaching his love and his mercy.'"

As a transitional deacon, Rev. Mr. Dinh can preside at weddings, funerals and baptisms. He can preach and distribute Communion. By his ordination and his calling, he is now officially a minister of service in the church.

Father Tan Van Le, chaplain of St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church in Charlotte and one of seven concelebrants at the ordination Mass, said Rev. Mr. Dinh has "helped the community so much" already, especially in his outreach to youth and through other areas of ministry.

"Joseph is a very good man," Father Le added with a smile. ▼

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families
in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus
Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi
South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

On the happy occassion of the
Tenth Anniversary
of your Episcopal ordination
We pray God's continued blessings for our publisher and bishop
The staff of
The Catholic News & Herald

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S297 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 25, 1998
Volume 8 ▾ Number 17

Inside

Living the Faith

Charlotte teen's talent poses some tough decisions

...Page 16

"The 12 Days of Christmas" explained

...Page 15

Local News

Cherokee Elementary Chorus performs

...Page 3

Ukrainian twin parish teaches universal lesson

...Page 14

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...Pages 4-5

Entertainment

...Pages 10-11

The Year in Review

1998's highlights in the Catholic Press

...Pages 8-9

Christmas 1998

This Christmas I will especially recall celebrating Mass in the Grotto in Bethlehem and venerating the *star* that tradition marks as the birthplace of our Saviour.

For many years, I wanted to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus.' This year, through the kindness of a friend, I was finally able to visit the Holy Land. We went with the purpose of making a spiritual retreat rather than as tourists — by spending hours in places made holy by the presence of the Lord.

We prayed in the *Shepherds Field*, where the Good News of God's presence on earth was first proclaimed. That same day, we visited the Catholic Hospital in Bethlehem that serves needy Palestinian children. How wonderful that these little ones should find loving care in the very town where the Christ Child was born.

The Holy Land is filled with remembrances of Jesus. In Jerusalem, the great temple wall still stands that Jesus often passed. Visiting the upper room — which our tradition holds as the place of the Last Supper and beginning of the Church at Pentecost — was particularly moving.

The Garden of Gethsemane contains the offspring of olive trees that were living when Jesus suffered His agony that ended on Calvary. We climbed the very stairs that He ascended to Pilate's house. Calvary and the Tomb of the Resurrection, were overwhelming in their proclamation of God's pardon of sin and His promise of eternal life.

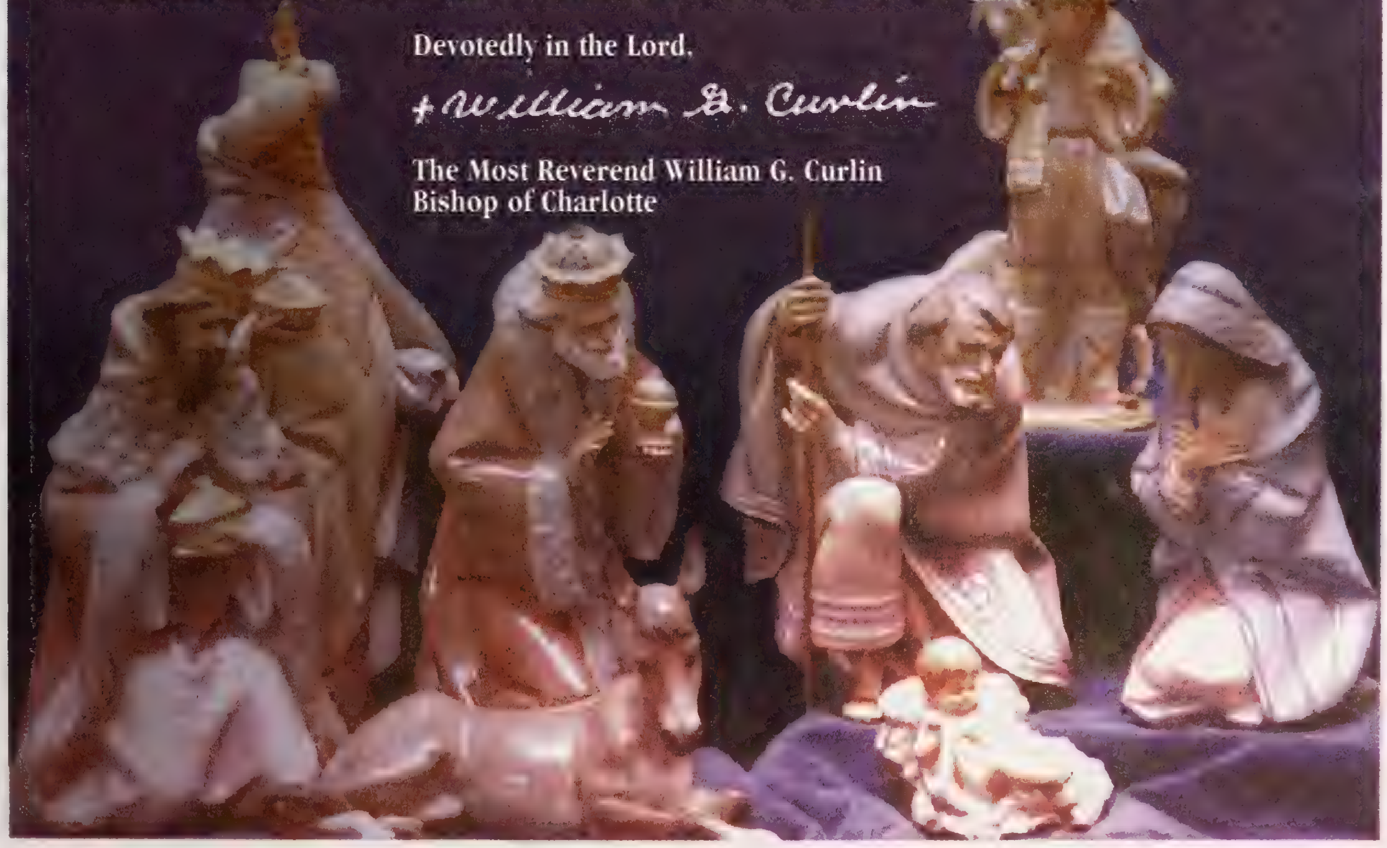
We spent our last few days on the Mount of the Beatitudes beside the Sea of Galilee. We reflected on that moment, following the Resurrection, how Jesus told Peter, John and the apostles to cast their empty nets for an unexpected catch of fish. It was there that John immediately recognized the Risen Lord, and Peter made his threefold profession of faith and love for the master. Nearby is the synagogue where Jesus first declared Himself as the Bread of Life. The celebration of the Mass in Nazareth, where the angel announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of the Saviour, was a worthy place to end our retreat. Everywhere I traveled, I knew that Jesus had been here.

As we celebrate His birth this Christmas, may we know that He is still with us. May the Love that the shepherds found in Bethlehem two thousand years ago be found in our hearts today. May God grant you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and joy.

Devotedly in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte



Vatican promotes 1999 celebration of Year of Older Persons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The 1999 celebration of the International Year of Older Persons should find Catholics making a new commitment to care for the elderly and to learn from them, a Vatican document said. "The elderly are bearers of religious and moral values which represent a rich spiritual patrimony for the life of Christian communities, families and the world," said the statement from the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The council, headed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, said the growing number of people over 70 in the world and the spread of a culture which seems to appreciate only productivity call for church action.

Study reports slight increase in church giving in 1996

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (CNS) — U.S. Christians gave slightly more of their income to their church in 1996 than they did the year before, says a new report by Empty Tomb. The increased amount, however, went entirely to congregational finances, not to charitable or other benevolent outreach, the report said. The report, titled "The State of Church Giving Through 1996," is the seventh in a series of annual studies by Empty Tomb, a nonprofit Christian research and service organization in Champaign, Ill.

SmartMoney magazine evaluation ranks Catholic Charities first

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Catholic Charities agencies have been chosen as the nation's top human service charities by the editors of SmartMoney magazine. SmartMoney, a monthly magazine published by The Wall Street Journal, evaluated the nation's 100 largest charities in its December issue. It ranked them according to how much they spend on programs and fund raising and the amount the organization keeps in savings rather than spending on programs.

Puerto Ricans vote on statehood

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Opposing sides claimed victory after a referendum to gauge whether Puerto Ricans wanted their island to remain a U.S. commonwealth or become the 51st state. Voters had five options on the ballot: for Puerto Rico to remain a commonwealth; to have "free association," a form of independence that gives the United States certain powers by treaty; statehood; independence; and "none of the above." Final results of the referendum, held Dec. 13 in Puerto Rico, showed that 50.2 percent of voters chose the "none of the above" option; 46.5 percent were for statehood. Out of 2.2 million registered voters, 71 percent cast ballots.

CNS photo from Reuters

Vatican Christmas

People walk past a 70-foot-tall Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square Dec. 19. The 80-year-old pine from Germany's Black Forest was donated by the city of Bad Sackingen.

Diverse religions seek to air differences amicably

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than two dozen leaders from groups with histories of religious disputes over public policies met Dec. 8 to hear a proposal for civil discourse. Convened by the Chicago-based Park Ridge Center for Health, Faith and Ethics, participants touched on such divisive issues as abortion, homosexuality, family planning and population policy. The working document presented at the meeting in Washington was the center's newly published guidebook, "Religion and Public Discourse — Principles and Guidelines for Religious Participants."

Newark archdiocese opens training center for Hispanic leaders

UNION CITY, N.J. (CNS) — "This is your house," said Newark Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick to a cheering throng of Spanish-speaking Catholics as he dedicated the first U.S. diocesan-run facility for training lay leaders in the Hispanic community. Centro Guadalupe, the new pastoral center and institute in Union City, was blessed Dec. 11 following a vigil Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Holy Family Church.

Jerusalem bishop calls for talks among three religions

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Talks must begin among Jerusalem's three monotheistic religions, said Auxiliary Bishop Kamal Hanna Bathish of Jerusalem. "We have to start such a dialogue without delay as an expression of our good will and to begin the education of our faithful toward openness and dialogue," Bishop Bathish told an interfaith audience gathered for a conference, "Toward the Millennium — Trialogue in Jerusalem." The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Cultural Center and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organized the Dec. 9 meeting.

Nun urges Catholic Church to help stop teen pregnancy

NEW YORK (CNS) — Sister Mary Rose McGeady, president of the Covenant House youth shelter, wants the Catholic Church more actively involved in efforts to reduce teen pregnancy. "Catholic girls get pregnant just like anybody else," she said in an interview Dec. 14 at her office in New York. "And since the Catholic Church is the largest denomination in the country, it could have a major influence on this problem." Sister McGeady, a Daughter of Charity, has initiated an effort for more church involvement through her work on the board of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, an independent agency based in Washington.

Cardinal George joins call for fair housing practices

CHICAGO (CNS) — Ongoing discriminatory housing practices are concrete examples of the sin of racism, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said in a statement delivered at a Dec. 9 press conference. "It is distressing that this practice has endured three decades after the Fair Housing Act of 1968 categorically outlawed it," the cardinal said in the statement. "As a pastor, I am especially troubled by the way that such practices violate the moral law."

Warmest Christmas Wishes from The Catholic News & Herald

Our next issue will be published on Jan. 8, 1999

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

December 25, 1998
Volume 8 • Number 17
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 27 — 11 a.m.
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

December 31 — midnight
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

January 1 — 12 noon
New Year Celebration with
Lahu community
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

January 4
Reception for priests serving
the Diocese of Charlotte
Bishop's residence

Diocesan planner

Around the diocese

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte leads a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-22 for the national March for Life. The pilgrimage includes Mass, the march and transportation. A bus will leave the diocesan pastoral center, 1123. S. Church St. in Charlotte, at 7 a.m. Jan. 21. Other pick-up locations are in Asheville, Hickory and Winston-Salem. Bus fare is $40. Room reservations are available through the Respect Life Office at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Va., for $97.98 per room. The bus will return around midnight Jan. 22. For reservation forms and other information, call (704) 370-3229.

December

25 CHARLOTTE — The annual Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Cathedral is today from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for anyone who would otherwise be without holiday fellowship and celebration. The free dinner is in the school cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St., and is for those who, because of financial need, lack of family, travel, or for any other reason, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation is provided for those who need it, and the gathering includes entertainment and small gifts. Meals will be delivered to those unable to attend. To make financial contributions or to inquire about other gift needs, call the parish office at (704) 334-2283.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life of St. Vincent de Paul Church sponsors a Mass celebrating the feast of the Holy Innocents today at 9 a.m. A rosary for life will follow. For more information, call the parish office at (704) 554-7088.

January

2 HIGH POINT — Immaculate

Cherokee recall past, celebrate season at gathering

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE-VALLEY - Four men chant near the sanctuary, and, to the slow beat of their drums, 60 Cherokee children move down St. Margaret Church's center aisle, between the pews packed with parishioners and guests.

Moments before, three brightly clad girls from their group had danced about the sanctuary, alluding to a time when the Cherokee lived happily in North Carolina, North Georgia, northeastern Alabama and eastern Tennessee.

The dancers depart, and Tom Belt, the program's narrator, steps forward to tell how "a margin of one vote" passed legislation that forced the Cherokee from their land. It was, Belt said, "a treaty that would almost destroy a nation; the long march to Oklahoma had begun."

The 60 children walking single file down the aisle, heads bowed, hands folded against their chests, wearing traditional Cherokee dress. Girls are in ribbon-trimmed, flowered, red, white, or blue calico skirts and blouses; the boys wear jeans and ribbon-trimmed calico shirts.

They are the Cherokee Elementary Chorus, from the elementary school on the Qualla Boundary, the Cherokee reservation. It is December 17, 1998, and they have come to tell a story called "A Trail Unended"— a story that began 160 years ago.

On December 18, 1838, some 16,000 Cherokee were not sitting in front of the fireplace in their cabins. They were shivering around small fires along trails leading to a reservation in Oklahoma. Some 4,000 did not survive the "Trail of Tears."

The chorus arranges itself in a semi-circle across the sanctuary.

"America" is the first selection, but the words, "Land where my fathers died," seem to have a different meaning in this context. Then, the children sing "Amazing Grace."

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

After the program, Barry Rogers, director, chats with three members of the Cherokee Elementary Chorus: sixth-graders Randall Crowe, second from left, Virginia Wolfe, and Brittany Dugan. The auditioned chorus of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders has performed in New York, Washington, Nashville and Atlanta.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" is next. The song, about Jesus' birth, asks, "In the bleak midwinter, what can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb....What can I give him? I can give my heart."

The Cherokee had no lambs. As Belt said, they watched as their homes were pillaged, their livestock shot, their crops trampled. The people were rounded up and interred in stockades in the summer of 1838. Only about 1,000 avoided deportation by hiding in the mountains. The march, which began in October, ended in Oklahoma in May or June 1939.

The chorus sings, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" about "a child, a child sleeping in the night."

Belt quotes an entry in a Cherokee Bible: "Today a 7-year-old boy died. 1838. Hiawasee Stockade."

Barry Rogers, the chorus director, wrote the program's script. Belt, who teaches the Cherokee language at the Qualla Boundary school, read and liked it. He is a fourth generation member of the Western Band of Cherokee, whose grandparents were among those who walked the Trail of Tears.

"After 160 years, there's still a trail, in prejudice, in the biases that still exist," Rogers said. "(I hope) that such programs can help bring closure that comes from realizing that we are not whites and Indians but all one people."

"After 160 years, there's still a trail, in prejudice, in the biases that still exist," Rogers said. "(I hope) that such programs can help bring closure that comes from realizing that we are not whites and Indians but all one people."

The Cherokee Elementary Chorus presented the program last year in the Memorial Chapel at Lake Junaluska. This year the Maggie Valley Civic Association sponsored the program, and it was held in St. Margaret.

"For most of the people," Rogers said, "they can see the faces of the children, can almost reach out and touch them. Even though it's not a religious program, there's something about having it in a church that helps set the mood."

The mood continues to make the contrast between the usual view of Christmas and the reality of the "Trail."

"Could a tiny baby born in a stable so far away make a difference?" Belt's soft, resonant voice asks, as the children softly hum carols. "When the day was over, the fires lit, the meager bits of food consumed, could you sing of this news?"

These Cherokee children, who must look much like those who made the march, do sing — "Cradle Hymn," "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," "Mary Had a Baby, "Silent Night."

"We, as Cherokees who lost ancestors in those days of grave injustice, know that tonight, after all this time, the trail has not ended, it is not over," the narration concludes. "May our prayers and hopes during this Christmas season be that it will end soon, and we shall walk together on a trail of peace and healing that will lead us to the warmth and sunshine of a new tomorrow." ▼

Heart of Mary Church, located at the corner of Montlieu and Denny streets, celebrates Epiphany and cultural diversity with a covered dish supper of various ethnic foods at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Please bring a dish that represents your heritage. Call (336) 884-5212.

3 NEWTON — A community praying of the rosary follows the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St.

9 ASHEVILLE — The order of Secular Franciscans meets today to share in commitment to the apostolic life of the Gospel in the Justin Center of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. For details, call Helen Turek at (828) 684-1533.

10 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, at 2 p.m. Call the parish office, (704) 867-6212, for more information.

HICKORY — The Fraternity of Brother Francis meets today from 2-4 p.m. Call Bill Brockhoff at (828) 464-5113 or Herman Thoni at (828) 294-0347 to confirm the location.

11 WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women begins the seven-week study "Psalms II" today from 7:30-9 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., for those who have completed "Psalms I." Call Anne Gannon, (336) 768-9360, for more information.

12 GREENSBORO — Vincentian Father Robert Prior explains the kingdom Jesus spoke frequently of today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Father Prior will discuss how this kingdom works, lives and grows in relation to people of faith. For information on this and other sessions in the parish's adult education series, call the parish's religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church gathers for its monthly meeting today at 11 a.m. Sandwiches, coffee and dessert are provided, and entertainment will be featured. For details, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

14 BELMONT — Prospective students are invited to visit Belmont Abbey College, a private Benedictine liberal arts college, today through Jan. 17 for an "Abbey Experience." The gathering includes meetings with current Abbey students and professors, campus tours, opportunities to attend classes, and a financial aid seminar. For reservations and other information, call the Office of Admission, (888) 222-6665.

16 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan African American Affairs Ministry hosts its annual celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The gathering includes Mass and presentation of the first Glenda Rollins-Gaither/John A. McDonald Service Award. Pre-registration for the event is encouraged. Cost is $10 per person, $15 per couple, $20 per family of four or less, and $25 for families of five or more. Registration includes materials and meals. Send checks and number of participants to African American Affairs Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, begins series of talks on God the Father

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The final year of preparation for the Holy Year 2000 should be lived as a pilgrimage of praise to God the Father, who sent his Son to save the world, Pope John Paul II said.

In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, all believers have become children of God, "which allows us to invoke God the Father with the same familiar name used by Jesus: 'Abba,'" the pope said.

Beginning a series of talks about God the Father at his Dec. 16 weekly general audience, the pope said, "The journey toward the jubilee must give rise to a great act of praise to the Father."

The first place to look to discover the true identity of the Father and the relationship he wants with his creation is in the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, the pope said.

"His teaching, his ministry and his lifestyle itself all refer to the Father," the pope said.

"Jesus is the point of encounter of human beings with the Father," he said. "Jesus is the only way that leads to the Father."

The eternal life won for believers by Jesus' death and resurrection "consists in being inserted into that circulation of love which united the Father and the Son," the pope said.

During the audience, Pope John Paul also spoke about two very different events headlining the news in Italy Dec. 16: the early morning collapse of an apartment building and the soccer game scheduled in the evening to mark the 100th anniversary of the Italian soccer federation.

As the pope spoke, rescuers removed an eighth body from the rubble of the five-story apartment building. As of 1 p.m. no one had been found alive. Officials feared the death toll could rise to close to 40; they believed 38 people lived in the 16 apartments. The cause of the collapse was not immediately known, but structural defects seemed more likely than a criminal act.

Pope John Paul said, "While I express my deep condolences, I invoke from the Lord mercy for the victims and comfort for their loved ones harshly struck by such a serious and unforeseen loss.

"May he accept into his peace those who were suddenly taken from the affection of their loved ones," he said.

Greeting members of the soccer federation as well as the players from the Italian national team and their international all-star opponents, the pope encouraged them to highlight "the true meaning of sport at the service of the young, of understanding among peoples and of peace."

Pope sick with flu, cancels private audiences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II canceled several private audiences Dec. 18 because he has the flu, the Vatican announced. "Due to a slight case of influenza, the Holy Father will not hold his audiences scheduled for today," said the complete text of a statement from Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Last year of the 20th century is here

I always enjoy wishing my readers a Happy New Year as January dawns, and this year is no exception. But I have to admit it is not going to be an ordinary year. As we put up our January calendars, we must note that the year ahead is 1999, meaning that we must be prepared for huge servings of dire predictions for what's ahead in this last year of the century.

The end of a century always captures the imaginations of some people as a time for catastrophic change, mostly in the form of punishment. And the doomsday people are already out in force, aided by a technological uncertainty called "Y2K," which is computer-speak for "year 2000."

If you haven't heard of this one, you'd have to be unconscious. It's called the Millennium Bug. Put simply, the way many computers are set up, they use only the last two digits for the year, assuming the first two digits are 19. So when 2000 arrives these computers will interpret the 00 as being 1900. The result will be a computer transformation from smart to stupid, with a "crash" heard round the world.

What to do about this? Some are in the same camp as the Christian broadcaster Jerry Falwell, reported to be stocking up on food, sugar, gasoline and ammunition just in case the computer crash causes a national catastrophe. He's even put out a video called "A Christian's Guide to the Millennium Bug" in which he indicates the Y2K problem may be a warning from God to shake us up and get a religious revival going so Christ can come back and carry believers up to heaven.

The comedians are already onto the Y2K scare. Composer Rick Kuethe and comedian Adam Christing have come up with a funny song, released by Fire Husker, "because the message of doom is best delivered with a few yuks," they explained.

The doomsday predictions are also proving profitable for book authors. A proliferation of "apocalyptic fiction" is selling so fast that it is making publishing history, according to the New York Times article "Fast-Selling Thrillers Depict Prophetic View of Final Days." It appears the public is fixated "on the approaching millennium and the widespread anticipation that the year 2000 portends some earth-shattering event," it said.

I have to trust that technology will find the way out of the Y2K gloom scenario, and I hope readers of doomsday fiction will get bored with that genre of garbage.

I'd like to offer some good news.

I think Catholics have been given a different kind of challenge as we enter the final year of the 20th century. Pope John Paul II has declared 2000 a holy year, and he asks all of us to prepare for that special time by focusing on prayer, penitence and doing good works for others in need, all in an ecumenical spirit.

I especially applaud that he asks rich nations to help poor nations by reducing Third World debt. Practical charity should always be a priority with nations and with individuals.

By releasing this message in a papal bull titled "The Mystery of the Incarnation" as Advent began, the pope links us to the love and peace brought to the world by Jesus. That nicely counteracts the doom-and-gloom messages getting such big play.

Let's all make 1999 a great year where love prevails, preparing ourselves for a glorious holy year in 2000. Happy New Year, my friends.

Editor's Notebook

JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Keeping the spirit more than one day in the year

One of my favorite holiday tunes is "Christmas Time," by pop singer Bryan Adams. There's a great line in it that ponders how the world would be a better place if we could keep the spirit of Christmas more than just one day.

It's a message that can be easily overlooked in the hectic pace of everyday life. But the message of Christmas Time, both the season and the song, is one that challenges us to find joy in keeping Christ at the center of everything we do — not just on Dec. 25, but all year long.

Christmas is a time of heightened awareness. Live nativities remind us of that sacred night of new beginnings 2,000 years ago. Mementos of Christmases past recall family traditions. Travel plans aim toward another round of gathering with loved ones.

It's all over so quickly, it seems. And that's when the real work of keeping the spirit alive begins.

As I write this, my mind drifts back to my hometown. There I learned what it means to perpetuate the Christmas spirit, thanks to my parish's Catholic Youth Organization.

Both as a member and then a youth leader in that group, I received many gifts through the years. The most treasured gift I came away with, though, is the knowledge that friendship, virtue and faith can bring a smile to the hardened face, hope to the troubled and confidence to the defeated.

I think of traveling with the CYO to the poverty-stricken hills of West Virginia a few summers ago, where we ministered to those who may never have experienced a merry Christmas. I remember conversing with the distraught during mission trips. I recall meetings in the parish hall, where our youth leaders would share experiences of gaining truer appreciation for faith.

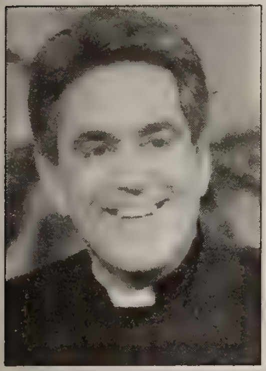
Just as Christmas abounds with images of optimism, happiness and thanksgiving, we sought — and often found — an abundance of opportunities to offer those gifts throughout the year.

As Catholics, we enter a sacramental life through our baptism. We are initiated into a community that believes in Christ's abiding presence among us. And if we look and try hard enough, we can find him in all that we encounter — long after the tree has been sent to the curb and the crèche packed away in the attic.

Some of my favorite Christmas memories go back to many Christmas Eves, when the CYO gathered at a local homeless shelter to serve dinner, give gifts and share in fellowship with men, women and children who had no place else to go. There in that scant setting, I was reminded of another humble scene in a different time and place: a manger in Bethlehem, where visitors traveled to encounter a truly spiritual experience.

Driving back home after the CYO dinner, I'd fumble through the radio dial to find Christmas songs. With a smile I'd come across one of my favorites, and would accompany — loudly and a *little* off key — that familiar voice of Bryan Adams. "There's something about Christmas time, something about Christmas time, that makes you wish it was Christmas every day. To see the joy in the children's eyes, the way that the old folks smile, says that Christmas will never go away."

Let's ensure that it never will.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Happy New Millennium!" — and counting

This week we start the year-long countdown to the new millennium. You can already sense the commercial and media hype designed to march us across the historic threshold. Two blocks from where I live, Bloomingdales, the popular Manhattan department store, has mounted a huge computerized billboard that counts off the days, minutes, and seconds till 2000. Our attention is firmly riveted on the future.

Before we get sucked into this vortex of millennial frenzy, you might want to develop your own take on what "Happy New Millennium!" could mean for you.

For the past two years Pope John Paul II has been encouraging people of all religious faiths to think about reconciliation as the pivotal activity for this touchstone in time.

Through a series of dramatic and historic moves, this millennial-minded pope has intensified his quest for the healing that only forgiveness can bring. From his openhearted mercy towards his would-be assassin to his recent apology for Catholic insensibility to the Holocaust, this is a man aching to deal responsibly with the past and the present in order to prepare for the future.

He encourages each of us to take one last hard look at what is behind us and where we are now. He urges us to confess the wrongs we did and the good we didn't do, to ask forgiveness for ourselves, and, perhaps hardest of all, to offer forgiveness to others. Only then can we face all that lies before us.

The question is, are we letting other people or circumstances rule our lives? We become unhappy because we blame others for who we are and how we are. We get so wrapped up in not forgiving that in a real way we cease to live our own lives. However real the hurt, we are nevertheless caught in a trap of our own making. If we do not change we cannot forgive.

It is simple to speak the words of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." It is far harder to transform those words into deeds, or even real desire.

Just how do we do it?

First, keep the faith. There are points in life when you can't handle problems alone. Actually, you never really can handle them alone, you just forget who is constantly with you. Having faith in almighty God who loves you dearly will ground and strengthen your resolve.

Second, be hopeful. Hoping is more than being optimistic. Hope makes today bearable because it focuses on the possibilities of tomorrow. You don't have to deny your difficulties and pain, but you can endure them for the good that will ultimately come from courage and perseverance.

Third, choose to love. This is an act of self-empowerment. You can either be bitter about the hurts of the past and feel wounded and powerless, or you can take on the attitude of love. You may not be able to feel love at first, but if you choose love and live love, in time you will feel it. And start by learning to love yourself.

If faith, hope and love are a living, breathing part of your heart and soul you will find reconciliation. Maybe it won't come quickly or easily. But inevitably, inexorably, God's own virtues will lead you to seek and to offer forgiveness as surely as the seconds tick toward the next thousand years.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Masses for a Non-Catholic

Q. May we have a Mass offered for one "who was not Catholic, but a good and active Christian"?

She worked hard in her church and volunteered in the hospital for 17 years. Her grandchildren are Roman Catholic, and she was always there for First Communions and the other sacraments. It would be good for her family and friends if we could have Mass for her at our church.

A. Masses are frequently offered for the intention of people who are not Catholic. It is true that regulations formerly were much more restrictive. In June 1976, however, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith liberalized the law considerably, following requests from various countries for priests to celebrate Mass for deceased persons who were baptized in other denominations.

This happens particularly when the person who has died showed special respect and honor for the Catholic religion or held public office in the service of the whole community.

Such Masses, private or public (announced in the parish bulletin, for example) are not only permitted. They can be unreservedly encouraged, said the decree, for reasons of patriotism, friendship, gratitude and so on.

The only practical conditions are that the family or friends request it and that there is no danger of scandal for whatever reason.

These guidelines are not at all surprising today. Many Catholics are not aware that even full Catholic funeral rites may now be granted to members of a non-Catholic church.

Such funerals are possible, according to the judgment of the local bishop, unless it would be evidently contrary to the will of the deceased and provided that their own minister, if they have one, is for some reason unavailable. ("Ecumenical Directory," 1993, No. 120, and Canons 1883 and 1884)

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Letters to the Editor

We welcome your letters!

E-mail your letters
to the editor at
jskeane@charlottediocese.org
or mail to
The Catholic News & Herald,
1123 South Church Street,
Charlotte, NC 28203

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

A "simple" New Year's resolution: Listen

It's time for New Year's resolutions again.

Instead of making long, complex pledges, this year I'd like to suggest going simple by making just the following, single resolution: Listen.

That's it, just that single word: "listen." Keep your mouth shut until you've heard what another person has to say.

We spend so much time talking — or thinking about what we're going to say next — that sometimes the listening part gets left out altogether.

You can't learn anything without listening. It's most obvious in the classroom. There are always some students who give up on learning about four days into the term. They're the kids who sit through lectures snoozing or chatting. When they finally sit down for the exam, they don't know any of the answers.

How could they? They never listened.

There's another kind of kid who isn't listening. He thinks he already knows the answers. Often this sort shouts the answer before the teacher asks the whole question. Sometimes he'll even blurt out the right answer to the wrong question. These kids also have problems on the exams because they don't believe they really need to study.

These twin attitudes, "I can't learn anything" and "I already know everything" both block learning because they make listening unnecessary. Of the two, however, the second is probably the more dangerous. Somebody who knows he's ignorant will do less real damage than a person who thinks he knows more than he really does.

I became expert at learning a few key words on a subject and then cleverly working them into conversations so it looked like I knew a lot.

It wasn't so bad in school. If you can convince a teacher you're smart, it's not that hard to get a B in class. I got a lot of Bs that way.

But once you're working for a living, seeming to know more than you do doesn't get you a B; it gets you in trouble. Today's professions reward what you know, and even more they reward your ability to learn new things.

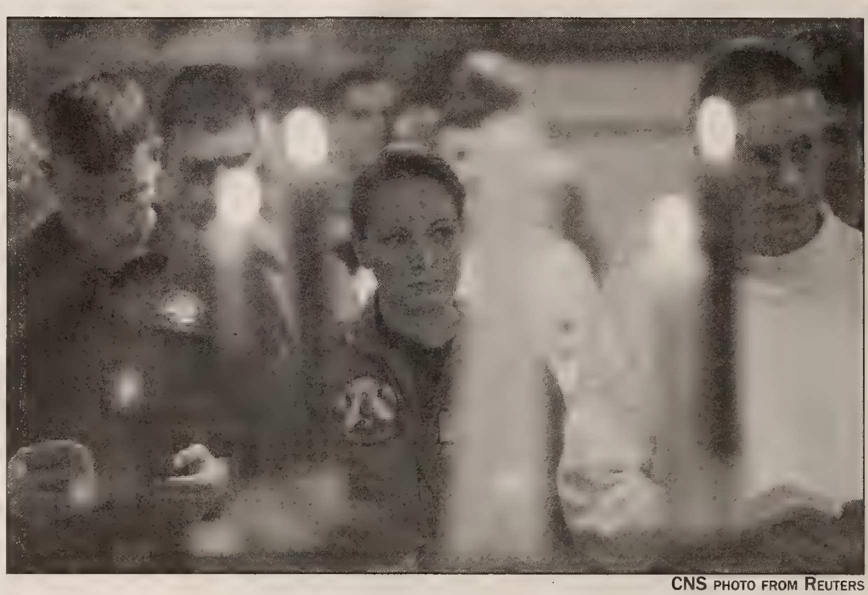
Concentrating on making sure you look smart instead of really learning new information, you end up farther and farther behind. Everybody thinks you're bright and clever, but they wonder why you don't produce as much as you should.

In your spiritual life, trying to look smart is absolutely deadly. Real spiritual growth and development requires learning from teachers who are wiser than you. Sometimes you can do that through books, but it is far more helpful to have a living, breathing teacher, someone who is far ahead of you on the path, yet able to look back and help you past stumbling blocks you don't recognize.

Learning from a spiritual teacher requires real humility. If the teacher tells you to sit down and write about a subject, and you say, "I don't need to because I already get the whole point," you're sunk. Learning has stopped — and it can stay stopped for years or for your whole life.

In school, in the world of work and in spiritual growth, the most dangerous learning disability of all is thinking you already know everything.

There's only one antidote. Listen.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

USS Enterprise

Crew members attend a Sunday church service Dec. 20 aboard the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier in the northern Persian Gulf. Flights from the Enterprise were stopped when President Clinton called a halt to military strikes on Iraq.

Federal judge overturns N.J. abortion law

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — U.S. District Judge Anne B. Thompson has declared that New Jersey's Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is unconstitutional. In a decision Dec. 8 she said the wording of the law is so ambiguous that it could be interpreted to ban all abortions. She also ruled that its lack of an exception if the mother's health is endangered makes it unconstitutional. William F. Bolan Jr., New Jersey Catholic Conference executive director, deplored the ruling.

Caritas launches appeal for donations for food aid to Iraq

ROME (CNS) — Catholic aid workers launched an urgent appeal for donations to cover emergency food needs in the wake of bomb and missile attacks on Iraq. The attacks by U.S. and British forces, which started late Dec. 16, struck civilian areas along with the military targets they were meant to level. Caritas Internationalis, the global Catholic humanitarian aid agency, announced Dec. 17 that it would need at least $250,000 to cover immediate needs for rice, lentils, sugar, tea and cooking oil for people displaced by the bombings.

Bishop leads Phoenix Catholics in seeking forgiveness for sins

PHOENIX (CNS) — Thousands joined Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien Dec. 11 as he publicly acknowledged in English and in Spanish the sins and failures of the church of Phoenix and asked for healing and forgiveness between cultures, families, clergy, laity and individuals. "We ask forgiveness," said Hispanics, Anglos, Koreans, Poles, Native Americans, African-Americans and representatives of numerous other cultures who gathered as one body of Christ at Desert Sky Pavilion in Phoenix.

William A. Marra, Catholic radio talk show host, dies at 71

NEW YORK (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 17 for William A. Marra, professor emeritus of philosophy at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York and host of a nationally syndicated Catholic radio program. He died Dec. 12 in Virginia at the age of 71. The funeral Mass was at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stamford, Conn., followed by burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Milford, N.J. Since 1981, Marra had hosted "Where Catholics Meet," a half-hour talk show carried by radio stations in several dozen cities. Guests, including Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, discussed contemporary themes in the light of church teaching.

Denver archbishop cites conversion as key to millennium joy

DENVER (CNS) — Reconciliation and conversion are the key for Christians who want to enter the new millennium with joy, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver said in a pastoral letter. His Advent pastoral, released Dec. 2, was titled "River of Mercy." Advent, a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ, is "also a time of great joy," he wrote. But he said that spirit of joy, which "seems so often contradicted by the sorrows and confusions of daily life," cannot be attained "without a radical conversion of heart. This is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ."

Twin Cities religious leaders urge more affordable housing

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Twin Cities religious leaders have called for more affordable housing and for metropolitan growth policies that benefit cities and suburbs. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis, and the heads of other faith communities, issued a statement calling for a renewed commitment to address regional economic and social problems. "It is a serious social and moral scandal that, in a community as prosperous as the Twin Cities region, there are literally tens of thousands of people who do not have access to affordable housing," the statement said.

Youngstown associate editor retires but will continue cartoons

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — Ed Sullivan, whose "Beyond the Stained Glass" cartoons have appeared in Catholic newspapers nationwide since 1966, is stepping down as associate editor of The Catholic Exponent, newspaper of the Diocese of Youngstown. Sullivan planned to retire as associate editor Dec. 31, but will continue to syndicate his cartoon, which currently runs in about 25 diocesan newspapers. At its peak, it ran weekly in more than 50 diocesan newspapers and several secular weeklies.

Bishop takes self off Christmas lists after seeing Mitch damage

KERRY, Ireland (CNS) — An Irish bishop said he is not sending any Christmas cards or presents and does not want to be on anyone's list this season. Bishop William Murphy of Kerry said he is "not being a killjoy," but made his decision after his recent "life-changing" visit to Honduras and Nicaragua, which sustained severe damage from Hurricane Mitch. "Of course I would like people to enjoy a peaceful and loving Christmas. But I have decided that the most productive and satisfying Christmas present that I could receive is to see people in my diocese contribute to Trocaire's Central American Appeal." In early December, Bishop Murphy visited Honduras as part of a visit organized by Trocaire, the Irish bishops' international relief and development agency.

Pax Christi honors Rwandan priest, layman for peace efforts

BRUSSELS, Belgium (CNS) — The Belgian branch of an international Catholic peace movement honored a Rwandan priest and a lay theologian for their efforts to promote the reconciliation of their peoples. Father Modeste Mungwarareba, a member of the Tutsi ethnic group, and Laurien Ntezimana, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, have been working together since 1992 to promote reconciliation, respect and cooperation between their peoples. The Vallonia-Brussels chapter of the Catholic peace movement Pax Christi gave the two its international peace prize in early December.

New nuncio to United States hopes to strengthen church unity

ROME (CNS) — Colombian Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the new apostolic nuncio to the United States, said he hopes his work will strengthen the unity of the church and accentuate the positive aspects of U.S.-Vatican relations. "Being named apostolic nuncio to the United States is something I consider a supreme honor and also an enormous responsibility. I'm very grateful to the Holy Father, and I'm eager to perform this service to the church and to all the citizens of the United States," Archbishop Montalvo said in an interview in Rome Dec. 14.

Books & Gift Items
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Denver Broncos bring prayer, faith and character onto field

By ROXANNE KING
Catholic News Service

DENVER (CNS) — In addition to great talent and effort, the indomitable Denver Broncos also take a lot of prayers, character and faith onto the field with them, according to staff and players.

Before and after every game, the team prays an Our Father, usually led by head coach Mike Shanahan, said the team's communication director Jim Saccomano. Immediately after games, some Broncos pray with their opponents, kneeling to offer a prayer of thanksgiving on the 50-yard line.

The team also sees to it that players are able to worship on Sundays, whether at home or away, by providing both a nondenominational chapel service and a Catholic Mass. A group of up to 25 Denver Broncos staff and players attend the Mass, which Saccomano jokingly dubbed "the parish of the road."

"It's a 22-minute Mass, we whip through it quick," said Saccomano, who speaks at about 100 words a minute. He added that during football season, the staff and players' tightly scheduled days leave little free time.

"That's how I go to confession, too," Saccomano told the Denver Catholic Register, Denver archdiocesan newspaper. "When it's over, I say, 'Padre, can you hear my confession?'"

Broncos attending the "parish on the road" include team owner Pat Bowlen, offensive coordinator and former quarterback Gary Kubiak, defensive tackle Mike Lodish, quarterback Brian Griese and guard David Diaz-Infante, Saccomano said.

"I believe in going to Mass on Sunday, being a good person and utilizing the abilities and size God has given me," Lodish said from the team locker room. "I pray to God before every game and ask him to give us the strength to play to the best of our abilities and that there's no injuries for either side."

Lodish, a strong veteran force on the defensive line, said he keeps his Catholic faith private.

CNS photo by Joann Langlinais, Denver Catholic Register

Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak stands in front of the football team's headquarters in Englewood, Colo. Kubiak says faith and character have helped the Broncos in their winning season.

"I have a hard time with athletes who use their sport as a vehicle for their faith," Lodish said, adding that he believes that by being disciplined, training hard and playing to the best of his ability, he shows thanks to God for his size, talent and opportunities.

Griese said that although he appreciates the opportunity to attend Mass on Sunday, he misses the fellowship of a regular parish Mass. He added that his faith has helped him with the responsibilities and challenges of his first season as a professional football player.

"When you're given a talent, more is expected of you. A lot of how I deal with that (pressure) is with my faith," he said, adding that when he has a bad practice, his faith helps him to put things into the proper perspective. "The reality is, it's just one day, one game."

A first-team All-Big Ten Conference selection in college last year and the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese, the rookie quarterback said he is unaccustomed to not playing but is grateful to be learning from the legendary John Elway and Bubby Brister.

"Learning from those two is a great experience. I want to learn as much as I can and prove myself to the team when I do get the chance to play," Griese said.

Like the players, Kubiak said he believes in more than just football. "In football, there's ups and downs. Sometimes you win, sometimes you get beat, sometimes you're the hero, sometimes you're the goat. That's part of our business," he said.

"If you want football to keep you happy or sad every day and be something to give you worth as a person, you're going to have a hard time, it's just too hard," Kubiak added. "But if you're happy in your faith, you're proud of who you are from that standpoint, then you're able to get up every day and, you know, tackle any challenge or try to beat any challenge that you meet."

The Broncos went 13-0 before losing their first game of the season Dec. 13, becoming the fourth team in National Football League history to win their first 13 games.

To achieve such status takes more than just talent, Kubiak said.

"A lot of times people think when you're winning it's because you have the best players. We've got some great players, but we have very good people on this team," he said. "When you're playing a lot of games, you have to have a lot of good people you can count on week in and week out. That's one thing this team's got — a lot of character." ▼

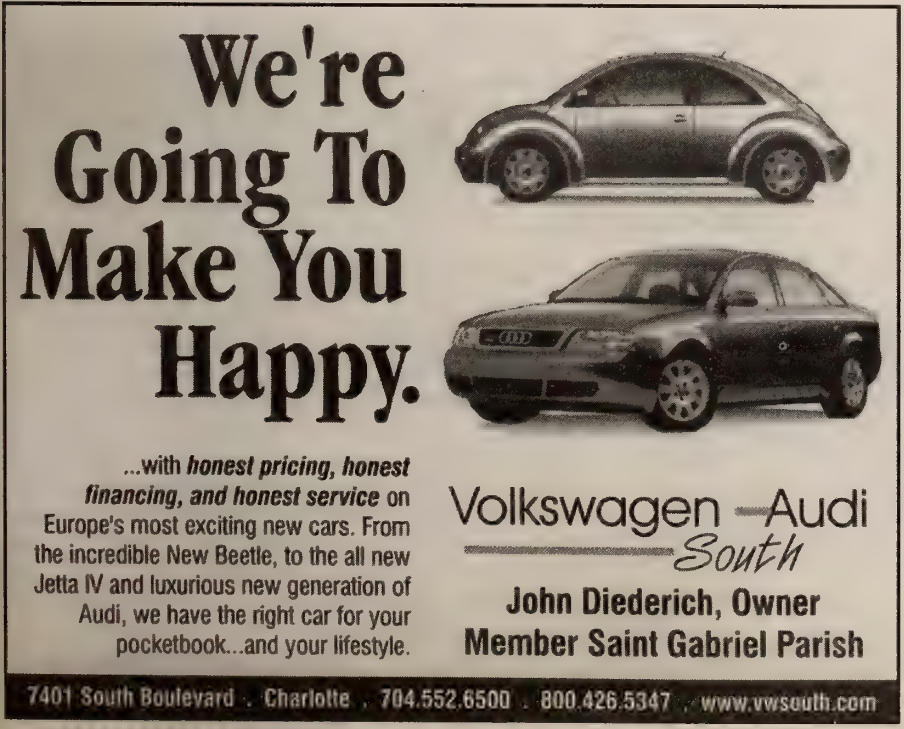
Rally to focus on repentance, evangelism

BELMONT — The Southeast Regional FIRE Rally, scheduled for Sept. 18, 1999, at Belmont Abbey College's Wheeler Athletic Center, will focus on the experience of evangelization as the jubilee year 2000 approaches.

Bishop William G. Curlin will preside over the event, expected to draw thousands of attendees. Team speakers will include Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance Father Michael Scanlan, an author and president of Franciscan University of Stuebenville; Father John P. Bertolucci, an author and a priest of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y.; and Servants of God's Love Sister Ann Shields, an educator, radio program host, and speaker; and Ralph Martin, an author, a leader in charismatic renewal movements, and president of Renewal Ministries, an organization devoted to Catholic renewal and evangelization.

FIRE, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, began in 1983. Its mission includes proclamation of the Gospel, outreach to inactive Catholics and strengthening the commitment of the faithful.

The event at Belmont Abbey will be from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and will include a youth rally. For further information, call (704) 519-0786; write to 5121 Baker Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28210, or visit the World Wide Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/ ▼


We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi
South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:

Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Own a Home?
Have Equity?

Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

Disasters affected mil

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Natural disasters affected millions of people in 1998. The international emergency response of churches and relief agencies to those in need was one of the leading religious stories of the year.

Even the devastating effects of El Nino — massive rains and floods that pummeled many parts of the world and left hundreds of thousands homeless in the early months of the year — were overshadowed in the fall by Hurricane Mitch. The hurricane stalled off the coast of Central America for days, producing torrential rains, floods and mudslides that killed more than 8,000 people in Honduras and Nicaragua and destroyed crops, roads, bridges and entire towns. El Salvador and Guatemala were also severely affected.

In December, responding to the disaster with a move larger in size and scope than any other in its history, the Catholic Church's global charities network, including Catholic Relief Services in the United States, pledged $500 million over the next five years to help rebuild the infrastructure of Central America.

Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba in January, like his 80 previous trips abroad as pope, was billed as a religious pilgrimage. But the implications of a papal visit to the last communist outpost in the West were so momentous that U.S. television networks set up shop to anchor their nightly news programs from Havana.

The papal visit contributed to several important changes in church-state relationships, opening doors for the church to become a more active and vital force in Cuban life. It also provoked new questions about the value and effectiveness of the continuing U.S. economic embargo against the Caribbean island nation. The Cuban government made Christmas a legal holiday again and in December allowed Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston to deliver a public speech on the role of church in society — an event that would have been unheard of before the papal visit.

Ironically, the breaking story of a tawdry sex scandal in the Oval Office brought the U.S. TV news anchors scurrying back from Havana to Washington less than 24 hours after the pope landed in Cuba. The investigation of the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, the president's denial, and the evolution of events to House impeachment hearings dominated headlines and newscasts almost daily for most of the year. No review of 1998 would be complete without some mention of the questions of moral values and the relation of morality and public office raised by it.

1998 TOP NEWS

Stories

1. Assisted suicide/euthanasia
   "60 Minutes" airs video of Dr. Jack Kevorkian killing a man with lethal injection. Earlier, Kevorkian called a failed Michigan proposal to legalize assisted suicide too restrictive.
2. Clinton-Lewinsky affair
3. Hurricanes
4. Cuba
5. Abortion

News Makers

1. John Paul II
   Marks 20th year as pope, names 22 new cardinals, issues major documents on the Lord's day and faith and reason, continues travels with visits to Cuba and three other countries.
2. Bill Clinton
3. John Hume and David Trimble
4. Edith Stein
5. Jack Kevorkian

Source: CNS poll of Catholic newspaper editors

© 1998 CNS Graphics

CNS photo from Reuters

A homeless boy sits on a chair among ruined houses near Choluteca in southern Honduras in late November. Hurricane Mitch caused torrential rains, floods and mudslides that killed more than 8,000 people in Central America.

Nor could any review of 1998 be complete without a reminder of one of the brighter stories of the year — the grace and humor with which baseball sluggers Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, a Catholic, battled each other for the new major league home run record.

Pope John Paul, 78, in October celebrated the 20th anniversary of his pontificate, occasioning numerous TV specials and newspaper and magazine features reviewing what some regard as one of history's most remarkable papacies. In 1998, as in every year since his 1978 election, he was unquestionably among the leading religious figures in the world.

The wear of the years and an advancing neural disease showed in the pope's posture, speech and walk, but he remained remarkably active. In addition to Cuba in January, he traveled to Nigeria in March, Austria in June and Croatia in October.

He named 22 new cardinals, two of them secretly. He wrote an encyclical, "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"), an apostolic letter on the limited teaching authority of bishops' conferences, and an apostolic letter on the religious observance of Sunday, "Dies Domini" ("The Lord's Day").

During the course of the year he met with 13 separate regional groups of U.S. bishops as they traveled to Rome for their official five-year visits to report on the state of their dioceses.

The pope, who has called preparation for the jubilee year 2000 a key to understanding his whole papacy, devoted increasing attention to the approaching millennium. He presided at a Synod of Bishops for Asia in May and a Synod of Bishops for Oceania in December to help prepare the church in those parts of the world for the next millennium. In November he formally proclaimed 2000 a holy year in a papal bull that urged global solidarity and action to end injustices along with the traditional holy year practices of pilgrimages and indulgences.

In his 1994 encyclical on the approach of the millennium, "Tertio Millennio Adveniente," the pope had urged world financial and political leaders to consider reduction or outright cancellation of the foreign debts of some of the world's poorest countries as a way of meeting the jubilee year goal of restoring justice.

By 1998 the call for debt relief for poor countries had grown into an international grass-roots movement pressing creditor governments and financial institutions to take action.

A global coalition of Catholic relief and development agencies, taking their cue from the pope and the experiences of their own people in heavily indebted poor countries, issued "Putting Life Before Debt," a policy, information and action package to help churches and church agencies around the world work toward effective debt relief.

The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the U.S. Catholic Conference co-sponsored a two-day international conference on debt at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, bringing leading officials of international financial institutions and creditor and debtor governments together with church officials, academics and others to share views and perspectives.

When Hurricane Mitch struck Central America in late October, practically destroying the economies of Nicaragua and Honduras, for the first time the appeals for emergency relief supplies were followed almost immediately by calls for debt relief as an essential part of recovery.

Just one month before Mitch, Hurricane Georges swept through the Caribbean, causing billions of dollars in damage, killing several hundred people and leaving more than 100,000 homeless.

Weather was not the only cause of natural disasters. In July three tsunamis — giant waves generated by an offshore earthquake — devastated coastal fishing villages in northern Papua New Guinea.

For the Catholic Church at large, the Asia and Oceania synods in Rome were among major events of the year. Bishops from both regions highlighted the need for greater inculturation in the church if the Gospel is to be embedded in the non-Western native cultures of Asia, Australia and the Pacific islands.

CNS photo from Reuters

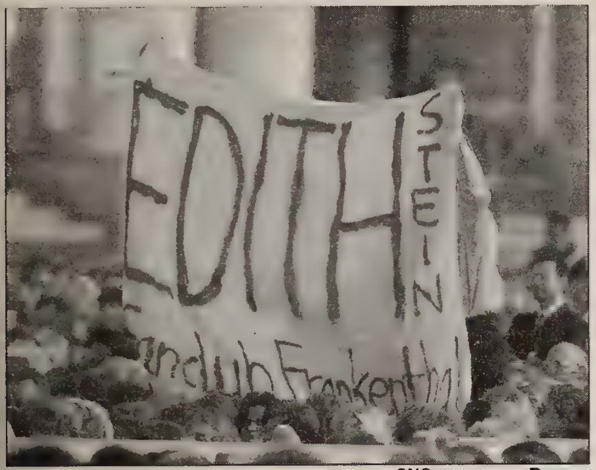
Members of the Christian community pray outside their destroyed church in Jakarta's Chinatown in late November. Rioters in Indonesia burned several Christian churches as sectarian violence erupted in the mostly Muslim country.

The Oceania bishops openly debated permitting married priests in cultures in which celibacy is not highly valued.

Celibacy came up as an issue in other places as well. A gathering of priest council leaders from across Europe suggested changing the criteria for ordination and delegates at a nationwide Catholic dialogue in Austria asked for married priests. In Canada three-fourths of the delegates at a Montreal archdiocesan synod called for married priests.

It was also an issue for Catholics of Eastern churches, which retain their tradition of married priests in their native territories but must observe the Latin discipline of celibacy in Latin territories — Europe, the Americas and Australia. The Vatican called for the return to Ukraine of married priests serving in Ukrainian-rite dioceses in Poland. Australia's Latin-rite bishops announced that they no longer oppose married priests serving in Eastern rites in their country. The Byzantine Ruthenian

ons of people in 1998



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pilgrims hold up a banner in St. Peter's Square during the canonization of Edith Stein Oct. 11. The canonization of Stein, who was raised as a Jew and later baptized a Catholic, drew protests from some Jewish quarters.

Church in the United States was on the verge of adopting new legislation that would end its prohibition against married priests when a controversy over the decision caused the Vatican to call for a postponement.

Pope John Paul has repeatedly and strongly defended the Latin-rite rule on priestly celibacy. He calls it a timely challenge for contemporary society and says he believes that allowing a married priesthood may create bigger problems than those it intends to solve.

In a series of actions in 1998 the Vatican moved to tighten the reins on doctrinal dissent. The pope revised canon law to incorporate penalties for Catholics who persistently dissent from church teachings which are definitive, even if not divinely revealed matters of faith.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith told the Peruvian bishops that its long investigation of liberation theologian Father Gustavo Gutierrez was not over.

The congregation lifted the excommunication of a Sri Lankan theologian, Oblate Father Tissa Balasuriya, but it issued a warning against the writings of another Asian theologian, the late Indian Jesuit Father Anthony de Mello. It started an investigation into the teachings of another theologian who had spent many years studying in Asia, Belgian Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis of the Gregorian University in Rome.

The congregation issued a critique of the book "Papal Power" by Australian Father Paul Collins and called for withdrawal from publication of "Woman at the Altar" by English Sister Lavinia Byrne. On its orders the imprimatur given by the U.S. bishops to an English translation of the Psalms was withdrawn.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the doctrinal congregation, provoked controversy among the world's Anglican bishops just before the start of their decennial Lambeth Conference by stating that a century-old papal decision against the validity of Anglican orders belongs to the Catholic Church's definitive teaching.

Shortly before that, as the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation approached final adoption of an official "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification," Cardinal Ratzinger was also a center of controversy because of his purported role in adding a cautionary section of clarifications to the Vatican statement approving the joint declaration. The confusion caused by the Vatican's cautionary notes led to a delay in the signing the declaration. The LWF Executive Committee called for further consultation with Rome on how the declaration "might be jointly signed without reservations."

With its general assembly in Zimbabwe the World Council of Churches marked its 50th anniversary. Earlier in the year the WCC reported wide support for an initiative it sponsored in 1997 to get all Christian churches to celebrate Easter on a common date, beginning in 2001.

Catholic-Jewish relations advanced somewhat with the issuance of a Vatican document assessing inadequacies in the response of the church and individual Catholics to the Holocaust, the Nazi extermination of 6 million Jews in World War II. Many Jewish leaders called it a first step, but not enough.

Catholic-Jewish relations were strained, however, when a Polish Catholic group planted hundreds of crosses next to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Church authorities tried unsuccessfully to have them removed. The pope's canonization of Edith Stein also drew protests from some Jewish quarters; she was raised as a Jew, but later was baptized a Catholic and died as a Carmelite nun at Auschwitz.

The Vatican and Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, formed the first permanent Catholic-Muslim dialogue commission in 1998, but Christians, including Catholic leaders, experienced persecution in several countries where Islam is the dominant religion.

Rioters in Indonesia burned several Christian churches. In Pakistan, Catholic Bishop John Joseph of Faisalabad committed suicide to draw world attention to the persecution of Christians under his country's Islamic law against blasphemy. In Sudan a Catholic bishop reported that thousands of Christian children from the south were being kidnapped to be put in slavery or converted to Islam in the Muslim-dominated north.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Priests pray around the casket of slain Guatemalan Bishop Jose Juan Gerardi in late April in Guatemala City. At left is Father Mario Orantes, the priest eventually charged, but not yet tried, in the bishop's murder.

Catholic missionaries were the targets of sectarian or political violence in several African and Asian countries. In December the bishops of Northern Africa reported that Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya have become less dangerous for religious than they were in the early 1990s. But elsewhere in 1998 dozens of priests and nuns were kidnapped or killed — in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Yemen, Kenya, South Africa, the Philippines and other places.

The United States enacted a new law, the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act, permitting U.S. sanctions against countries that abuse religious rights of their people.

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., was one of three U.S. religious leaders who visited China for three weeks in February, at the request of the Clinton administration, to assess China's treatment of religious believers.

It was in heavily Catholic Guatemala that one of the most shocking attacks on a church official occurred. Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City was brutally slain in his home April 26, just two days after he released a human rights report attributing most atrocities in Guatemala's 30-year civil war to the military. Many believed the unsolved crime was a political assassination.

The Vatican itself was no stranger to murder. On May 4 a member of the Swiss Guard, Cedric Tornay, killed Col. Alois Estermann and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, and then committed suicide, just hours after Estermann was named commander of the Guard. The murder-suicide led to a shake-up in training procedures in the 492-year-old elite corps of papal bodyguards.

Millions of Americans saw a far more calculated killing on their television screens Nov. 22 when CBS' "60 Minutes" showed Dr. Jack Kevorkian's home video of himself giving a lethal injection to a terminally ill man who had requested it. After at least 120 cases in which the retired Michigan pathologist assisted at suicides, it was the first time he publicly acknowledged killing a client instead of helping the client commit suicide.

Kevorkian was charged with murder. Some Catholic leaders and others criticized CBS for showing the killing and said CBS News had allowed itself to be exploited by Kevorkian in his campaign to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Just three weeks before the airing of the program, Michigan voters soundly defeated a referendum which would have legalized assisted suicide in their state.

End-of-life issues arose in another case that drew national attention: The wife of Hugh Finn, a man in a persistent vegetative state, obtained a court order to remove medically assisted nutrition and hydration. Opponents argued that nutrition and hydration was ordinary care and its withdrawal was murder; supporters argued that it fell within the range of legally and morally permissible withdrawal of medical treatment.

With more than 3,500 Americans on death row, capital punishment was often in the news. Catholic bishops regularly spoke out to oppose executions in their home state. The execution in Texas of born-again Christian Karla Faye Tucker drew international protests, including an appeal from the pope for clemency. Even some supporters of the death penalty objected to its use in her case.

Americans faced beginning-of-life issues as well as the nation marked its 25th year since the Supreme Court legalized abortion virtually on demand.

For the second time Congress failed to override a presidential veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Religious and pro-life leaders condemned the January bombing that killed a guard and wounded a nurse at an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala., and the October murder of a Buffalo, N.Y., doctor who performed abortions.

When Congress considered a proposal to permit cloning of human embryos strictly for experimental purposes, requiring that none be allowed to grow to maturity, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said it would be the first time the U.S. government "defined a class of human beings that it is a crime not to destroy."

In November the U.S. bishops issued a statement urging Catholic politicians to uphold the sacredness of human life in their public policy decisions.

In referendums in the November elections, voters in Colorado and Washington rejected state bans on partial-birth abortion.

In other popular referendums in November the voters of Alaska and Hawaii overwhelmingly opposed legalization of same-sex marriages in their states.

Same-sex marriages were also an issue in Europe, where the European Union's highest court ruled against marriage benefits for same-sex couples.

Among key world events of particular moral or religious concern were:

— Tests of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan, triggering new concerns of nuclear prolifera-

SEE 1998 REVIEW, PAGE 12

Book Review

"Leap into Darkness"

REVIEWED BY ANNE BINGHAM
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Leo Bretholz was an ordinary 17-year-old Austrian Jew who managed to slip out of Vienna on the eve of Kristallnacht to spend the next "Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe," the subtitle of his "Leap Into Darkness."

"Leap into Darkness," by Leo Bretholz and Michael Olesker. Woodholme House Publishers (Baltimore, 1998). 273 pp., $23.95.

His escape meant he was one of the few members of his extended family to escape the tentacles of Hitler's death machine. Spirited by a Jewish underground group to the relative safety of a Franciscan monastery in Trier, then to an aunt's in Luxembourg, he had less than a day of freedom before he was arrested in a cafe and expelled into France.

From then to the final months of the war, he was either on the run or in one internment camp or another. In one harrowing chapter he even managed to escape from a hell-train bound for Auschwitz by forcing rusted bars over a window. "Now go! Go ahead!" a doomed passenger cried as he and a companion prepared to wiggle out the window. "Who else will tell the story?"

From the train tracks they found a village, persuaded a baker to take him to a priest's house, where they were sheltered for the night and provided with train tickets for Paris. This would have been a happy ending in a novel, but Paris was occupied, and Free France was no better. He spent much of the rest of the war in jail and interment camps, finally escaping one more time into permanent freedom. With new identity papers providing him with French parents and grandparents, he spent the duration of the war working for the Resistance.

While "Leap into Darkness" mentions some Christians who lived up to their belief, whole chapters document his contention that "the churches generally did not reach out to their Jewish sisters and brothers in the darkest hours." Nor were the Austrians Hitler's first victims, he writes, but "his first embracers."

Ordinarily a book about the Holocaust would be a slow read for me, something entirely too painful to live with for more than half an hour at a time. However, even though I knew from the foreword how "Leap into Darkness" came out, I couldn't put it down and read it cover to cover in the course of a single, mercifully unscheduled day.

It's a book that would provoke good discussion among confirmation candidates or RCIA groups about the imperative to survive, God's presence in darkness, family, and the meaning of prayer. ▼

Bingham is a Milwaukee book reviewer.

Word to Life

December 27. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
Cycle A. Readings:

1) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
   Psalm 128:1-5
2) Colossians 3:12-21
3) Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

BY SHARON K. PERKINS

I love the fragrance of scented candles. I have them throughout my home so that when the mood strikes or when company is coming, I can change the environment via the sense of smell: Cinnamon apple to create warmth in the kitchen, mulberry in the living room for a rich fruity aroma and vanilla in the bathroom to combat the dirty socks in the clothes hamper. Not only is the fragrance pleasing to the olfactory nerve, but I believe there are spiritual and emotional benefits to watching a flame's soft glow. Judging from the success of the candle industry, I must not be the only one who feels that way.

I had even taken to burning votive candles in my office — that is, until the word came from the fire marshal and Risk Management that this practice was too hazardous. I must admit I had a twinge of irritation, even a spark of rebellion, at this restriction. But, understanding the reason for it, I decided to respect my colleagues' right to safety and save my candles for other times and places.

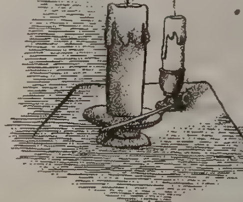
This week's readings are also about personal restrictions out of obedience to a higher authority and respect for others. As much as Americans prize individualism and freedom of choice, it is sometimes difficult to realize that holiness in the context of family life largely is determined by one's attitude toward external authority. While children are admonished in the readings from Sirach and Colossians to obey their parents, adults also are charged to obey higher laws than themselves — namely, kindness to the elderly, respect for spouses and children — and the fear of the Lord. The Gospel illustrates this aptly when Joseph twice heeds the instruction of an angel and the words of the prophets in order to protect his wife and child.

The willingness to be obedient, the choice to be subordinate to the will and wisdom of others placed in authority, might seem in our modern culture to be a sign of weakness or unnecessary self-deprivation.

And yet, in the wisdom of the Scriptures, subordination of the self — fearing the Lord and walking in his ways — ultimately brings peace, love and rich blessing. ▼

Questions:

Think of a recent time when you rebelled against an imposed restriction. How did you justify your rebellion? In what area of your life are you having the most difficulty with obedience to authority or subordination of your self?



"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways."

Psalm 128:1

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 27, 1998 - Jan. 2, 1999

Sunday, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52; **Monday**, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Tuesday**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Wednesday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40; **Thursday**, 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Friday**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Saturday**, 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio for a Marian Pilgrimage visiting shrines in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

May 1999

Finalized tour information is expected in January. Want to be on our mailing list?
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

RESPECT LIFE

God sent his angels to shepherds
To herald the great joy of our Savior's birth.
May he fill you with joy
And make you heralds of his gospel.
Amen.

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store

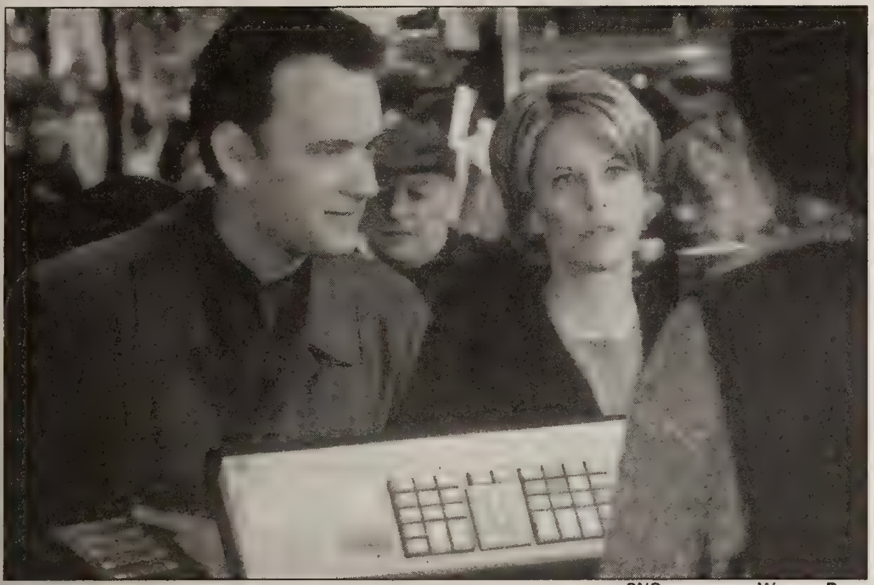
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

"You've Got Mail"

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star as rival Manhattan booksellers who fall in love through anonymous e-mail messages in the comedy, "You've Got Mail." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Jack Frost" is terribly contrived

By GERRI PARE

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — In "Jack Frost" (Warner Bros.), Michael Keaton plays the title role of a musician dad who briefly comes back to life as a snowman to bond with his 12-year-old son. The movie is every bit as flaky as it sounds.

Director Troy Miller routinely establishes that dad Jack, mom Gabby (Kelly Preston) and son Charlie (Joseph Cross) are crazy about each other as they prepare for Christmas in Colorado.

It's just that dad's gigs with his band mean he's missed Charlie's hockey games and he won't be with them on Christmas Day because of a big-time record-label audition.

Deciding halfway there that his family is more important, dad heads home, but a fatal car crash in a blizzard takes his life.

The following Yuletide season, the snows return to Colorado — and so does Jack Frost — reincarnated on the front lawn as Frosty the Snowman, and given a second chance to make amends with his boy if can stay out of the sun.

When school bullies taunt Charlie, Dad backs him up with power snowballs to knock them down to size. Father and son take a slam-bang sleigh rides together, and soon dad convinces Charlie to rejoin the hockey team.

Not in on their secret, Mom starts worrying why Charlie is spending all his time apparently talking to the snowman only to learn the odd couple have run away from home.

That leaves just enough time for mom to find them and have a misty reunion before storm clouds gather to summon Jack back.

Looking more like a straight-to-video release, the movie's dialogue is trite, the situations terribly contrived and the emotions look about as real as the imitation snow.

Several songs by Hanson and Stevie Nicks play on the soundtrack when the characters run out of cliches to spout such as "All I need is you," and "Everybody deserves a second chance." It's a little baffling why it took four screenwriters to come up with such profundities.

The fantastic creations that have come out of Jim Henson's Creature Shop in previous movies are sorely missed here; the snowman looks quite ordinary and his facial expressions are limited at best.

The script doesn't allow Keaton or the rest of the cast to shine; if anything, it is more like witnessing a fantasy meltdown.

Due to some menacing situations and a fleeting profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

Give the gift of Catholic programming.
through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus, watch all your favorite cable channels via satellite all at a SPECIAL PRICE of
$198*
Includes 18" dish, receiver and installation, PLUS 2 months of programming!
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area
dish NETWORK
* special price through 12/31/98

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(800) 331-0768
(704) 663-7007

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org
For information on specific programs, please call your local office.
Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director. Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

1998 Review,

from pages 8-9

tion and dangers of regional conflicts escalating into nuclear warfare.

— Confrontations with Iraq over U.N. weapons inspections, twice bringing the United States to the brink of new missile attacks on Iraq.

— Terrorist bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, followed by U.S. missile attacks on terrorist camps in Afghanistan and a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan alleged by the CIA to be producing chemical weapons materials for terrorists.

— Ratification by more than 40 nations of the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel land mines. Under terms of the treaty, it takes effect March 1, six months after the 40th country ratified it.

— The Good Friday peace agreement in Northern Ireland. John Hume and David Trimble, key architects of the agreement, were awarded the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for their work.

— An Israeli-Palestinian land-for-peace accord, giving new life to the stalled peace process in Israel.

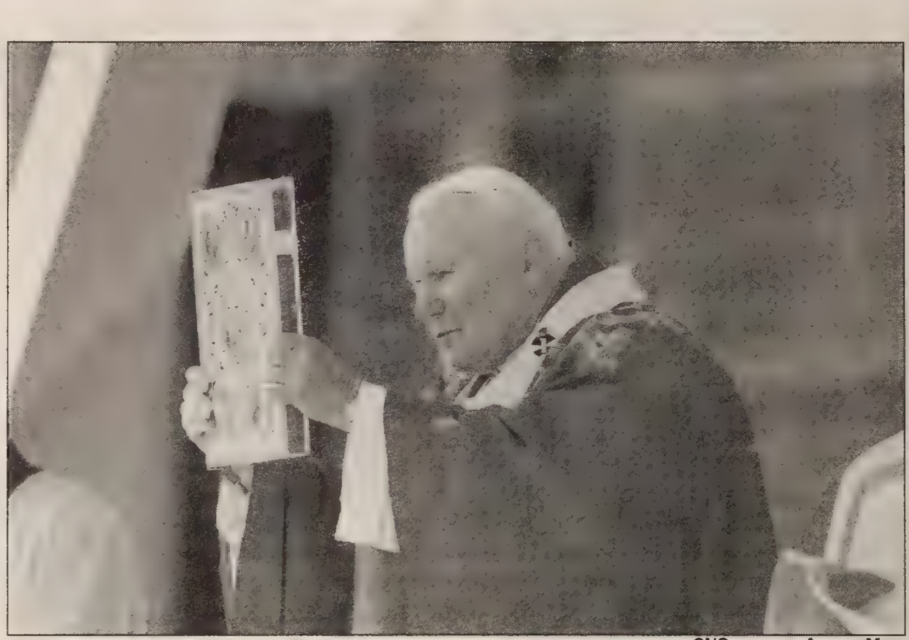
— Drought and famine in Sudan, intensifying the devastating effects of the 15-year civil war between the ruling Arab Muslims of the North and the Christian and animist blacks of the South.

Sexual misconduct scandals were again part of the news about the church.

The Diocese of Dallas reached a court-mediated settlement of $35 million — a significant reduction of the $159 million awarded by a jury — with 11 victims of former Dallas priest Rudolph Kos. Kos was sentenced to life in prison for his sex crimes against children and he was forcibly laicized by the church.

In Florida, Bishop J. Keith Symons resigned as bishop of Palm Beach when it was learned that as a priest he had molested altar boys. He was the first U.S. bishop to resign because of sexual abuse of minors.

In Austria, Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer — who had previously resigned as archbishop of Vienna amid allegations of sexual abuse of minors — resigned his new post as prior of a Benedictine monastery after he was also accused of homosexual conduct with adults. He underwent a Vatican investigation and later disobeyed orders against engaging in public ministry in Austria.



CNS PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II carries the Gospel book during the canonization Mass for Edith Stein Oct. 11. By the end of the year the holy father had issued a papal encyclical, celebrated his 20th year as pope, named 22 cardinals and visited four countries.

The new archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, publicly apologized for his predecessor's misconduct.

In the United States other events of religious interest included:

— The opening of the off-Broadway play "Corpus Christi," featuring a Christ figure as a homosexual, despite protests.

— A prayer vigil by 7,000 demonstrators at Fort Benning, Ga., protesting the School of the Americas there which trains Latin American military officers. Many of its graduates have been implicated in torture and other human rights abuses.

— The introduction of a new Lectionary for Sundays in U.S. Catholic parishes at the start of Advent.

Among new cardinals named by the pope in 1998 were two Americans: Cardinal Francis George of Chicago and Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, former archbishop of Denver who is now president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

In November Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland completed his three-year term as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the bishops elected Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston to succeed him. For the first time they elected an African-American, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., as NCCB vice president.

The Vatican ambassador to the United States since 1990, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, was named head of the Vatican's Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See in November. In December the pope appointed Colombian Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, a 41-year veteran of Vatican diplomatic service and president of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy since 1993, as the new nuncio, or ambassador, to the United States. ▼

Carolyn's Stitchery
Monogram, Embroidery, Digitizing and sew-on...
(704) 552-8084
(704) 643-4177 fax

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Pansies
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

Employment opportunities available

10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

HOMEOWNERS
Our current rate for a 30-yr. fixed rate is 6.375%
We do it all!
1st and 2nd mortgages, refinance, home equity, debt consolidation
Rates subject to change.
1ST CHOICE
MORTGAGE EQUITY CORPORATION
Charlotte (704) 543-9815
Burlington (336) 538-0213
Gastonia (704) 865-0275
Hickory/Conver (828) 466-7701
Marion (828) 659-6750
Mooresville (704) 664-3577
Salisbury (704) 638-0285
Shelby (704) 482-6900
York (803) 684-1095

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.
Only 90 minutes from Charlotte
(800)813-9676
$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Pope: Strikes on Iraq represent failure of international order

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed sadness and disappointment over U.S.-led military strikes against Iraq, saying the missile and bombing attacks represented a failure of international order.

The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Dec. 20, after four days of intense bombing by U.S. and British forces. Several thousand people applauded his remarks in St. Peter's Square.

"The Christmas atmosphere intensifies the pain over what has happened in these last few days to the Iraqi population, whose drama should leave no one indifferent," the pope said.

"Along with my deep sadness for the situation of these people, there is also bitterness in seeing how often are disappointed the hopes placed in the validity and strength of international law and in the organizations called to guarantee its application," he said.

The pope's words appeared to be a reference to the United Nations, which Vatican officials have said is the proper forum for a diplomatic solution to the ongoing Iraqi crisis.

"I repeat once again: War has never been and will never be an adequate means to a solution of the problems between nations!" the pope said.

He said the Iraqi people should be the focus of world concern, especially among those leaders — in Iraq and elsewhere — who have a responsibility to end the crisis.

"I make a heartfelt appeal to all, that human solidarity and respect for the international order may prevail," he said.

The pope was making his first public appearance following a bout with the flu, which forced him to cancel a day of appointments. His appearance at his apartment window was more brief than usual, and he appeared to move very slowly.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, discussed the Iraqi situation with the secretary-general of the Arab League, Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, in a private meeting Dec. 19.

Afterward, in remarks to reporters, Cardinal Sodano said their talks had focused on the new difficulties the bombings would create for peace prospects throughout the Middle East.

"The effects certainly are not positive. The efforts toward peace will not be favored," the cardinal said.

Asked if the U.S.-led military action could be considered useful, the cardinal recalled Pope Benedict XV's definition of World War I as a "useless massacre" and said the phrase could be applied to the latest action against Iraq.

Explaining why the Vatican termed the military strikes against Iraq an "aggression," Cardinal Sodano said Catholic teaching states that one can defend oneself or one's nation, but not attack another.

"The difficulty is to discern correctly in concrete cases. But the principles are clear," he said.

Cardinal Sodano added that the pope still hoped to visit Iraq in a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Abraham, sometime in the next two years.

Vatican Radio, meanwhile, carried an interview with an Italian expert in international law, Antonio Papisca, who said the U.S. and British action — taken because their leaders said Saddam violated U.N. provisions for weapons inspections — was "decidedly illegal" as far as the U.N. Charter and international law were considered. He was asked whether sanctions should be taken against the United States or Great Britain.

"In this case, faced with an illegal and unilateral action carried out by the United States and Great Britain, I think the greatest sanction may be the (negative) reaction that is taking place around the world," he said. ▾

Church officials decry U.S. military attacks on Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Church leaders decried the military strikes by U.S. and British forces on Iraqi targets for the potential loss of life that could result, and they urged prayers for peace as well as for the U.S. troops and the people of Iraq.

"These attacks almost always result in the deaths of innocent people," said Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia. "The taking of an innocent human life is always tragic and can never be accepted as unavoidable."

Although the cardinal said he understood and shared the frustration over the situation in Iraq, he was "greatly saddened by this action."

President Clinton ordered the wave of bomb and missile attacks on Iraqi targets Dec. 16 in an effort to disarm Iraqi President Saddam Hussein after Iraq's continued noncompliance with U.N. weapons inspection teams.

In Mexico, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications, who was attending a conference for Catholic journalists, told Catholic News Service there is no gain in war.

"It is better to work for justice and peace because, as the pope has said, we lose much with war and we lose nothing with peace," the archbishop said.

Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City told CNS, "It is hard at this point to judge reasons or motives, but history teaches that war never solves problems but worsens them, because it just creates new resentments, more death and hatred."

In a column for The Catholic Advocate, his archdiocesan newspaper, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., said the decision to bomb is "always a grave one and must be made not only according to military strategy, but in keeping with basic moral guidelines as well."

The archbishop, chairman of the U.S. bishop's International Policy Committee, said there are no easy answers to the current situation in Iraq.

In the column, written for the paper's Dec. 23 edition, he said the U.S. bishops have spoken out against Iraqi aggression, but they also "cannot be unmoved by the terrible suffering of the people of Iraq caught as they are in a vise between a reckless government on the one side and an angry world which uses severe embargoes and the threat of overwhelming military force on the other." ▾

> **"These attacks almost always result in the deaths of innocent people," said Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia. "The taking of an innocent human life is always tragic and can never be accepted as unavoidable."**

"I was accepted at four colleges and universities, but once I saw all Belmont Abbey College had to offer, there was really no comparison. The Abbey was the right decision."

PATRICK CAHILL, CLASS OF 2002

Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Catholic High School

Major: Undecided

Patrick Cahill — who excelled in high school sports and musical productions, and served as president of his student body — says Belmont Abbey College is the perfect fit for him, for many reasons.

"The Abbey has so much to offer. The campus is beautiful and the environment is warm and welcoming. When I visited, I just knew I would fit in here."

Patrick claims it is "the right people in the right positions" that has made his Abbey experience so unforgettable.

"The hearts of the people are genuine and caring; that's one of the things I love about this place. I receive personal attention from people who really know what they're talking about. All five of my current instructors have their doctorate degrees. My classes range from just 15 to 30 students — which is really ideal ... I've been so impressed."

Patrick is leaning toward a major in philosophy or history and plans to try out for the baseball team. He will also continue the work he began in high school helping underprivileged children in downtown Charlotte with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

"You can't ask for a stronger Catholic identity than here at Belmont Abbey College, yet our Benedictine instructors don't really care what denomination you're from; they just want the opportunity to teach you. In fact, a fair percentage of our students are not Catholic, and all are welcome with open arms."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

BELMONT, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • TOLL-FREE 888.BAC.0110

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Twin parish visit teaches universal lesson

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — "Right now, when they are here, the bridge is so short that I need only one step to cross it," says Marian Father Waldek Ziolkowski, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church.

It's been three years since the Greensboro parish began building a bridge with Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kharkov, Ukraine.

Father Ziolkowski sits across the table from Marian Fathers Pawel Ostrowsky and Wiktor Lutkowsky, who staff the Ukrainian parish. They share laughter and swap stories.

This December visit is the first by "Father Paul" and "Father Victor" to Greensboro.

"It's very educational for us," says Father Victor, Our Lady of the Assumption Church's parochial vicar. "We are observing how people live here, and we are looking at the parish. We will try to put into action the thoughts that we will take from here."

Culture, spirituality and friendship blend during this visit. It is a Catholic exchange, the priests say, in many ways.

A history lesson

In 1995, the Marian priests at Our Lady of Grace Church sought to begin a relationship with a Marian parish in Eastern Europe.

Enter Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kharkov, located in northeast Ukraine, 400 miles south of Moscow. The parish church had been reclaimed by the Catholic community in December 1991, when the Soviet Union dissolved and Ukraine became an independent republic.

Ukraine's period of independence has been fraught with many growing pains. In a land of religious mistrust, political rebirth, and growing poverty, Our Lady of the Assumption's encounter with the Greensboro parish has been a bright spot, the priests say.

The relationship has been especially active in the past year.

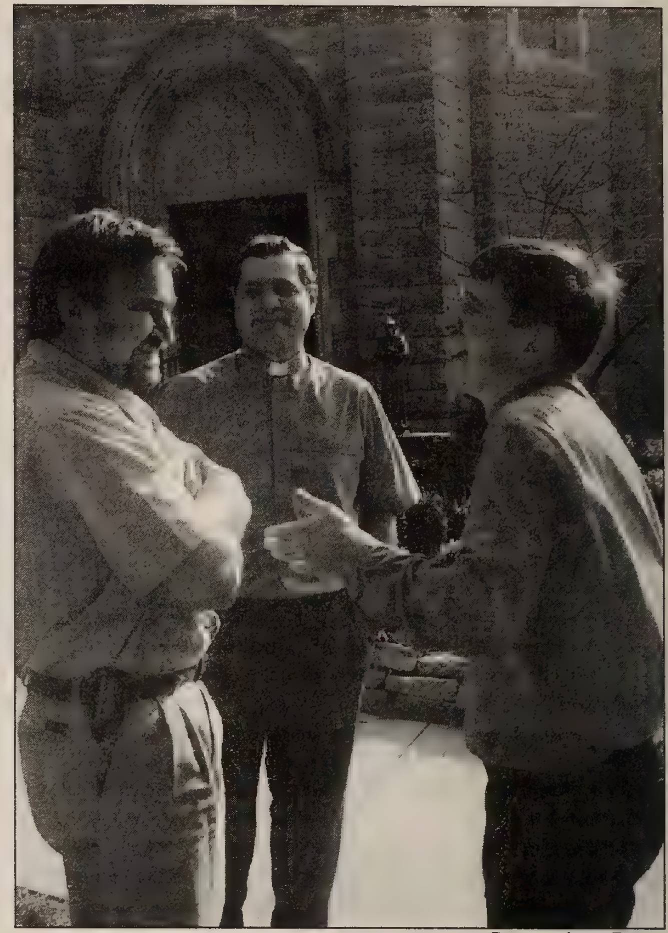
Our Lady of Grace Church's involvement has included financial, spiritual and educational support. Twin parish council chairman Eddie Mitchell contends that the real exchange lies in what the Ukrainian parish offers: a new awareness.

"It must be tough to live in an area where there isn't any money," Mitchell says. "The housing is limited, the weather's bad — and yet they keep believing. I think we can learn from that."

Students from Our Lady of Grace School are learning, too. They write letters to school kids in Kharkov through a pen pal program, sing Christmas carols in Ukrainian and hear stories of life in the former Soviet republic.

Growing pains

Kharkov has seen turbulence for much of its existence. Ravaged by war, rebuilt, and thrown into societal upheaval, the city has survived since its founding in 1656 to become an important center of commerce and culture.



From left, Marian Fathers Waldek Ziolkowski, Pawel Ostrowsky and Wiktor Lutkowsky share a laugh on the grounds of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. Fathers Ostrowsky and Lutkowsky staff Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kharkov, Ukraine, which has been in a "twin parish" relationship with the Greensboro church since 1995. Father Ziolkowski is a parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, like the rest of Ukraine, Kharkov has again had to redefine itself. With the Communist regime gone, poverty is growing as the city adjusts to a market economy.

"We have a very big economical crisis right now," says Father Victor. He describes today's society as a division of very rich, politically powerful citizens, and the very poor who often "have absolutely nothing."

It's the latter group that's growing in size. "When the Ukraine was incorporated into Russia, the government was trying to protect the poorest people," says Father Paul. "Since the separation, the government has not been able to protect those people. Many are completely homeless; they just live on streets."

Public expression of worship is again allowed, though in parts of Ukraine serious dissent exists between Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions. While the number of Catholics is

YES, IT WORKS!
The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...
"Within 2 weeks of placing our ad, we were working with 4 new clients who had called because of our ad in The Catholic News & Herald."
— Sandy Petruso, President, 1st Choice Mortgage Equity Corp.
Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...
For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!
The Catholic News & Herald

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Opening a 2nd location late January...
72 Long Shoals Road • Arden, NC
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER SHOW FOR BRIDES & GROOMS!
TOUR DATES
JANUARY 3 NASHVILLE, TN
JANUARY 10 CHARLOTTE, NC
JANUARY 31 CHARLESTON, SC
FEBRUARY 7 ASHEVILLE, NC
FEBRUARY 21 GREENSBORO, NC
FEBRUARY 28 DURHAM, NC
MARCH 21 RALEIGH, NC
WEDDINGS the Bridal Show
✧ BRIDAL FASHION EXHIBITS & MODELING
✧ LOCAL WEDDING PROFESSIONALS & CONSULTANTS
✧ ALL DAY BAND SHOWCASE
✧ WIN FREE HONEYMOONS
✧ ONE STOP BRIDAL PLANNING & SHOPPING
SHOW INFORMATION & ADVANCE TICKETS • 888.797.2891 / 704.375.7979

sizable in Ukraine, Eastern Orthodoxy is the major faith tradition.

Father Victor notes that some Orthodox object to Catholic evangelization. "The Gospel is the same everywhere, so we don't understand why the Orthodox Church is trying to stop" Catholics from spreading the word, he says.

Father Paul points out that rifts often result from major differences in educating clergy, although "in Kharkov, we have a very good situation" with the Orthodox Church.

Parish life

"In 1991, we had only three families," says Father Paul of his home parish. "We were celebrating the Mass at the stairs of the church."

"Now," he says, "we have 800 people in the church."

Despite Kharkov's great difficulties, the priests say parish life is blossoming. In the hands of the Communist Soviets, the church building was converted into an office facility. Since the crumble of the Soviet Union, however, the site has been home to conversion of another sort.

"We started remodeling the church in '91," says Father Paul, the parish's second pastor. "But together with restoring the walls, we started to restore the faith."

Father Paul and Father Victor staff the church with another priest, and the parish also receives support from three communities of women religious. The nuns' extensive ministry comes to hundreds of people each week: catechism classes, work with the blind, care for orphans, outreach to the unchurched and the infirmed and the poor.

Like their twin parish in Greensboro, the Ukrainian priests' home parish thrives on a sense of family, they say. Gatherings extend far beyond Mass times. Meals are shared, anniversaries celebrated, church repairs made.

"Whatever we're doing to restore our church, the people are involved in it," says Father Paul. "We work together, we pray together and we eat together."

Benefits

"A practical point of this relationship is that finally we are together, and we can discover a parish in a different country," says Father Victor. "Right now you can touch us, you can see us, you can be with us."

The twin parish program has yielded many benefits on a variety of levels, the priests agree.

"The program gives an opportunity to share with heart," says Father Ziolkowski. "It's not only that people give money, but we are also trying to involve people in personal relationships."

Father Ziolkowski adds that such an exchange lets people see the church and good will as truly universal — a point the Ukrainian priests find great truth in.

"We started from the church, from the Catholicism," says Father Paul. "But right now we have widened the understanding of this. It's not only the Catholic Church, but also (we) are human beings. There's no difference between us."

Father Victor calls the visit a spiritual one that helped put a face on the Catholic faith. "We understand this now," he says. "I remember that before it was impossible for us. We couldn't understand that the church is one.

"Now we know that the church is the same, and while we are here we discovered something more: that people are the same." ▼

Heavenly gifts abound during 12 days of Christmas

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

MORGANTON — Oh come, all ye faithful, and turn on your radios, cassette decks and CD players. It's Christmas — time again for a bounty of holiday songs for your listening pleasure. There's the sacred and the silly, the hallowed and the hilarious. And plenty of all-of-the-above.

One carol in particular, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," may seem to belong in the nonsensical category: someone giving all kinds of gifts, and lots of them.

Father Kenneth Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, shed some light upon the subject recently. "It was probably just some clever Jesuit's way of feeding the faith," he said with a grin.

Jesuits? Feeding faith? But isn't "The Twelve Days of Christmas" simply a holiday carol about a gaggle of geese a' laying, some maids a' milking and a bunch of pipers piping?

Not so, said Father Whittington, a graduate of Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and a Fulbright Scholar who studied music in Germany. The priest is a fan of Christmas music, too.

While its origin remains obscure, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" developed with a more serious meaning than an inventory of the gifts one's true love sent. You see, the song's originator may have lived sometime between the mid-16th and early-19th centuries, when practice of the Catholic faith was illegal in England.

Not only did the carol remind Catholics of the full dozen days of the Christmas season — Dec. 25 through the Epiphany, traditionally observed Jan. 6. During this time of suppression, the carol was also intended as a clandestine catechism of sorts, an allegorical lesson that taught the most basic doctrines of the faith.

"Persecution does indeed tend to very often achieve its opposite goal, in that it bands people together," said Father Whittington. "They find new ways to pass on the faith and keep it real."

So, using gifts from this world, that clever Jesuit — or whoever came up with the idea — disguised heavenly gifts given by God to his people.

"There's a whole set of imagery, some of it from nature, that is used in carols" from this time of great literary activity in England, said Father Whittington. "A lot of these were everyday things, and so they wouldn't have seemed strange on the literal level, without all the allegorical stuff."

Father Whittington likened the carol to the Song of Songs, the metaphorical Old Testament book describing sacred love. "This (carol) can be seen in the same way," he said. "We sink into the reality of things very basic to our faith."

"Going into God in that way is a profound thing," he continued. "Anything like that is wonderful, because it keeps us in that sacramental mode. It's reaching God through the material universe."

Some explanations vary a bit depending on sources, but here is the basic rundown of the 12 gifts that God, "my true love" in the carol, offers.

— *A partridge in a pear tree: Jesus Christ*

— *Two turtle doves: the Old and New Testaments of the Bible*

— *Three French hens: the virtues of faith, hope and charity*

— *Four calling birds: the four Gospels, or the four evangelists*

— *Five gold rings: the first five books of the Old Testament, called the Pentateuch*

— *Six geese a' laying: the six days of creation*

— *Seven swans a' swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, or the seven sacraments*

— *Eight maids a' milking: the Beatitudes*

— *Nine ladies dancing: the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit*

— *Ten lords a' leaping: the Ten Commandments*

— *Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful apostles*

— *Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve doctrinal points of the Apostles' Creed*

Shining Stars
Adult Day Respite Care

Enroll your loved one, 62 or older, for Mass, socialization, a nutritious snack and lunch, at 3 Charlotte area churches:

Every Tues. 8:30-1:00 pm
St. Patrick
Every Wed. 8:30-1:00
St. Gabriel
Every Thurs. 8:30-1:00 pm
Our Lady of Assumption

Program begins Jan. 5,
so call NOW for reservations.
First come, first served basis.
Cost $35 per day or sliding fee scale.

Call Suzanne Bach 376-4135
Sharon Mayfield 563-6103
Connie Stover 568-6289

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC A member of citigroup

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Religion Teacher: Charlotte Catholic High School needs a full-time Religion teacher beginning January 1999. Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or Religious Education from a Catholic college or university. Send resume and request for application to: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Pastoral Administrator: The Pastoral Personnel Board of the Diocese of Raleigh is seeking Pastoral Administrators to direct parishes. Candidates must have pastoral and administrative experience, preferably in North Carolina, as well as pastoral and theological training. A master's degree is preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic. Individuals must be able to work with people and encourage the development of gifts of the parishioners. Send resume to: Sister Carol Loughney, I.H.M., St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 124 Palmer Street, Raeford, NC 28376. Deadline: January 15

Staff Writer: The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with the ability to move easily between news and poignant feature writing. Successful candidate will also possess photography skills, understanding of AP style, experience in a PC windows environment, and a degree in journalism, or comparable. Knowledge of Catholicism. Must be available to travel within Western North Carolina. Good benefits package. Send resume, non-returnable clips (and photography samples) to: Staff Writer Position, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or e-mail, jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Position available December 1998.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Choir Director/Liturgist: St. Jude Catholic Church, a parish of 1800 families, is seeking a full-time choir director/liturgist/administrator. Applicants should have a music degree and experience in choral directing. An understanding of Catholic liturgy and a demonstrated ability to work with adult volunteers, children and adult choirs, clergy and parish staff are required. Salary commensurate with experience and training. Fax or mail credentials to: St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Attn: Candee Elrod, Music Search Committee, 7171 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328. (704) 394-3896 Fax: (770) 399-7866

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Dance then, wherever you may be

By JOANN KEANE
Editor

Photos by Joann Keane

CHARLOTTE — Manuel Herrera has a tough decision to make, a life-changing move that could take the ninth-grader from his family. And at the ripe old age of 15, it will be a career move. Herrera is a dancer of the extremely gifted variety.

Gifted and honored. This past summer, Herrera became the youngest winner of America's Dancer of the Year, teen male category.

While many teens contemplate the latest fashion and count down the days until they can drive, Herrera is narrowing options that will navigate his future. Before the close of this school year, he will select the dance genre that will catapult him through his high school years and beyond.

"I really like jazz and ballet and have a hard time deciding which one I want to pursue," says Herrera. Ballet will take him to the American School of Ballet in New York City.

> Without a trace of conceit, Herrera says, "If I ever do become a star, I won't be able to say enough to thank my parents and my family for giving me such diverse training."

Herrera cannot recall a time in his life that was not consumed with dance. Pretty predictable; dance is the family business. He spends most of his non-school time practicing at Fran Sullivan School of Dance. Grandmother Fran is a mainstay in the dance community of Charlotte. Her school is the oldest family-run dance school in town. Her daughter, Melanie Sullivan-Coye, teaches. Sullivan-Coye is mother and teacher for Herrera.

"Our life is eat, sleep, breathe, dance," says Sullivan-Coye, who with her husband and two younger sons in tow manage a balancing act of epic proportion. They've enlisted the services of a sports therapist to help separate work and family. "We try not to discuss dance at home," laments Sullivan-Coye. "But it is very difficult, almost impossible."

A high-school freshman, Herrera attends Northwest School of the Arts, a magnet school within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public school system offering concentration in the performing and visual arts. For Herrera, Northwest is but another training ground towards his future.

Moving on seems inevitable. "I know I will have to leave my family at some point," says a rather matter-of-fact Herrera. Serious pursuit of a dancing career requires the challenge and training of a professional dance school. He needs an environment with peers equally as good or better, says his mother.

"I know he will go and work to the best of his potential and will be as good as he is capable of being," says Sullivan-Coye. That venture comes with a cost. If he studies ballet in New York, the price tag is emotional detachment from family. If he goes to the American School of Ballet, it is the school that will raise him. Yet Herrera takes that in stride: "I will have to learn not to need all the nurturing."

While that seems to cut against the parental grain, it is what Herrera has trained for all his life. And though Sullivan-Coye *the teacher* is well aware of the needs for her sons dance career, Sullivan-Coye *the mother* worries of "someone else becoming the mentor — the adult person — who will raise him."

Sullivan-Coye also knows her son will face daily life with individuals with values perhaps not on par with Herrera. However, her concerns are tempered by the maturity of her son, his academic abilities and ingrained rudiments of faith. Herrera is a self-disciplined "A" student, the product of St. Gabriel and Holy Trinity Middle Catholic Schools.

Herrera credits his family for his training, and praises them for support and encouragement. "They always try and strive for the best for me," he says. His family wants nothing more than for Herrera to experience all that life has to offer; to go out and live it. To take the risks and push his talents to the fullest potential.

Without a trace of conceit, Herrera says, "If I ever do become a star, I won't be able to say enough to thank my parents and my family for giving me such diverse training."

With such determination, Herrera will someday see his name in the footlights as he now dreams. His strong will and talent suggest nothing less. This will come as no surprise for any member of his family. "He is so gifted," says Sullivan-Coye. "I am ever amazed at what he is capable of." ▼

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Begin the New Year with Christ.

New Year's Eve
Midnight
Bishop William G. Curlin
Celebrant

New Year's Day
8:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral

Rector: The Very Reverend Paul Gary
Parochial Vicar: Reverend Walter Ray Williams
Deacon: Reverend Mr. Nicholas T. Fadero
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org
1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S299 F1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-8890

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

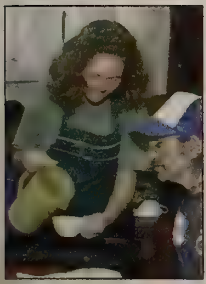
January 8, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 18

Inside

New Year

Pope begins new year with appeal for peace around the world

...Page 3



Med school students minister to poor

...Page 9

Thousands plan to attend March for Life

...Page 13

Local News

Sister Mary Christine Beck, RSM, dies at 83

...Page 15

Knights of Columbus plan Mother Teresa award

...Page 8

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5
Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

National Vocation Awareness Week

January 10-16, 1999

See column, page 5

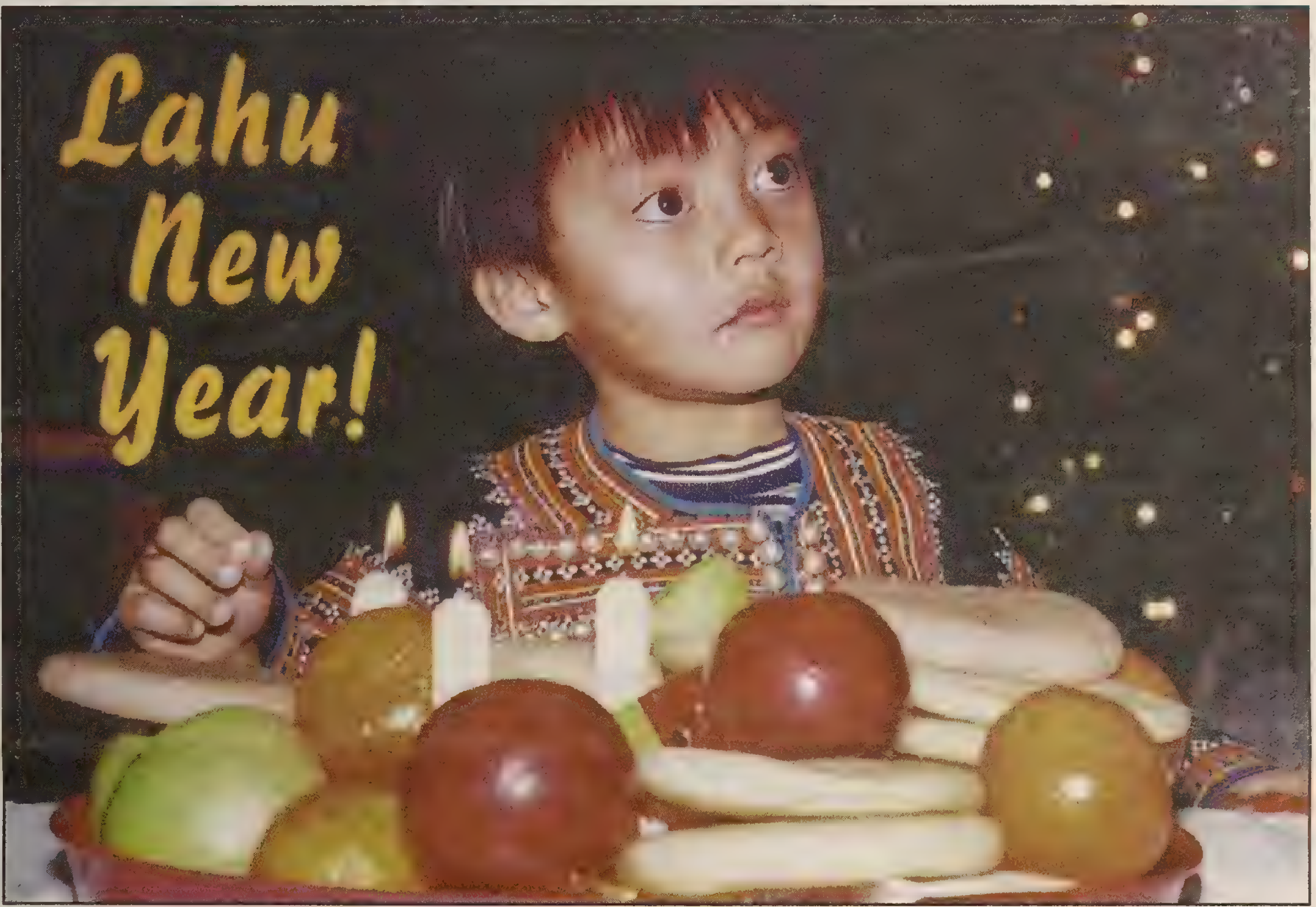

Lahu New Year!

Photo by Joann Keane

Six-year-old Ai Fye See stands before native foods during the Lahu New Year celebration at St. Aloysius in Hickory on Jan. 1. Blessing of the food — including the hand-made rice cakes seen here — is a tradition for the Lahu community.

St. Aloysius hosts Lahu celebration

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
Correspondent

HICKORY — On New Year's Day, the quiet, multi-purpose parish hall at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory was transformed into a colorful room full of tradition and ceremonial music.

Lahu men, women and children, dressed in black costumes richly embroidered in vibrant colors, streamed in with traditional foods, inviting the parish community to join their ancient celebration, sometimes called "Gin Waw."

Sixteen-year-old Ekham "Sabrina" See has been actively participating in such festivities since she was a child in California. It is a tradition she wants to keep alive for future generations. "These traditions define who we are," said Ekham's friend, Esaeng "Christie" See. The young teens proudly point out that their mothers made the ornamental costumes they were wearing and were anxious to learn this treasured skill for which Lahu women are known.

Javier Avila, a Mexican American, joined his Lahu wife, Elesa, for the festivities. The young couple have tried to incorporate the various customs from both cultures into their lives and enjoyed coming together as Catholics at this event. Other non-Lahu parishioners were also glad to be a part of this enriching experience. Michael McDonald, a youth from St. Aloysius, described the event as "awesome." He felt it is important for parishioners to participate in the various Lahu events as a sign of respect. "Many Lahu have just come to our country and they are trying to make a life here. We should be welcoming," he said.

Before the meal was served, Lahu men began the traditional "sweep dance" around a Christmas tree, sweeping away the old year. The lighted fir or "tree of life" is an ancient symbol dating back to the animistic beliefs once observed by the Lahu people, one-third of whom are Christian. With the ceremonial gourd-bamboo pipe in hand, the tribal leader initiated the dance with an inner circle of men. A second circle was formed with women and children. Later women danced alone to the methodical beat of a drum accompanied by cymbals.

"This celebration is a great way to begin a New Year," said Father Ed Sheridan, who has been close to the Lahu since his arrival to St. Aloysius this past year.

For the Lahu, who refer to themselves as children of blessing, a highlight is the annual blessing of food and people by their priests. "As we prepare for the great millennium, let it be a time for great religious renewal, celebrating God in our words and deeds," said Bishop William G. Curlin during the blessing.

Wearing indigenous garb made by Lahu men and women, Bishop Curlin expressed how the diocese is blessed by the wonderful culture the Lahu people bring to the church in western North Carolina. "Their faith shines in their smiles and in their actions. It is evident that they have great love for Jesus and each other," he said.

The Lahu tradition of celebrating the New Year may be rooted in ancient China, where early Lahu tribes — said to have originated in Tibet — celebrated. They are one of six major tribes found in the "Golden Triangle," the hill country where China, Thailand and Laos meet.

Persecution in China, then later in

See LAHU NEW YEAR, page 14

Gethsemani Abbey marks 150 years of monastic life

TRAPPIST, Ky. (CNS) — One hundred fifty years ago, 44 monks emigrated from the Abbey of Melleray in France to a serene area in central Kentucky to build a monastic life of prayer and work. The men were Trappists, a reform branch of the Cistercian order founded in 1098 near Dijon, France. In 1848 they founded the first Trappist monastery in the United States — the Abbey of Gethsemani. Since then, the Gethsemani monks have carved a niche for themselves in Kentucky folklore. Their presence has been a grace and comfort to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Gethsemani's fame has several sources: retreats; the late monk Thomas Merton; and mail-order sales of fruitcakes, cheese and fudge.

Thousands of young adults attend Taize meeting in Italy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Tens of thousands of young adults descended on the northern Italian city of Milan for an annual European meeting of the Taize Community, a global ecumenical group. Pope John Paul II saluted the Dec. 28-Jan. 1 gathering in a message sent on his behalf by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state. The pontiff was "glad to be with you in his thoughts and in prayer," the message said, and he commended the meeting on its theme, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." The pope's message, released at the Vatican Dec. 28, said the theme "invites everyone to abandon himself with confidence to the love of the Father who gives life to all men, in the spirit of the last year of preparation for the great jubilee."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

New Year in Paris

Cheerleaders from the United States perform outside the Sacre Coeur Basilica Jan. 1 in Paris. The girls joined young people from around the world for a New Year's pageant promoting youth solidarity.

Volunteer jobs abound for papal visit to St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The St. Louis Archdiocese has jobs for some 16,000 volunteers needed to assist with the pope's visit in January. In addition, some 5,000 applications will be available to the general public and ecumenical community. These volunteers will work at locations outside the venues where the pope will visit. The volunteer jobs are varied, and will not necessarily allow volunteers to participate in an event or see the Holy Father. Assignments may require starting times as early as 2 a.m.; long hours; physical strength; stair climbing; walking long distances; or prolonged standing. Many assignments are outdoors.The concession stands at the Trans World Dome, site of the Jan. 27 papal Mass, will be staffed by volunteer teams. These jobs are being offered to parish groups with experience in food preparation and service for parish events.

St. Louis law enforcement agencies join to protect pope

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are working together to ensure the safety and security of Pope John Paul II and everyone else during the pontiff's January visit to St. Louis. "This is up there with the Super Bowls of law enforcement," said John M. Britt of the U.S. Secret Service. Britt, assistant special agent in charge of the service's St. Louis office, is the agency's coordinator of security for the papal visit. He and other law enforcement professionals have been meeting for months with St. Louis archdiocesan and government officials, planning and providing for every moment of the pope's Jan. 26-27 stay.

Vatican agency steps up efforts to promote AIDS prevention

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican agency is trying to increase cooperation between church, government and humanitarian organizations to respond to the pandemic of AIDS, viewing it as a disease connected to material and moral poverty. The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Workers held a two-day meeting in late December with church workers and health professionals committed to stopping the spread of the disease and caring for those infected. Vatican Radio reported that Msgr. Jose Redrado, secretary of the council, described AIDS as being "closely tied to conditions of poverty in every country, not only a poverty of economic means and support, but especially moral poverty."

Church leader in flood-ravaged Ukraine seek aid

MOSCOW (CNS) — In flood-ravaged western Ukraine, the head of the local chapter of a Catholic aid agency hoped for an influx of emergency food aid from the West. "For Christmas Eve on Jan. 6 we want to be able to give food to people (who are living) on the street," said Natalya Veresh, director of Caritas Ukraine in the city of Uzhgorod, on the Slovak border. Most Ukrainian Catholics follow the Orthodox calendar and celebrated Christmas Jan. 7. "We have a lot of hungry people. We can't build them houses, but we should at least be able to feed them."

Amnesty says Sudanese priests, others not getting fair trial

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Sudanese military court in which two priests and 24 others are on trial "does not meet basic international standards for fairness," said Amnesty International. In a report issued Dec. 18, the international human rights organization said that among the three soldier-judges hearing the case, only one is legally qualified, and the defendants "have not been able to exercise fully their right to defense" and "have no right of appeal." "On top of this, it is reported the men were tortured into confessing the charges against them before the trial began. All but one have since pleaded not guilty in court," said the Amnesty International report.

Astronomy show reflects on Epiphany story of 'Star of Wonder'

CHICAGO (CNS) — In what has become a traditional family outing for many Chicago-area Christians, thousands flock to an annual "Star of Wonder" planetarium show to learn about what guided the wise men from the East to the baby Jesus some 2,000 years ago. "It is a consistent story," said Larry Cuipik, an astronomer and manager of show productions at the lakefront's Adler Planetarium. "We are able to use records other than the Bible to show that these events occurred as stated. In some ways, it's historical proof of the journey." The show has been running since the planetarium opened in 1930.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

January 8, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 18
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 11-15
Annual retreat for
Bishops of Region 4

January 16 — 3 pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Mass
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

January 17 — 3 pm
Pro-life Mass
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

January 19 — 7:30 pm
Pro-life Liturgy for Greensboro and
Winston-Salem Vicariates

January 21— evening Mass
National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception, Washington D.C.

Diocesan planner

Respect Life events

RALEIGH — Parishioners of the Diocese of Charlotte are invited to join in the annual Rally and March for Life in Raleigh, at the Children's Garden across Wilmington Street from the Legislative Building, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. Queen of the Apostles Church and Knights of Columbus Council 11076 in Belmont have chartered a bus for the Raleigh event. The bus will make several stops. Cost is $20 per seat. Call Jan Rogers, (704) 825-5277, for registration and details. St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton is also sponsoring a chartered bus. Cost is $15 per seat; St. Dorothy Parish youth ride free. For details, call Joan Jobin at (704) 276-1647. Contact your parish office for more rally participation.

CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte leads a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-22 for the national March for Life. The pilgrimage includes Mass, the march and transportation. A bus will leave the diocesan pastoral center, 1123 S. Church St. in Charlotte, at 7 a.m. Jan. 21. Other pick-up locations are in Asheville, Hickory and Winston-Salem. Bus fare is $40. Room reservations are available through the Respect Life Office at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Va., for $97.98 per room. The bus will return around midnight Jan. 22. For reservation forms and other information, call (704) 370-3229. For more March for Life participation, contact your parish office.

January

10 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home school support group, hosts a "Moms' Evening" today at 7 p.m. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990, or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass

Pope opens new year with appeal for peace around the world

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II began the new year with an appeal for peace around the globe and a look back at the causes of war in this century.

Celebrating Mass at the Vatican Jan. 1, the pope highlighted respect for human rights as an essential element of lasting peace — the theme of his own message for the World Day of Peace, which the church celebrates on New Year's Day.

While expressing hope that the international community can overcome the "great and difficult" problems that give birth to conflict, the pontiff said the 20th century was marked by moral failure on a global scale that continues today.

"When we turn our gaze to the events of the century about to end, the two world wars pass before our eyes: the cemeteries, the graves of those who died, the destroyed families, the crying and desperation, the misery and suffering," he said.

"How can we forget the death camps, the children of Israel cruelly exterminated, and the holy martyrs, Father Maximilian Kolbe, Sister Edith Stein and others?" said the pope, who grew up not far from Auschwitz, the infamous Nazi death camp.

On the positive side, the pope said, this has been the century of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He said his World Peace Day message underlined that the "secret of true peace is found in respect for human rights" and for the innate dignity of the human being.

In reviewing the events of the last 100 years, the pope said Christians should look at the world situation with hope and realism. Hope comes from the belief that the world has been liberated from sin by Christ crucified, while realism forces people to recognize that "unfortunately, humanity gives in to the influence of evil," he said. "However, aided by grace, humanity continually gets up again and, guided by the strength of redemption, proceeds toward good," he added.

The pope presided over the traditional two-hour liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica, looking rested after nearly a week at his villa outside Rome.

In a Sunday blessing Jan. 3, the pope returned to the theme of peace, saying that when human rights are ignored or violated, the result is instability, rebellion and violence.

He expressed special concern for three wars raging in Africa.

"My thoughts in this moment are focused on Angola, where a fratricidal conflict is again spreading; on the Republic of Congo, whose population, far removed from world attention, has long been suffering the consequences of violent armed battles; and on Sierra Leone, the theater of unspeakable violence that forces people to flee their own homes toward the unknown," he said.

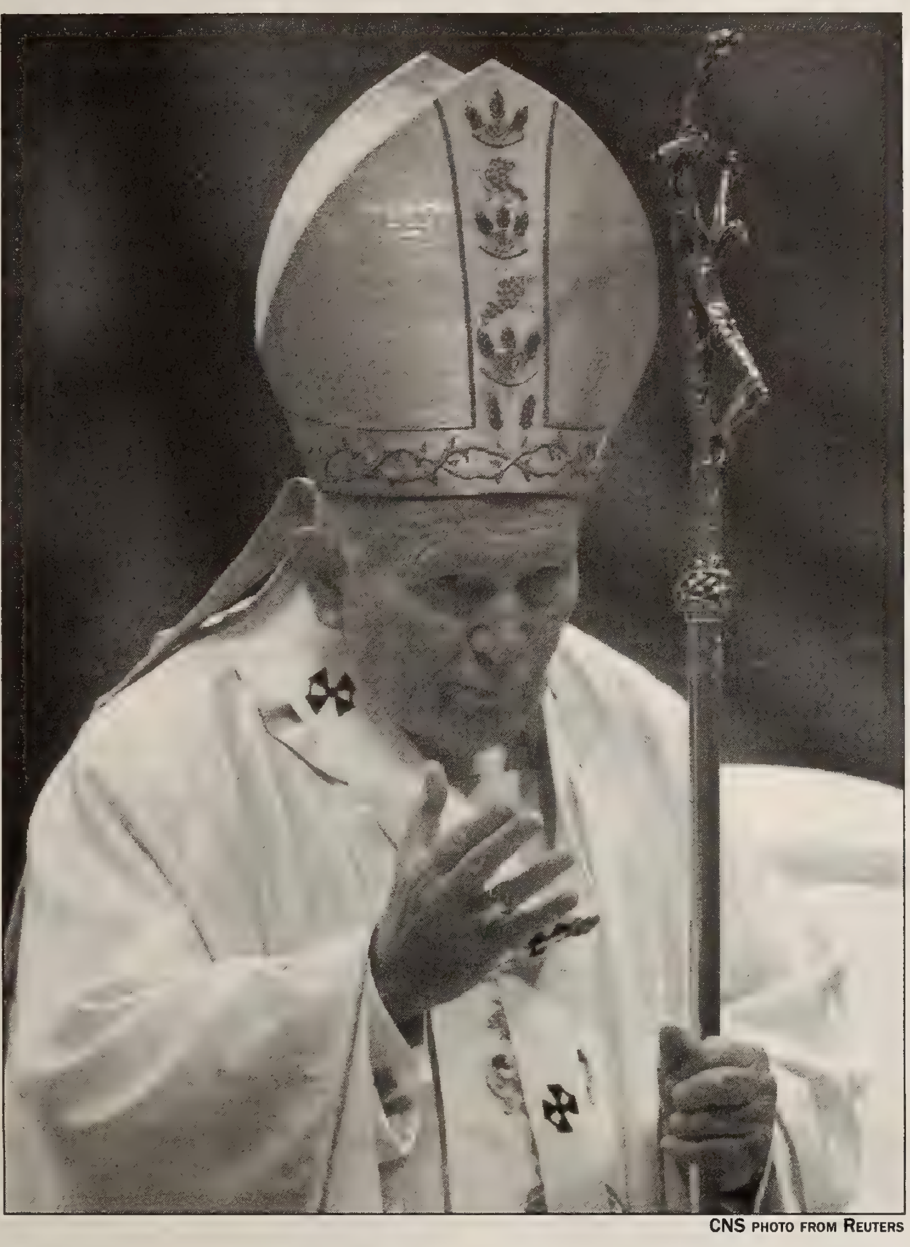
He asked political and military leaders in all three areas to support any initiative capable of favoring a just and lasting peace.

The pope's words came as a second U.N. plane was reported shot down in the central part of Angola, where fierce fighting has been raging between government forces and those of the rebel UNITA movement.

In the People's Republic of the Congo, a Vatican missionary agency reported in late December that dozens of people died and hundreds were injured in bombardments said to have been carried out by Angolan forces allied to Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

In Sierra Leone, a rebel offensive was proceeding toward the capital city of Freetown, causing much of the civilian population to flee.

The pope also said he was worried about continued conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo, where an outburst of fighting in late December broke a fragile two-month truce. ▾



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II greets worshipers in St. Peter's Basilica for World Day of Peace Jan. 1. During his message for the new year, the pope recalled the atrocities of the 20th century, but also hailed an age that enshrined respect for human rights as a universal duty.

---

is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Vietnamese Mass is celebrated today at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, at 2 p.m. Call the parish office, (704) 867-6212, for more information.

11 WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women begins the seven-week study "Psalms II" today from 7:30-9 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., for those who have completed "Psalms I." Call Anne Gannon, (336) 768-9360, for more information.

12 GREENSBORO — Vincentian Father Robert Prior explains the kingdom Jesus spoke frequently of in Scripture today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Father Prior will discuss how this kingdom works, lives and grows in relation to people of faith. For information on this and other sessions in the parish's adult education series, call the parish's religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church gathers for its monthly meeting today at 11 a.m. Sandwiches, coffee and dessert are provided, and entertainment will be featured. For details, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, and remarried outside the church meets today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call Cindy Shortall at (704) 529-5080.

14 BELMONT — Prospective students are invited to visit Belmont Abbey College, a private Benedictine liberal arts college, today through Jan. 17 for an "Abbey Experience." The gathering includes meetings with current Abbey students and professors, campus tours, opportunities to attend classes, and a financial aid seminar. For reservations and other information, call the Office of Admission, (888) 222-6665.

CHARLOTTE — A free orientation session for a 12-week, Bible-based weight-loss seminar is today at 7:15 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 8415 Idlewild Rd. The seminar cost is $103. To register and for more information, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

15 SYLVA — A support group for persons who are widowed, separated, divorced, and with new or unresolved grief meets today in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. For details, call Chuck or Mary Brogan at (828) 497-9452.

17 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the Ninth Annual Mass for the Unborn today at 3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Call (704) 364-5431 for details.

18 WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women begins the seven-week study "Psalms I" today from 7:30-9 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. Call Anne Gannon, (336) 768-9360, for more information.

WINGATE — Millard Fuller, founder and president of the non-profit housing organization Habitat for Humanity, speaks in Austin Auditorium at Wingate University today at 7:30 p.m. Fuller is expected to address the issues of affordable housing and the work Habitat for Humanity is doing around the world. A reception for friends of Habitat for Humanity follows the presentation. For more information, call Todd Lake at (704) 233-8026.

21 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated at 7:30 p.m. today in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Ten steps to living right

A friend asked me recently if I would be the luncheon speaker for the next Rotary meeting in her town, speaking on "How to Live Right." I took the plunge and came up with something everybody loves: steps.

Here are my 10 steps on how to live right.

1. Have a strong sense of trust and hope that life is good, despite what happens to you. The opposite is to fall into doom, gloom and misery. Remember, we're not always in control of what happens to us, but we are always in control of how we respond to what happens to us.

2. Believe in yourself, have self-confidence and self-assurance. After all, each of us is unique. Our personal selfhood is a gift from the Creator. We should love ourselves, believe in ourselves, never let anyone put us down or treat us with any kind of violence.

3. Don't focus on the negatives. Instead, accentuate the positives. If we did an honest self-evaluation, I believe most of us would see that we have been given so many more good things than bad in our lives.

4. Have your values in order. I remember once interviewing Gertrude Unger, an administrator in the New York public school system. Half way through the interview I stopped. She simply radiated peace and comfort. I asked her what made her different. She thought a minute and then said:

"When I was younger, I thought all that was important was to be brilliant and to be admired, and as I got older I learned that was a sham. Only one thing is important, goodness."

5. Be generous. Scrooge-like people are so shrunken. People wrapped up in themselves make a very small package. I have learned in life that generosity pays off, usually in the most unexpected ways. I have lived by a teaching given to me when I was a teen-ager, "What you give away you keep, and what you keep you lose." I have found that to be true.

6. Avoid bad temper, anger, things like road rage and getting out of control. George Washington said: "Great people are not affected by each puff of wind that blows ill. Like great ships, they sail serenely on, whether in a calm sea or a great tempest."

7. Stay wise. Don't be suspicious, thinking the worst of people, but at the same time be on guard when someone is trying to take unfair advantage of you. That's wisdom.

8. Be compassionate. That means actually "to suffer with." I think this is a crucial quality for us to have. It keeps us from judging others, helps us to remember that no one is perfect and that our hearts should contain enough love for others to be able to empathize with them.

9. Keep a sense of humor. There's nothing like it. Laughter is the safety valve of the mind, made especially for people in pain.

10. Believe in a higher power. For me that is God. A belief in God makes life worth living because you know you're a part of something greater than yourself.

Well, I've passed on my 10 thoughts on the subject, but if you want the source, go to the Gospel of Matthew — the Sermon on the Mount — and you'll see just how to live right.

Uncle Dan's
Humor Column

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

The right toys for a grandson

Answering the portable eggbeater when the phone rings is only one of the reasons I'd like to share ideas for simplifying Christmas-giving with you.

Granted, 350 or so shopping days is a little early, but I might forget if I wait until next November.

OK, the truth is I might forget if I wait until after the toast pops up. Oh nuts, do you smell anything burning?

Oh yeah, Christmas presents.

Our once-nuclear-now-nuclei family did an excellent job this year keeping to commitments of gift exchange simplicity. Not to brag, but on a personal note I managed total abstinence from wondrous war toys, battery-operated Humvees and replica 1960 Corvettes with functioning four-barrels.

No VISA meltdown on behalf of our two grandsons.

I discovered a great psychological device to resist toy stores' allure: I didn't go in.

Before the eggbeater rings again, let me return to the point: a couple of the actual gifts, notably for my grandson Bull, not 3 yet. While I forget if I've taken my morning Ginkgo, I do remember in great detail the time spent with my own grandfather — although I recall him as extraordinarily older than I at this same age. Poor guy.

Grandpa allowed me to play with some of his carpenter tools, often major ones like bent nails, coffee cans and rusty C-clamps. To be honest, it was thrilling.

In his memory, my three gifts to Bull this Christmas were a small C-clamp (selfishly, I kept my own rusty ones), a 6-foot retracting tape measure and an 8-foot folding, wooden carpenter's rule. Total outlay: less than past year's investment in AA batteries.

Bull and I had so much fun with the retracting tape measure on Christmas Eve that I thought he might skip the other stuff Christmas morning, and we could give those next year.

Just kidding. Just kidding.

We spent the better part of a half-hour or two just having him hold the tape end, walk six feet from me, and we would both exclaim, "Look at that!" Then he'd let the tape snap back to me, and we'd laugh. Then we'd switch ends and repeat the ritual.

I don't know how many times he could have done this because I bailed out after sets of about 70. I told him I had to answer the eggbeater.

The 2-inch C-clamp also kept us very entertained. We learned it is very difficult to clamp two dominoes together at once. However, we managed this several times, then celebrated by sneaking "stimmers" (aka fingers) of chocolate frosting off the nearby cake when his mom wasn't looking.

The folding, wooden ruler was the best, though, at least for me. As soon as Bull had unwrapped it (not many folks even know what they are, much less that they're still around) I warned his mom and dad: "Don't worry. He'll break it. That's part of the gift."

That's because it's easy to break. I know. I broke my grandpa's lots of times. And Bull did. In almost no time. But, only a little. There were still plenty of short folding segments left to bend into funny shapes — even several reminiscent of the better part of the alphabet. He liked that. Me too.

Funny, I don't think I'll forget this after all. However, if I write this same column next November, remind me.

Guest Columnist

JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

Secular Franciscan profession

Some years ago, I attended San Sebastian Church, run by Conventual Franciscan friars, in St. Augustine, Fla. One Sunday another parishioner made her profession as a Secular Franciscan. I remember wondering, "Why would anybody want to do that?"

Now I know.

Along with seven other candidates, I made my own profession as a Secular Franciscan on Dec. 12 in the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville.

Timothy Gibson, Leona Mehrtens, and Joyce Wagner are parishioners at Immaculate Conception, Hendersonville. Bill and Helen Gillogly are from Sacred Heart in Brevard. Betty Corlette and I attend St. Margaret in Maggie Valley. Joy Barnes, a former St. Margaret parishioner, now goes to Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte.

During a Mass celebrated by Father John Salvas, O.F.M. Cap., in Immaculate Conception's chapel, each of us stepped before Patricia Cowan, the fraternity minister (president) and said that, "In my secular state I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life."

Paragraph 5 of the rule states, in part, that Secular Franciscans will "seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in liturgical activity."

"I believe the Franciscan way is the best way to express Christianity in today's society," Tim Gibson said. "It's a sign of contradiction against consumerism and materialism. When I think of Francis, I always think of joy and happiness, although he had nothing. He was the happiest person on the planet."

I agree. In a society that constantly shouts, "me first," "get all you can," "do unto others before they do unto you," becoming a Secular Franciscan is a way I can say to the world that there is an alternative.

Formation leading to profession takes one to two years. Interested persons attend several fraternity meetings as visitors. If this seems like something they're interested in, they ask to become inquirers and begin attending inquiry sessions held within fraternity meetings. They prepare for these sessions by studying short lessons in their Franciscan catechism.

If they're still interested after about six months, they ask to be accepted as candidates, and continue their study with the formation director. Candidacy lasts at least a year.

"Profession is not the end of formation," Chuck Cowan, St. Francis of the Hills' formation director, said. "It's the beginning of formation. Formation lasts a lifetime. Profession is primarily a promise to be part of the community, to live the gospel life - that is, (as Jesus said) to 'love as I have loved'."

In addition to St. Francis of the Hills, other fraternities in the Charlotte Diocese are St. Clare, Asheville; St. Francis of the Living Waters, Franklin; St. Maximilian Kolbe, Charlotte; the Franciscan Family of Greensboro; the Fraternity of Brother Francis, Hickory; and St. Clare, Winston-Salem.

Editor's note:

Pope John Paul II's weekly general audience was cancelled because the pope had influenza. "The Pope Speaks" will return next week.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Epiphany, Latino style

In New York City, you gotta love a parade! It seems like nearly every other week during the spring, summer and fall you come across a string of marching bands and groups in ethnic costumes strutting their stuff along one of the avenues. I keep discovering things about feasts and festivals and people that I never knew before. But the weather gets iffy around the time of the Thanksgiving Day Parade, as it did this season when torrents of rain fell on the undaunted participants and bystanders lining the curbs. So having a parade in January could give one pause. But not those who celebrate Three Kings Day.

Also known as Epiphany, from the Greek word for showing, many countries around the world celebrate the manifestation of God Incarnate to all people as well as our presentation of gifts to God through these three kings or Magi.

Since coming to New York, I have learned El Dia de los Reyes is a major religious and cultural holiday observed by virtually all people of Latino background. Animated by heartfelt generosity and good will, they host exuberant processions and parties in many neighborhoods around town. Children know that the Christmas season isn't over until Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar deliver their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. Appropriately enough, most celebrations center on children.

Just as many youngsters leave cookies and cocoa for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, on the night before Three Kings Day, Hispanic children leave water and grass or hay for the kings' camels to refresh themselves. And, of course, the children look forward to the toys and presents that they find left in place of their offerings in the morning. Holiday parties and family gatherings are common. At some, Rosca de Reyes, a kind of ring-shaped sweet bread, is shared with wishes and prayers for health and happiness. A "lucky" charm is baked inside and whoever finds it will have good fortune for the coming year.

But, the city's biggest public event is the parade in East Harlem sponsored by El Museo del Barrio. Giant papier-mâché kings are the focal point and along with a madrina or godmother they lead the way for thousands of children. Folk musicians perform throughout the procession. Adults dressed in Magi costumes pass out small gifts to youngsters along the route.

A number of local Hispanic groups throughout the area see to it that children, especially those in hospitals or whose families can't afford it, receive a gift from the Three Kings.

At the core of all of this is the recognition of the gifts we are to one another. Some have suggested that the Magi's gifts were symbols of their own inner dispositions. Writer John Shea explains, "Gold means that they offer their virtue, frankincense shows them to be a people of prayer, and myrrh represents their willingness to sacrifice."

So too, the Three Kings or Epiphany tradition underscores our personal goodness and our shared desire to use our gifts for the benefit of all. More than that, just as the Magi journeyed together to seek the Christ Child, we, too, must journey with others if we would find him.

Christmas as a feast day may be over for another year, but Christmas as the manifestation of the God who continues to be born in our hearts needs this festival to complete its meaning.

Vocation Awareness

FATHER ERIC HOUSEKNECHT
Diocesan Director of Vocations

Celebrating National Vocations Awareness week

I remember as a small child lying in the grass and looking up at the great expanse of sky with clouds dancing in a variety of shapes and sizes. Sunlight would burst from the clouds and cast its rays of warmth and nurturing strength. As a lie there, I would remember Bible stories and found myself thinking about what God must be like. I seemed to always carry these thoughts throughout my day and create visions and dreams of my future. As a small child I can honestly say I never envisioned myself as a Roman Catholic priest!

God increasingly whispers in each of our hearts helpful ways to follow and dream about our futures. As a Christian, I believe one of the greatest gifts God gives us is the ability to dream and to have hope — not only for ourselves, but for the world we live in. If you ask any priest, deacon or religious how they came to follow God, the stories are varied but the dreams and prompting of God in their hearts is there. Often times, God almost loses his voice trying to get our attention. To hear God's calling we must learn to listen and believe in our dreams.

To dream, listen and serve seem almost counter-cultural today, and yet they are the secret to a happy and fulfilled life. To wake each day with new dreams, to listen each morning to the symphony of God's creative mind and to respond by loving God and one another are the cornerstones of our Christian life.

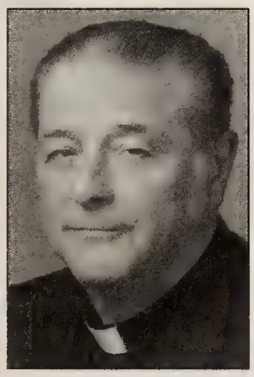
As I moved through my early adult years, I found increasing comfort from the many people who would tell me, "I'm praying for you." We often overlook this great powerhouse of love that we share as followers of Jesus Christ. Our God connects us in a special bond. This bond allows each of us to make a difference in helping others hear and respond to the will of God.

Our vocation as followers of Jesus Christ is to be open to our dreams and listen carefully to God so that our response becomes a true vocation of serving God to the best of our abilities. Our church is in special need of inviting young people to follow in the steps of brothers, sisters and priests. The single greatest reason that people don't choose ordained ministry or religious life is simply this: No one ever asked them. Let's ask! There are individuals in each of our parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte who show signs of being what we are looking for in our priests, deacons, brothers or sisters.

The possibility of being a priest, a deacon, a religious sister, or a brother needs to find its way into the religious dreams and hopes of each family, parish and diocese. Showing interest helps individuals hear the whispers of God. Inviting accomplishes what the Holy Father suggests in the Apostolic Exhortation on the Consecrated life: "To you young people I say: If you hear the Lord's call do not reject it! Dare to become part of the great movements of holiness which renowned saints have launched in their following of Christ."

Dream, listen and respond!

National Vocation Awareness Week is Jan. 10-16. For information on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Father Houseknecht at (704) 370-3353.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

When a divorced couple reconciles

Q. My spouse and I are both Catholic, have two daughters and were married for 21 years. We divorced 20 years ago.

He drifted away from the faith and married another woman by a commissioner, but is now divorced and alone again.

Since their divorce, we have reconciled and put our lives back together. Our question is, Do we need to get married in the church again? Or do we simply "redo" our vows?

A. At the present time, of course, because of your divorce, you are not married according to civil law. You will need to obtain a marriage license and give your consent to the "new" marriage before a qualified official.

According to Catholic Church law, however, the union of marriage which you and your husband entered years ago continues. Thus, you do not need to "get married in the church" again.

However, it's clear you still have a lot of healing and growing to do together, for which you will need all the spiritual strength and grace you can get. It would be quite appropriate for you to begin anew with Mass, receive the sacraments together and in that context renew your marriage vows.

Perhaps at the same time the priest will be able to serve as the civil official accepting your new civil vows, as happens of course in all Catholic marriages witnessed by a priest or deacon.

You need to talk with a priest in your parish or area, tell him what you are thinking and ask his advice on procedures to be followed in your diocese.

Father-in-law's dating causes concerns

Q. My father-in-law is 68 years old; his wife died four years ago. He is dating a 66-year-old Catholic lady whose husband died eight years ago. He is Protestant.

They have a total of eight children and 12 grandchildren. They are devoted to each other, go on vacations together and have their own homes.

Their problem is they don't want to get married. I believe both previous marriages were not too happy, and they're afraid to tie the knot again.

Our problem is how to handle sleeping arrangements in their children's homes, and how to explain things to the grandchildren. Is their cohabitation wrong? She does not receive Communion at Mass. He feels responsible and has asked me about it because I am Catholic. What can I say?

A. Though I realize you want to be considerate and tolerant of someone so close to you, I don't understand why you would have a question about this.

The fact that they maybe had unfortunate first marriages, though apparently fairly long and in many ways fruitful ones, is good reason to be careful and thoughtful about a new union. But it does not excuse them now from behaving in a morally and spiritually healthy way for each other and their families.

Whether they wish to or not, they must accept responsibility for how their behavior affects the attitudes and consciences of their children and grandchildren toward marriage and other relationships.

Work with them as you would with your own children in similar circumstances. Sixty-eight and 66 may be approaching upper age, but they're not dead.

They need to talk this over together thoroughly. Since he has asked your help, perhaps you can share your moral and other concerns honestly with them, and encourage them to do the same with each other.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Iraqi Catholics

A nun directs a choir for the feast of the Solemnity of Mary at Virgin Maria Catholic Church in Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 1. Members of Baghdad's Christian minority gathered for Mass and prayed for a peaceful new year.

Government-appointed bishop of Xichang, China, dies

HONG KONG (CNS) — Bishop Xie Chaogang of Xichang, China, died Jan. 2. He was 87. In frail health in recent years, he apparently died of natural causes. Sister Song Gui-hua, assistant superior of Holy Family Convent in Xichang, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that many Catholics came to pray in the Xichang church where the bishop's body lay at rest. Xichang is about 200 miles southwest of Chengdu, the Sichuan provincial capital. At least 11 government-recognized elderly bishops died in 1997 and 1998. With Bishop Xie's death, there are now fewer than 70 such bishops in China.

Bishop, others vow to defy U.S. to save Iraqi children

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying children's lives are at stake, Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton and others vowed Dec. 30 to keep on bringing medicines to Iraq even if the U.S. government fines and imprisons them. "I have been to Iraq. I intend to go again. ... It is an atrocity to kill defenseless children," he said. Kathy Kelly, coordinator of the Voices in the Wilderness campaign to aid dying Iraqis in defiance of U.S. sanctions, held up medicines and a teddy bear as she told reporters the campaign will continue. Kelly had just returned from the organization's latest medical supply delivery to Iraq Dec. 29. Bishop Gumbleton, Kelly and 15 other Americans who have brought medical supplies to Iraq without license from the U.S. government met reporters just before going to the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control to deliver their response to the government notice of more than $160,000 in fines.

Nineteen U.S. bishops could retire in 1999

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As many as 19 U.S. bishops — including three cardinals — could retire for age reasons in 1999. Six currently active bishops celebrate their 75th birthday in 1999. Thirteen active bishops, including Cardinals John J. O'Connor of New York, James A. Hickey of Washington and Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, turned 75 in 1998 or before. Four of Cardinal O'Connor's auxiliaries are over 75 or will be before 2000. Church law says at age 75 a bishop "is requested to present his resignation" to the pope. The pope may refuse it or delay accepting it, and Pope John Paul II in recent years has increasingly kept many bishops active beyond their 75th birthday.

Georgetown president receives high German honor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Leo J. O'Donovan, president of Georgetown University in Washington, received the Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany Dec. 15 in Washington. The presentation was made by German Ambassador Jurgen Chrobog on behalf of German President Roman Herzog at the ambassador's residence. The Knight Commander's Cross recognizes outstanding individual service to Germany and is one of the highest honors the German president awards. According to a Georgetown press release, Father O'Donovan was honored for his efforts in fostering the relationship between Germany and the United States. He received his doctorate in theology at the University of Munster in Germany.

Bishop DiMarzio lauds U.S. decision on Central American refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, praised the U.S. decision Dec. 30 to grant Temporary Protected Status to some 150,000 Hondurans and Nicaraguans living in the United States illegally. The Newark, N.J., auxiliary bishop said it was unfortunate, however, that an estimated half-million Salvadorans and Guatemalans — whose countries were also severely damaged by Hurricane Mitch last October and November — were not given the same protection. "The effect of Mitch was regional and calls for a regional response," he said. Under Temporary Protected Status, Hondurans and Nicaraguans who entered the United States illegally before Dec. 30 can register to live and work legally in the United States for the next 18 months and send part of their earnings back to relatives in their homelands.

Cardinals preside as Bishop Keating's body is reinterred

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Cardinals William H. Keeler of Baltimore and James A. Hickey of Washington presided at the reinterment ceremony for the late Bishop John R. Keating of Arlington Dec. 20 in the newly completed burial crypt at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. The bishop died March 22 in Rome during his "ad limina" visit with the Holy Father. His body was transported from Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, where it had been temporarily interred since a March 28 funeral service. Dec. 20 marked the 40th anniversary of Bishop Keating's ordination to the priesthood.

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

30% off entire inventory!

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

WINNERS
Church Building Raffle

GRAND PRIZE: 1999 Toyota Camry
#187225
1st PRIZE: Compaq Computer
#04117
2nd PRIZE: Sony 8mm HandyCam
#65333
3rd PRIZE: Canon 35mm EOS Rebel Camera
#164271
16 CHEER PRIZES: $100 each
#68272, #124325, #151935, #49273, #177096, #70038, #152357, #48340, #45968, #29317, #68251, #182099, #34329, #08244, #187855, #124556

St. Joseph
Vietnamese Church
*Unclaimed prizes will be returned to building fund on 2/28/99.

K OF C
Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Attention Parents!
Medical
Career
School Uniforms
SAVE TIME and MONEY with...
- A+ school approved uniforms in stock
- Competitive pricing
- Free delivery to your school

Toll-free Order Hot Line
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Catholic Heritage Society
Could You Be Eligible For Membership?
The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

For evangelization, just tell what God's done for you

Editor's Note: In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. Diocesan news will be presented with national wire stories, along with articles like the following from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

By PAUL QUIRINI

In training Catholics to evangelize, Susan Blum-Gerding tells people what they *don't* need to be if they want to spread the Gospel message effectively.

"You don't have to be Scripture scholars, theologians, professional ministers. All you have to be able to do is share your experience of God in your life," said Blum-Gerding, president and executive director of Isaiah Ministries in Boca Raton, Florida.

The organization, founded in 1984, includes 60 clergy and lay ministers who conduct parish missions throughout the United States, Canada and other countries.

"People can argue with your theology, but they can't argue with your experience," she said.

With Jubilee Year 2000 and the Third Millennium drawing near, Blum-Gerding and others involved in evangelization hope to convince more Catholics that evangelization is a ministry that anyone can perform and to dispel their stereotypes of what evangelization means.

One goal of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is "to reawaken in Catholics an excitement and enthusiasm for their faith, with a sense of developing a renewed mission," according to Paulist Father John Hurley, associate director for the NCCB's Secretariat for Evangelization and Missions. Through convocations and retreat days, Father Hurley encourages parish leaders to develop a plan for reaching out to inactive Catholics.

The focus of evangelization should not be on creating larger congregations but stronger communities.

Any action a parish takes must be a collaborative effort, he emphasized.

"Evangelization is not the work of a few in the parish, it is the work of the whole parish," he said. "As I often say to a parish, 'Why don't we ask ourselves why people drive by us to go to a neighboring parish?' In those reasons we will find the keys to welcoming other people.'"

The focus of evangelization should not be on creating larger congregations but stronger communities.

Frank Mercadante, co-founder and executive director of Cultivation Ministries in St. Charles, Illinois, said that evangelization to the teen-agers that his organization works with should be done in a way that isn't intimidating but inviting.

"The call to conversion is not a subpoena, it's an invitation," he said. "Good Catholic evangelization is seeking to diagnose the greatest hunger or need in the person we are addressing.

"Cultivation Ministries offers Outbreak of Faith Rallies and Outbreak of Faith Leadership Camp as ways to teach evangelization to middle and high school students.

"We're calling young people to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the church. It's done in a very relevant way, a very creative way," he said.

The National Pastoral Life Center helps diocesan and parish leaders learn about evangelization through small faith communities, which consist of eight to 12 people who meet regularly to discuss ways of welcoming Catholics, according to Dominican Sister Donna Ciangio, project director. "Many people come to a small faith community because they feel it's a more supportive way through which they can find their way back to the Church," she said.

Depending on the size of a parish, there can be anywhere from two to 300 small faith communities in a parish.

Sister Ciangio encourages Catholics to extend personal invitations in their evangelization and make people feel wanted. Parishes also must decide what are the best outlets for reaching out to people in order to promote themselves; these could be newspapers, letters, the Internet or local cable channels.

Ms. Blum-Gerding, who co-founded Isaiah Ministries, listed six steps in evangelization that work: discipleship, or having faith yourself; forming heart-to-heart relationships with others; witnessing your faith to others; proclamation, or sharing stories of faith in Jesus; inviting others to join in parish activities and integration of self within the community.

Among her suggestions for how not to evangelize are offering canned presentations and preaching at people instead of conversing with them.

While Catholics may consider evangelization to be a Protestant concept or associate it with door knockers, home visitors, and televangelists, that's a misconception, Blum-Gerding pointed out.

"In fact, evangelization has been ongoing throughout the history of the Catholic Church," she said. "Our faith has been passed on from one generation to another one way or another." ▼

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205

(704) 342-2878

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Carolyn's Stitchery

Monogram, Embroidery, Digitizing and sew-on...

(704) 552-8084
(704) 643-4177 fax

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444

Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

refugee, hispanic & immigration services — domestic & international adoption — counseling — material assistance — pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office

35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office

621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office

Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Knights of Columbus announce Mother Teresa award

CLEMMONS — The North Carolina Knights of Columbus have received approval from the Missionaries of Charity to initiate an award in the memory of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The award will recognize a person in each North Carolina diocese for their service to those in need.

The award will be presented to two North Carolinians, one from the Diocese of Charlotte and one from the Diocese of Raleigh. At a recent state meeting of the Knights of Columbus, State Deputy John Harrison said, "During her life of service to the poor, Mother Teresa challenged us to 'do small things with great love.' This motto challenges each of us to serve our church, community, families, and our Lord with the same humility of Mother Teresa."

Sister Nirmala, superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, approved the Knights' request, stating the award represents "a token of love for our dearest Mother."

Recipients will be recognized with a plaque, and the Knights will award $500 on behalf of each recipient to a charity in which he or she is active. The recommendation for the award should be based on the nominee's dedication to serving the Catholic Church, the community and the family. Each nomination must be approved by that nominee's parish priest.

The award will be presented March 29, the 117th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Columbus. Send nominations with a brief biography (two-page maximum) to John Harrison, State Deputy, 6608 Rollingwood Dr., Clemmons, N.C. 27012. Nominations must be received by Jan. 31.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society of Catholic men founded by Father Michael J. McGivney and chartered by the General Assembly of Connecticut on March 29, 1882. Knights and their families are active in a variety of apostolic efforts and community programs. ▼

Retrouvaille marriage program scheduled

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, an intensive workshop for married couples seeking to work on their relationship, begins Feb. 26 in Charlotte. The program brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero in Charlotte, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948
A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands
Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm
A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that ***your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.***

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. ***You can literally change a life!***

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But ***most important,*** you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."

Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship
414

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. Exp. Date
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ______
(please print)
Address ______
City/State/Zip ______
Phone (____) ______

CNH 1/99

Send to:
Christian Foundation for
Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request. Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Medical school on hold while Philly's poor take precedence

By MAUREEN McGUINNESS
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Kelly Turley surprised her family when she put aside her plans to go to medical school and chose instead to live for two years in voluntary poverty, working on the streets of Philadelphia.

In the shadow of the Liberty Bell, among burned-out and abandoned buildings, the 1997 graduate of Siena College in Loudonville and parishioner of St. James Church in Albany is in her second year in the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry Program working with the homeless, addicted and mentally ill.

"It's an amazing opportunity, and I feel blessed to be a part of it," she said.

Turley's journey to Philadelphia's poverty-stricken streets began in college. As a biology/pre-med major in the Siena College/Albany Medical College Program in Science, Humanities and Medicine, she was required to spend six weeks in service in a disadvantaged community in Africa, South America or the West Indies. The experience changed her life.

"I spent the summer in Peru at a shantytown," she said. "I knew I wanted to be a healer in a Catholic Christian community, and I realized there are so many ways to be a healer."

Now working at St. Francis Inn, a Philadelphia soup kitchen sponsored by the Franciscans, Turley is doing a different kind of healing.

"This kind of work is what I ultimately want to do," she said. "I want to work with the disenfranchised. Right now, I do a lot with the children. They are children who have nothing but drug-addicted parents or parents in prison."

Turley is not alone in postponing her career in favor of volunteer work. According to Margaret Weeks, recruitment and membership coordinator of the Washington-based Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, there were well over 4,000 young adults participating in faith-based volunteer programs from September 1997 to July 1998.

That figure is only a fraction of the actual total, she added, since only half of the 180 member organizations have supplied statistics thus far.

"Faith-based volunteer service programs have been very popular," she said. "There are now more programs than ever before."

The programs attract young people from a variety of backgrounds. According to Kathleen Haser, director of the East Coast office of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the largest Catholic lay volunteer program in the country, young people with business, social work, and pre-med and pre-law degrees are attracted to volunteering.

While faith-based service organizations provide students an opportunity to deepen their faith by living the Gospel values, they also help young adults with their future plans.

"Our volunteers get a lot of clarity about what they want to do professionally," Haser said. "They have clarity about what the needs are out there. They may still go to law school, but they might decide to focus on poverty law."

Kerry Smith, a classmate of Turley's at Siena, is just finishing up a year of service at St. Francis Inn. She majored in business with an emphasis on marketing and management.

"My primary responsibility is the soup kitchen," said the parishioner of St. John/St. Ann's parish in Albany. "We serve 300 to 450 people meals a day."

In college, her duties might have been called retail, distribution and networking: She picks up donated items for the thrift store, delivers food baskets on Sundays and works at the women's day center. The experience has helped her develop skills that she hopes to use in the business world.

"I improved my interpersonal skills because every person here is different," she said. "I also learned how to adapt. It's a fast-paced environment."

Both women also learned how to live on very little money. Housing is provided, meals are served at the inn and each volunteer gets a small stipend, which was often spent on dairy products, fruits and vegetables, items that are scarce at the inn.

Smith would like to go into business and possibly go to law school. She believes volunteering at St. Francis Inn can help her in the business world.

"I could become an advocate (for the poor) in the business community," she said. The poor are "a large part of our country that we hear about but don't see."

Turley agreed, noting: "Volunteering shatters the stereotypes about who the poor are. Some have jobs, some are war veterans, some are retired, and some are immigrants. We're working with a cross-section of people. There's a fine line between their world and my world."

Both women would recommend a year of service to others. Turley, who is staying on for an additional year, said, "This year has gone by so quickly. It's such a short period of time that you grow and learn. It's an opportunity to learn who you are and a time to give back."

"I would encourage it," Smith said. "You don't have to do it for a year. You can do it for three months, six months or a summer. You need to listen to what your heart tells you." ▼

CNS photo by Juan Garcia, The Evangelist

Kelly Turley pours Tom Baker a cup of coffee at St. Francis Inn, a Philadelphia soup kitchen where she does volunteer work while on a hiatus from her medical school plans.

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families
in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus
Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association

HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME

In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Enjoy Catholic programming through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus all your favorite cable channels!

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

dish NETWORK

Book Review

"Milestones" dull and disappointing

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH R. THOMAS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Milestones," written by the German-born prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is generally dull and disappointing, being almost entirely devoid of the personal details that make memoirs appealing.

"Milestones: Memoirs 1927-1977" by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 1998). 157 pp., $12.95.

Published simultaneously in German, Italian and English, it is overloaded with cookie-cutter photographs, most of which (45 of 56) are from a period in his life he prefers not to discuss. That would be the 20-some years since his elevation to the episcopacy as archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977 and his subsequent appointment to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II, who then named him watchdog of things doctrinal.

His episcopal consecration, he writes, "brings me into the present." By way of explanation for ending his short account (just a little bit more than 100 pages of text), he adds: "The present is not a specific date but the Now of a human life. And this Now can be long or very short. For me, the Now of my life is still determined by what began in the cathedral in Munich. ... This is why I cannot write any memoirs about it ..."

So be it. The years Cardinal Ratzinger has chosen to write about, 1927-1977, could well be interesting in their own right but he seldom reveals enough to make them so. He does reveal that, as a seminarian, he walked away from a German labor detail during World War II, that a personality conflict almost cost him his chance at a doctorate, and that he was swept up in some of the theological debates during the Vatican Council (he was present as a "pertius," or expert), notably the controversy over revelation.

Nevertheless, this is a strange book for a memoir. For instance, from the time of his ordination to his consecration, another period of 20-plus years, he served primarily as a teacher/scholar at the university level, hopping from one institution to another. Yet he says hardly anything about his relationship with students while proudly boasting of the scholarly reputation of his academic peers or complaining of their philosophical failings.

Forced to read between the lines, one comes away from "Milestones" with fleeting impressions more than knowledge.

Thomas is a former diocesan newspaper editor who is a free-lance reviewer.

Hardcover Best Sellers

1. "Sister Wendy's Nativity." Sister Wendy (Loyola)
2. "My People's Prayer Book," Vol. 2. Lawrence Hoffman (Jewish Lights)
3. "Do the Angels Watch Close By?" Mary Joslin (Loyola)
4. "Bread for the Journey," Henri J.M. Nouwen (HarperSanFrancisco)
5. "Sister Wendy's Book of Saints," Sister Wendy (Loyola)
6. "Seeking Peace." Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough)
7. "Sabbatical Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
8. "Here & Now." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
9. "Inner Voice of Love." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
10. "Christmas Joy." Chiara Lubich (New City)

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest.

— NCCB, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics"

Putting a new face to the world...

Come, retreat, rejuvenate, relax and enjoy the little things in life. Learn to appreciate their grandeur.

Retreats & Reunions
Banquets & Receptions
Worship & Liturgy Retreats
Staff Development Seminars
Organizational Retreats
Conferences
Recreation from horseback riding, hiking, fishing, golfing, camping, ropes course, quiet trail walks, reflective areas and wayside prayer chapels.

The Catholic Conference Center

www.cathol conference.org 1551 Trinity Lane Hickory, NC 28602 (888) 536-7441

Word to Life

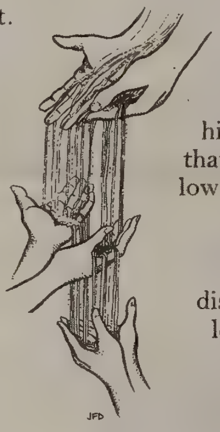
January10, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7,
   Psalm 29: 1-4, 9-10;
2) Acts 10:34-38
3) Matthew 3:13-17

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER

For some years now I've been an associate of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Trying to explain what that means is not easy because the relationship between the sisters and the lay men and women associates is a spiritual one.

It is a covenant, thoughtfully and freely undertaken by both sides to support each other. It is made for a year at a time.That is a very basic explanation, but a fuller one can become confusing. I am reminded of the teen-ager who became impatient listening to her mom's rather rambling attempt to explain the associate relationship and cut her off with a decisive: "Yeah, yeah, I know. Nun reserves." Well, no - but then again, maybe.



Definitions aside, I keep renewing my covenant. Why?The Scriptures for this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord speak for some of my reasons. The sisters (SSNDs) with whom I meet, reflect, pray, eat and play are women who at some point in their lives made a radical decision to offer their lives to God. They live out that decision in many ways, working in colleges, hospitals, business, missions, dioceses and in retirement.

I see them change jobs, update skills, get frustrated and tired, relax with the TV, deal with care problems, rejoice, fret and grieve over the events in their families. In short, their lives are not so very different from mine.

But what I also see and what keeps me renewing my association with them is the echo of that radical decision they made.

They keep turning to God, making him the most important reality and person in their lives.

The God they serve is the mighty and majestic Lord of whom the psalmist speaks, yet they serve him in and through the ordinary lives they lead. I see them pay attention to small things, be courteous in little ways. I am encouraged by their sense of hope and joy. They remind me of Jesus.

Today's readings speak of Jesus as "Lord of all" and as servant. I find it very difficult to grasp the concept of "Lord of all," but can understand what it means to serve in ordinary ways.

Humbly accepting baptism from John, Jesus goes out "doing good works," and "God was with him". I see the SSNDs following that example, and I want to follow it too.

Questions:

Are there times you become discouraged with your efforts to lead a life centered on God? Who helps remind you of the humble ways in which Jesus lived out his ministry?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 10 - Jan. 16, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17; **Monday**, Hebrews 1:1-6, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday**, Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday**, Hebrews 4:1-5,11, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday**, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen —Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Actor honored for film that took him 15 years to make

By MARY ANN WYAND
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Actor Robert Duvall's longtime dream became a reality in 1997 with the release of "The Apostle," the story of "one man's journey on the road to redemption," which was 15 years in the making.

Duvall earned an Academy Award nomination for best actor in 1998 for his role in the film as Euliss "Sonny" Dewey, a Pentecostal preacher from Texas. Sonny faces heartache and adversity when his wife falls in love with a younger minister, but he never falters in his faith or his lifetime commitment to serve God.

The Heartland Film Festival honored Duvall and his film in Indianapolis with a Studio Crystal Heart Award, given to recognize "filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values in life."

In addition to his work on the film as screenwriter, executive producer, director and star, Duvall also financed production costs for "The Apostle." Released by October Films, it is now available on video.

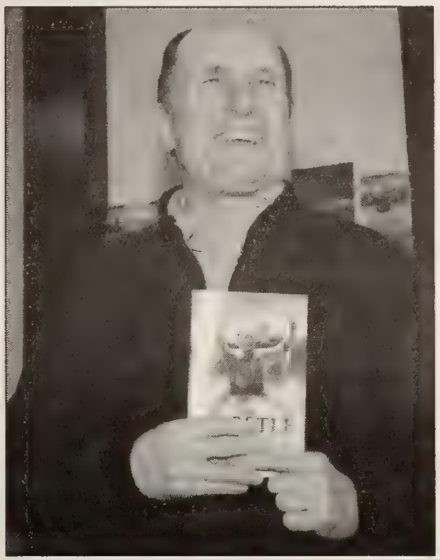
"I had to put it off for so many years," Duvall told The Criterion, Indianapolis archdiocesan newspaper, in an interview. "But when we finally did it, it was really the best time. It seemed as if, as we filmed it, that it was meant to be. It was fun to see the script come alive. It just seemed to unfold. It was very uplifting."

Duvall worked with actors Farrah Fawcett, Billy Bob Thornton and Miranda Richardson, as well as local residents without professional acting experience who he said gave incredible performances.

"Each step of the way was very logical and fulfilling," Duvall said of the production. "It was quite an adventure, a great experience, a gift in itself. It was a low-budget film by Hollywood standards. We edited it at my farm in Virginia."

It was gratifying to be recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences with an Oscar nomination for his work in the film, Duvall said, but even nicer to see "The Apostle" receive "acceptance by the secular community, with exceptions, and by the religious community. People reached out to it."

Heartland Film Festival organizers honored the film with a special screening at the IMAX Theater in Indianapolis, and Duvall said he enjoyed seeing his creation shown in that huge format.



CNS photo from Reuters

Actor Robert Duvall holds a copy of the novel on which his film ``The Apostle'' was based. Duvall wrote, financed and starred in the award-winning film about a Pentecostal preacher.

"It was nice that it was picked for a festival like this, and for other (film) festivals too," he said. "It's been accepted well in France, in England and here. It's done very well, and I feel proud of that. I feel it's really the highlight of my career to have done this film."

"The Apostle" is "a respectful depiction of the Pentecostal faith," the actor said, and the film offers a message of hope for people of any religious denomination.

"It's about a man who believes very deeply in his religious faith, but he does something he shouldn't do, which is a crime," Duvall said. "He errs and lashes out in a human way, and has to pay the consequences. His church is taken away from him, and he has to leave and go on the run."

In the midst of his wanderings through Louisiana, Sonny prays aloud, "Lord, I'm yours. I'm walking with you every step of the way. Lead me on. Amen."

In one small Gulf community, he encounters a Catholic priest blessing fishing boats.

"You do it your way, and I do it mine," Sonny observes, "but we both get it done, don't we?"

After acknowledging his crime of passion and asking God for forgiveness, Duvall said, "Sonny feels he has to justify his faith by starting a new church in a little town in Louisiana."

Sonny repairs a deteriorated church, names it the "One Way Road to Heaven," then embarks on an ambitious evangelization campaign to attract members via a local Christian radio station.

"He does a good deed, a very Christian thing, by starting this church," Duvall said, "but eventually he is caught and has to pay for his crime."

It took a lot of faith in the project, and in his own abilities, to complete the film after numerous delays and setbacks, Duvall said. "I couldn't raise a dime anywhere, so I financed it myself. And I got it all back." ▼

Special announcement!

We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7007
(800) 331-0768

ModularCorp

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

"I have a desire to learn about everything from teachings and writings to my faith and the world around me. I had no desire for these things before. When I came to the Abbey, I began to desire to grow in knowledge."

Maureen Davis, Class of 2001

Harrisburg, NC

Northwest Cabarrus High School

Major: Psychology

Maureen Davis is on a mission. Her goal is to share hope with young people who have none — and she's off to a blazing start.

Prior to beginning her journey at Belmont Abbey, Maureen went on a mission trip which sent her and co-workers to 140 towns across America. In each, they offered retreats for struggling youth.

"I know what it's like to be a troubled teen and to have a difficult time growing up. In high school, I didn't care much about anything. Then God made me realize how important He is — and doors started opening."

As a freshman at the Abbey, Maureen received one of the College's most highly-respected awards, the Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders. Since then, she's found that Belmont Abbey College's close-knit community, family-oriented environment, and "approachable" faculty provide the combination she needs to prepare to accomplish her life's mission.

"For me, success is truly making a difference in other peoples' lives. There's no greater joy than knowing that, because of something I did, someone else's life is better. To do that, you've got to develop the gifts you've been given to better serve others. Belmont Abbey is helping me do that. It's been a real gift in my life."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Belmont, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • Toll-Free 888.BAC.0110

When Sergio Velazquez had heart surgery he found we spoke the language of compassion fluently.

The Belk Heart Center staff at Presbyterian Healthcare not only repaired Sergio's faulty heart valve, they got him back in the game again.

Sergio Velazquez loved to play soccer with his brothers.

At 26 he was diagnosed with a collapsed heart valve and wondered if he would ever play soccer again.

Open heart surgery is scary enough for anyone. For Sergio, not being able to speak English could have made his ordeal even more difficult.

But Sergio had spirit. And he had the help of cardiovascular recovery unit secretary Adria Pangalos, along with nurse Donna Steiger who translated the events so Sergio understood he was soon going to be back with his brothers and the game he loves so much.

Now Sergio plays soccer to his heart's content.

Stories like Sergio's are not uncommon at Presbyterian Healthcare. After all, we believe there is a difference between being treated and being cared for.

For information on heart disease or symptoms of a heart attack, call 384-CARE.

Presbyterian Healthcare
NOVANTHEALTH

Adria Pangalos speaks the language of compassion in the cardiovascular recovery unit at Presbyterian Healthcare.

Shaping the future of Caring

Cardinal Keeler to lead off prayer vigil for life

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore is scheduled to be the principal celebrant and homilist at the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life in Washington.

Six of the nation's eight cardinals plan to participate in the prayer vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which precedes the 26th annual March for Life Jan. 22.

The vigil starts with Mass at 8 p.m. Jan. 21, followed by the rosary, night prayer and holy hours throughout the night at the shrine, located on the campus of The Catholic University of America. Priests will be available for confessions until 1 a.m. The vigil concludes Jan. 22 with morning prayer at 6 a.m. and a concelebrated Mass at 7:30 a.m.

Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte will concelebrate the Jan. 21 vigil Mass. He will also celebrate a Mass Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. for participants from the Diocese of Charlotte.

The March for Life draws tens of thousands to Washington each year to express their abiding opposition to the Jan. 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion. Several hundred individuals from the Charlotte Diocese are expected to attend.

It begins with a noon rally on the Ellipse, just south of the White House. Marchers then head east on Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and around the Capitol to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The theme of this year's march is "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

The theme of this year's march is "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

March for Life organizer Nellie Gray said Jan. 4 that the list of members of Congress who would address the march was not yet finalized.

She told Catholic News Service that the lead banner in the march will be carried by students from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and Quincy University in Quincy, Ill.

She said Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli of Wilmington, Del., is to lead the march's closing prayer.

Following the march, Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., is the featured speaker for the Rose Dinner — named for the red rose which symbolizes the pro-life movement. Also to be featured at the dinner is a commentary on the U.S. Catholic bishops' recent statement, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics."

Gail Quinn, director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the traveling pro-life exhibit created last year to mark the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court decisions will return to Washington for display Jan. 18-22 at the headquarters of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Titled "The People of Life: A Story of Faith, Hope and Love," the exhibit consists of a central kiosk and four large panels with pictures and text on remembering the child, remembering the woman, speaking truth to power and remembering God.

It was created by artist Lisa Toscani for the pro-life secretariat with funding from the Knights of Columbus.

After its unveiling and initial display at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception last January, the exhibit has been sent around the country, going to a new diocese every two weeks.

Helen Alvare, the secretariat's director of planning and information, said she informally advises dioceses hosting the exhibit that they may want to place pastoral counselors with experience in post-abortion reconciliation near one panel.

She said women with unresolved turmoil over an abortion often break into tears in front of that panel, which features a photo of an anguished woman at prayer in a field of small white crosses memorializing aborted babies.

Alvare said most 1999 display dates for the exhibit have been booked and it already has four bookings for 2000.

Other Catholic-sponsored activities in Washington connected with the March for Life include 10 a.m. Masses and youth rallies at St. Matthew the Apostle Cathedral and St. Stephen Martyr Church, both within walking distance of the Ellipse, and a Mass for seminarians at St. Patrick Church, also a few blocks from the Ellipse. ▼

Associate editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte
(800)813-9676

$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Shining Stars
Adult Day Respite Care

Enroll your loved one, 62 or older, for Mass, socialization, a nutritious snack and lunch, at 3 Charlotte area churches:

Every Tues. 8:30-1:00 pm
St. Patrick
Every Wed. 8:30-1:00
St. Gabriel
Every Thurs. 8:30-1:00 pm
Our Lady of Assumption

Program begins Jan. 5, so call NOW for reservations. First come, first served basis.
Cost $35 per day or sliding fee scale.

Call Suzanne Bach 376-4135
Sharon Mayfield 563-6103
Connie Stover 568-6289

Photo courtesy of St. Gabriel School

Chess champions

The chess team of St. Gabriel Catholic School in Charlotte won first place in the Southern Scholastic Chess Tournament in Charlotte Dec. 12-13. It was the first team competition for the St. Gabriel group. Pictured left to right, front row, are Davidé Carpano, Karen Pierce, Chris Velado and J.P. Sypniewski; on second row, Gabriel Del Pino and Robert Pavadis; and standing, assistant coach Jay Tomsyck, who attends Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte. Individual honors went to Gabriel Del Pino, who took ninth place, and Jay Tomsyck, who placed third in the middle school division.

Lahu New Year, from page 1

Laos, caused many families to take refuge in northern Thailand. When they were later forced to repatriate, some Lahus sought freedom in the U.S. North Carolina is one of the states to become home for the Lahu over the years. The Charlotte Diocese has provided special assistance to these and other Asian immigrants through Father Bill Tanguay, who resides at St. Aloysius from October through May. He supports not only Lahu but also Hmong families in the region. For the other months of the year, Father Tanguay ministers to the various hill tribes living in Rhode Island.

"Our plans for 1999 are to fully establish the families in the larger community," said Father Tanguay. He believes one way to achieve that goal is by moving families from unstable or unsafe housing. He is presently exploring the option of obtaining a parcel of land where several families can live together as a clan — a way of life which corresponds to their native and communal disposition. During these several days of celebration, the Lahu people are filled with hope for a better tomorrow, committed to moving forward while keeping some of the past. ▼

In brief...

Sisters of Mercy break ground for new infirmary

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina held a groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 4, initiating the construction of a new infirmary as well as renovations to Sacred Heart Convent. The three-phase project includes the construction of the 12,318 square-foot Marian Hall onto Sacred Heart Convent, and the addition of 16 infirmary rooms, 12 assisted living rooms, five guest rooms and 37 private rooms in the motherhouse. The project involves renovations to the kitchen and elevator, installation of emergency power in the infirmary and motherhouse, and replacement of all exterior windows.

Other changes include updating mechanical and electrical systems, enlarging and adding private baths to residential units, relocating the grotto, expanding and relocating the archives, enhancing landscaping, and constructing a small chapel in the building's west wing.

Vietnamese church adds Mass in English

CHARLOTTE — St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church, 4929 Sandy Porter Rd., has added a Mass in English to its weekend schedule. The English Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 5 p.m. The 300-seat church and cultural center was dedicated by Bishop William G. Curlin Nov. 29, 1998. Father Tan Van Le serves as chaplain. Masses are celebrated in Vietnamese on Saturdays at 6 p.m., and Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. For further information, call (704) 504-0907.

African American Affairs Ministry hosts King celebration

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry hosts its annual celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 16 at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, 2301 Statesville Ave.

"Building Bridges Through All Stages of Life" is the celebration's theme, and registration begins at 9 a.m. the day of the event. Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Pre-registration is encouraged and may be made by sending a check and number of attendees to African American Affairs Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Cost is $10 per person, $15 per couple, $20 for families of four or less and $25 for families of five or more.

During the celebration, the ministry will present for the first time the Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award. The late Glenda Rollins-Gaither was one of the guiding forces involved in the founding of the diocesan African American Affairs ministry, and was an active parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

JANUARY 10-16, 1999

National Vocation Awareness Week

Good and gracious God,
you have called us through Baptism to be
your beloved children, to put on Christ and
to go about doing good works...

At the end of the second millennium, the church draws attention to the Trinitarian presence of God within the Christian community. Pope John Paul II has chosen to focus this year on the love of God, the Father of Jesus.

In the readings for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we hear a call for servants of the Gospel to bring forth justice for the nations (Isaiah), to preach the good news of peace (Acts) and to listen to the will of the Father (Matthew).

*It is appropriate that **National Vocation Awareness Week** celebrations pick up on these universal Christian imperatives. Action for justice, proclamation of the gospel and contemplative listening are gifts that will serve the church well in the new millennium.*

The work of fulfilling the gospel mission belongs to all baptized Christians and, in a unique way, to those who are called to service as ordained, vowed, or lay ministers.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht, Director of Vocations, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 370-3353

Sister Mary Christine Beck, RSM, dies at age 83

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Christine Beck, died Nov. 27, 1998, at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 83 years old and in her 61st year as a Sister of Mercy.

The Rite of Gathering was held Nov. 30, 1998, in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Dec. 1, 1998, in Cardinal Gibbons Chapel. Burial followed at the Belmont Abbey cemetery.

Sister Mary Christine Beck was born in Pittsburgh, Pa, on Aug. 22, 1915. Her birth name was Athelia Louise Beck. She entered the order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 8, 1936, and was received by the Sisters of Mercy on Feb. 2, 1937. She took her temporary vows on Feb. 3, 1939, and made her permanent profession on Feb. 3, 1942.

Sister Mary Christine is a graduate of the now-closed Sacred Heart Junior College. She received her bachelor of arts degree in Latin and philosophy from Mount Saint Scholastica College, and both her master's in elementary education and her doctorate in philosophy from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Mary Christine held numerous positions during her active teaching ministry, including service as directress of St. Leo's Academy in Belmont. Her ministry in education continued during her tenure at Sacred Heart College, where she served as dean of student affairs, academic dean and dean of students.

Sister Mary Christine Beck, RSM

She is also remembered for her achievements as chair of the Education Department at Sacred Heart College. When the Education Department at Sacred Heart College was closed, the successful program was turned over to Belmont Abbey College, where it continues to flourish.

On Oct. 10, 1997, Sister Christine was awarded a doctorate of humane letters from Belmont Abbey College, at which time the Education Department at that institution was formally dedicated in her name.

"The excellent quality of this program was due largely to the dedication and dilgence of Sister Christine," said Dr. Robert Preston, president of Belmont Abbey College, at a 1997 luncheon ceremony held in Sister Mary Christine's honor. "No one is more deserving of this honor than she is, and we are proud that her name will continue to be affiliated with the college's education program."

In 1988 she received the "Outstanding Leadership and Service Award" from the North Carolina Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. She served as president of the American Association of University Women and was also a member of their board of directors.

Other professional memberships included the executive committee of North Carolina and the North Carolina Advancement Council on Teacher Education and chair of the Charlotte Area Education Consortium. In addition, she served on various teacher education certification teams as an evaluator for the Middle States Accreditation Association and for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Sister Mary Christine was also actively concerned with women's and social issues at both the local and the state levels. She served as chairperson of the Gaston County Commission on the Status of Women, was a member of the Gaston County Advanced Council for Battered and Abused Spouses, was chairperson of the Committee on Patients' Rights of the Mental Health Board of Gastonia, and served as vice president for the North Carolina Guidance and Personnel Services.

Her ministry within her religious community included serving as both assistant superior and local superior, as a member of the General Council, the standing committee on Sisters of Mercy Formation and the Liturgical Committee. She also served as coordinator of education for the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Mary Christine remained active until Aug. 30, 1986, when she retired from the teaching profession. Her prayer ministry continued until her death.

In recent years, Sister Mary Christine was also active member of the adult day care classes sponsored by the Gaston County Department of Social Services.

Sister Mary Christine is the daughter of the late Edward Parkins Beck and Mary Emma West Beck. She is survived by a cousin, Dorothy Ransel, of Latrobe, Pa.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 100 Mercy Dr., Belmont, N.C. 28012-4805. ▾

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 600 families near Raleigh, North Carolina in process of building new church desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have B.A. in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time; salary of 30K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by March 15 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Director of Pastoral Care: St. Joseph of the Pines has an opening for a Director of Pastoral Care to work at the Southern Pines Health Center location. Provides counsel, guidance and support to residents, patients, employees, and families. Must have CPE certification, a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry, Psychology, or Theology. Three to five years' experience as a Chaplain a plus! Send resume to St. Joseph of the Pines, Administration, Attn: Lorena Moree, 95 Aviemore Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374. EOE. JOBLINE: 1-800-436-7791

Youth Ministry: St. Gabriel Parish is seeking creative, well-organized youth minister for large parish of 3900+ families. This full-time position has responsibility for grades seven through twelve. Applicant must be practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in related field and experience working with your preferred. Send resume, salary requirements and references to Youth Ministry Search, c/o Susan Krasniewski, DRE, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Religion Teacher: Charlotte Catholic High School needs a full-time Religion teacher beginning January 1999. Must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Theology or Religious Education from a Catholic college or university. Send resume and request for application to: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Pastoral Administrator: The Pastoral Personnel Board of the Diocese of Raleigh is seeking Pastoral Administrators to direct parishes. Candidates must have pastoral and administrative experience, preferably in North Carolina, as well as pastoral and theological training. A master's degree is preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic. Individuals must be able to work with people and encourage the development of gifts of the parishioners. Send resume to: Sister Carol Loughney, I.H.M., St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 124 Palmer Street, Raeford, NC 28376. Deadline: January 15

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking an experienced freelancers to assist with its publication in the Hickory/Morganton/Newton area. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

For detective, forgiveness is answer to violence

By CAROLYN HUGHES
Catholic News Service

SAYREVILLE, N.J. (CNS) — New York City police detective Steven McDonald gives a surprising answer to the violence surrounding young people today: forgive as Jesus has forgiven us.

Speaking from the wheelchair that allows his only mobility, McDonald recently told more than 150 Catholic middle-school students in the Diocese of Metuchen how to stop violence in their homes, schools and communities.

The students — from St. Stanislaus Kostka and Our Lady of Victories schools in Sayreville and St. Mary of Ostrabrama and Corpus Christi in South River — heard his message with tears and amazement.

> "Every boy and girl has to believe that you are special to God ... that you are not here to harm yourselves or to harm others," he said.

The detective, who spoke in the St. Stanislaus Kostka gym, is no stranger to violence.

He was shot several times in the head and spine by a 15-year-old boy in 1986. A quadriplegic, he requires life support and round-the-clock medical care.

When he was shot, McDonald was working bicycle theft with a special crimes unit in Central Park. What began as a routine check of suspicious teens became a life-changing tragedy.

Not long after the shooting, McDonald's wife, Patti Ann, delivered the couple's first child, Conor. Despite his joy at being able to witness Conor's baptism by New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor, McDonald was unable to touch or hold his new son.

But, instead of resorting to anger and violence, he chose the path of nonviolence by sharing his story nationwide. He addresses as many as 50 schools and groups annually, taking no fee, but directing donations to Momma's House, a home for unwed mothers and their babies in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In a gentle voice, McDonald told students that, rather than perpetuate the violence, he decided to forgive the young man who shot him. "I wanted to pay attention to my wife and new baby," he said. "I wanted to forgive him and move on."

It was not easy, he said, and it's a decision he must make over and over again. He noted the deep sadness he experiences at never being able to hold his wife again or to ever hold his child.

"But if I want to reach heaven ... I have to forgive the young man all over again and I have always been at peace with that," he said.

He cited three "beautiful examples" of forgiveness as his models: Jesus Christ, the greatest model; St. Stephen, who forgave those stoning him; and Pope John Paul II, who forgave the man who shot him.

McDonald's act of forgiveness has touched many lives. "The man who shot me called my house from prison and apologized to me for what he did to ruin my life," he recalled. "He also forgave himself."

As part of his presentation, the detective, who was accompanied by his nurse of 11 years and by a police officer, read a pledge of nonviolence written by several New York City public school students and asked students to sign it.

He also read a reflection — "You Are Very Special" — emphasizing each student's uniqueness.

"Every boy and girl has to believe that you are special to God ... that you are not here to harm yourselves or to harm others," he said.

McDonald said he has bad days medically, when he suffers a lot and asks God how much more there will be.

"(But) my desire is always to be ... like Jesus, to show how much I believe in God," he said. "I want to save some of you ... through my experiences."

He offered students some advice. "As Catholic Christians there is nothing greater you can do than being imitators of Jesus and Mary to end the violence," he said. "I am convinced of that."

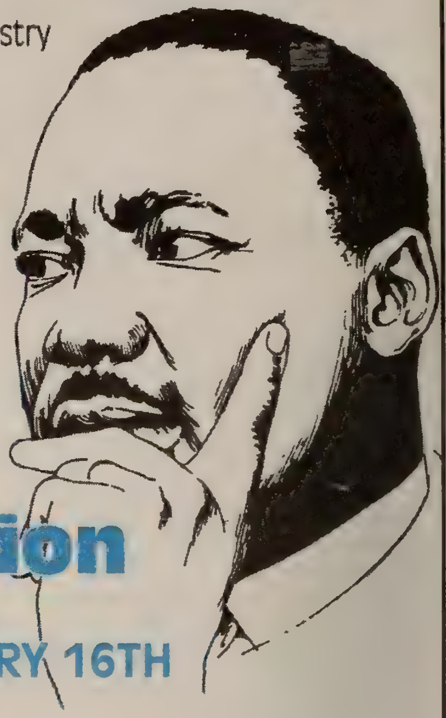
Several students responded to his message through The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Metuchen Diocese.

From Our Lady of Victories, Matt Pagoda expressed gratitude. "I felt something that I never felt before about guns," he added.

Laura Eppinger of Corpus Christi said the students stood and clapped spontaneously when the detective left. "Now, whenever I get into a petty fight over something stupid," she said, "I'll remember forgiveness, how important it is, and how somebody can forgive so great a crime." ▼

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

African American Affairs Ministry
invites you to the



Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH
9am — 3pm
Our Lady of Consolation Church
2301 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte

Come join in the celebration of Mass and the presentation of the first Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award.

DEADLINE TO PRE-REGISTER: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Costs include all materials and meals:
$10 — single
$15 — couple
$20 — family of 4 or fewer
$25 — family of 5 or more

Send registration form and check to:
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
or call: (704) 370-3339

Registration
Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

NAME ______________________
ADDRESS ______________________
____
PHONE ______________________

NO. PEOPLE ATTENDING ______________________

REGISTRATION COSTS ENCLOSED $ ______________________
(Covers all meals and materials)

African American Affairs Ministry

FC-82
C363

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 15, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 19

Inside

Evangelize
Family is essential to evangelization efforts
...PAGE 7

Pope ordains nine bishops on feast of the Epiphany
...PAGE 6

Local News

Living the Faith
Black Mountain couple sow seeds of stewardship
...PAGE 12

Sisters of Mercy Foundation awards grants
...PAGE 11

BMHS wins mock trial awards
...PAGE 11

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 9-10

In this issue...
Communiquémonos
Special supplement to The Catholic News & Herald

Promoting Harmony

Pope tells diplomats peace, like violence, can be contagious

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Focusing his gaze on situations of conflict and on places where human rights are abused, Pope John Paul II said that if violence is contagious, peace can be as well.

"The recent conflict in Iraq has shown once more that war does not solve problems," the pope said Jan. 11 in his annual "state of the world" address to diplomats representing 169 countries at the Vatican.

War complicates problems, he said, "and leaves the civilian population to bear the tragic consequences."

In addition to Iraq, site of a U.S.-British military bombardment in December and the object of an international embargo, the pope expressed concern about conflicts in the Balkans, in Africa and in Asia.

Pope John Paul said the Middle East peace process and relations between Israelis and Palestinians need a new push forward.

"It is not possible to keep people indefinitely between war and peace without the risk of dangerously increasing tensions and violence," he said.

"It is not reasonable to put off until later the question of the status of the holy city of Jerusalem, to which the followers of the three great religions turn their gaze," the pope said.

The Vatican has called repeatedly for an internationally guaranteed statute concerning Jerusalem to ensure Jews, Christians and Muslims would have free access to the holy sites of their faiths.

Honest dialogue, concern for people and respect for international laws and treaties are the only way to bring peace to the region, the pope said.

"If violence is contagious, peace can be so, too, and I am sure that a stable Middle East would contribute effectively to restoring hope to many people," he said.

Pope John Paul underlined several situations in the world that he said should give people hope for the successful outcome of dialogues: the Good Friday agreement regarding Northern Ireland; the European Union's transition to a common currency; and the settlement of the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru.

But, he told the diplomats, "Africa remains a continent at risk.

"Of its 53 states, 17 are experiencing military conflicts, either internally or with other states," he said.

The pope called attention to the civil war and the threat of widespread famine in Sudan, new tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the fighting in Sierra Leone, "where the people are still the victims of merciless struggles."

Pope John Paul also pointed to the renewed fighting in Angola and the struggles of Burundi and Rwanda to rebuild their countries and reconcile their peoples after an ethnic war.

"The Democratic Republic of (the) Congo still has far to go in working out its transition and experiencing the stability to which its people legitimately aspire," he said.

"The reports regularly coming to me from these tormented regions confirm my conviction that war is always destructive of our humanity and that peace is undoubtedly the pre-condition for human rights," Pope John Paul said.

> "The reports regularly coming to me from these tormented regions confirm my conviction that war is always destructive of our humanity and that peace is undoubtedly the pre-condition for human rights."

The pope told the diplomats that 1999 should be a year for awakening consciences about the need to respect human rights and to follow the dictates of natural and moral laws.

Respect for the right of religious freedom, he said, not only is a binding obligation for nations, but would be beneficial to them in developing strong, stable and peaceful societies.

In Asia and in several African countries, he said, intolerance recently has led to attacks on Christian churches and believers.

"In other regions, where Islam is the majority religion, one still has to deplore the grave forms of discrimination of which the followers of other religions are victims," he said. ▾

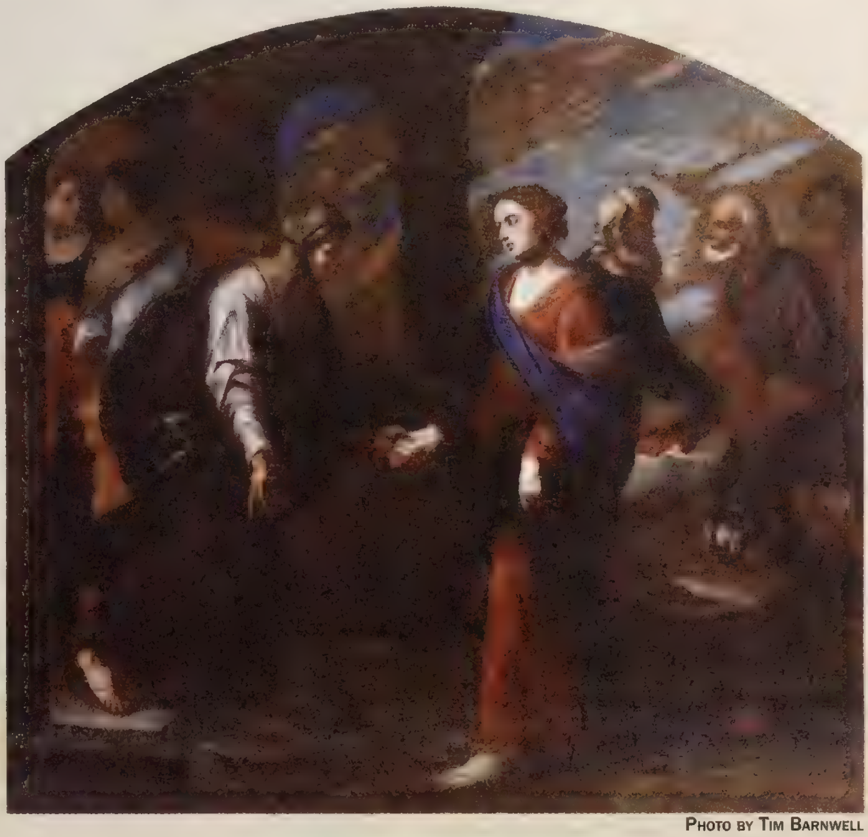


PHOTO BY TIM BARNWELL

Masterpiece unmasked
This depiction of the Visitation hangs in the Chapel of Our Lady located within the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. Asheville art restorer Barney Lamar recently completed a two-year restoration of the painting, which possibly dates back to the 17th century. *For story, see page 3.*

Congolese rebels deny missionary report of civilian massacre

GOMA, Democratic Republic of the Congo (CNS) — Rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo denied that they massacred more than 500 civilians, as a missionary news agency in Rome reported, but said they killed hundreds of Burundian Hutu guerrillas in a battle. The missionary news agency cited an eyewitness who had just arrived in Rome. But in a statement issued Jan. 6 in Goma, the rebels said more than 400 guerrillas crossed into eastern Congo Dec. 31. "These troops were attacked and routed" by Congolese Rally for Democracy forces, the statement said. "The majority were killed and another part fled."

Dominican sisters minister discreetly in communist Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (CNS) — Dominican sisters have been ministering discreetly in Vietnam's northeastern Lang Son Diocese for the last 10 years despite hardships and trials, said a local leader of the religious congregation. The nun, one of the Dominican sisters based in Ho Chi Minh City, recently told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that for the past decade her congregation has sent many groups of nuns back to Lang Son Diocese in communist-controlled Vietnam, which the order left some 45 years ago. "Since our sisters do not have the government's official permission to work publicly, they have to stay in people's homes, live among ordinary people and not wear the habit," said the sister, who asked not to be named.

New Center of Concern workbook stresses human rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new workbook on human rights from the Center of Concern in Washington aims to educate the American public on the need to recognize fundamental human rights, said Marist Father Ted Keating. "The average Catholic — and perhaps the average Catholic leader — in this country simply is not aware how far the pope has gone in making human rights the central focus of the church's social mission," said Father Keating, who is director for justice and peace at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in Silver Spring, Md. He said the pope repeatedly has stressed respect for human rights in his writings and on Jan. 1 made human rights "the paramount focus of his World Day of Peace (message)."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Child and pope
An unidentified child holding a baby bottle approaches Pope John Paul II as he leaves the Sistine Chapel Jan. 10. The pope had just ended a baptism ceremony for 19 infants, marking the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

CRS Cuba director welcomes U.S. government's new Cuba measures

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of Catholic Relief Services' Cuba program called the U.S. government's new measures to strengthen ties with the Cuban people "an excellent development." "It's very positive that the U.S. government has eased restrictions, people-to-people exchanges and remittances," said Tom Garofalo, Cuba program head for CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency based in Baltimore. He also welcomed as "a concrete gesture of openness from one people to another" a U.S. State Department announcement that representatives of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team had been licensed to travel to Cuba to discuss with government officials the possibility of exhibition games between the Orioles and the Cuban national team.

Archbishop says decommissioning of weapons should not stop peace

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The impasse over the decommissioning of weapons in Northern Ireland should not hinder implementing the Good Friday agreement, said Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh. "I would appeal to all sides not to allow the decommissioning issue to become an obstacle to the implementation of the agreement. The sooner the assembly and the executive (council) are up and running, the sooner trust will be given a chance to grow," Archbishop Brady said Jan. 1, World Day of Peace. Northern Ireland's unionist politicians, who are predominantly Protestant, say they will not join a government executive council with members of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, until the IRA begins decommissioning weapons.

Cardinal, consul mark five years of Vatican-Israeli ties

NEW YORK (CNS) — At a reception celebrating the historic 1993 breakthrough that led to full Vatican-Israeli diplomatic relations, New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor hailed the "fundamental agreement" as a major event. Speaking Dec. 29 at the residence of Shmuel Sisso, Israeli consul general in New York, the cardinal said the agreement has political significance and is based on a unique bond between the two monotheistic faiths. "The fundamental agreement is of inestimable importance, as are its diplomatic, political and theological implications," he said. The agreement "is going to assume infinitely greater meaning once believed by all to be a covenant between brothers and sisters, a covenant binding in love."

Poor rural community in Texas finds resources to help others

SOMERVILLE, Texas (CNS) — In a little over a year, churches and civic groups in Somerville have worked together to help 3,000 needy people — twice the population of the rural town. Despite its own poverty, the community 100 miles east of Austin has a generous spirit that is rare, said Father Joel McNeil, pastor of St. Ann's Parish. "The chemistry and the compassion throughout the entire community is amazing," he told the Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Austin Diocese. "God is deeply involved in this project." The project is Somerville Area Assistance Ministries, known as SAAM, which helps poor people with food, clothing and to make ends meet.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

January 15, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 19
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 17 — 3 pm
Pro-life Mass
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

January 19 — 7:30 pm
Pro-life Liturgy for Greensboro and Winston-Salem Vicariates

January 21— evening Mass
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.

January 22 — 10 am
Mass for Diocesan participants of Pro-life rally, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.

January 22
March for Life, Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church, 4929 Sandy Porter Rd., has added a Mass in English to its weekend schedule each Sunday at 5 p.m. Masses in Vietnamese are celebrated Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. For more information call Father Tan Van Le, chaplain, at (704) 504-0907.

CHARLOTTE — Shining Stars, an adult day respite care program, meets each Tuesday from 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East; each Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.; and each Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. Cost is $35 per day or sliding fee scale. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 376-4135, for reservations and other information.

January

17 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin presides at the Ninth Annual Mass for the Unborn today at 3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Call (704) 364-5431 for details.

18 WINGATE — Millard Fuller, founder and president of the nonprofit housing organization Habitat for Humanity, speaks in Austin Auditorium at Wingate University today at 7:30 p.m. Fuller is expected to address the issues of affordable housing and the work Habitat for Humanity is doing around the world. A reception for friends of Habitat for Humanity follows the presentation. For more information, call Todd Lake at (704) 233-8026.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Little Rock Scripture Study for Women begins the seven-week study "Psalms I" today from 7:30-9 p.m. in Joseph's House at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. Call Anne Gannon, (336) 768-9360, for more information.

21 CHARLOTTE — The Respect

Masterpiece unmasked

Asheville artist restores recovered painting

By DALE NEAL
Asheville Citizen-Times

ASHEVILLE — For decades, the painting was hidden away in a corner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, its origin unknown, its figures obscured by years of soot and candle smoke.

> Stanzione painted a series of scenes for the basilica in Naples, depicting the life of the Virgin Mary. The Italian church still has all of the scenes from the Immaculate Conception to the Annunciation, all except one — the "Visitation." Which is exactly what the painting in Asheville portrays.

Now after a two-year restoration, the linen painting has been rehung in the downtown Asheville church, revealing in glorious new colors the biblical "Visitation" between the pregnant Virgin Mary and her cousin Elizabeth.

And an Asheville art restorer may have solved the mystery of the unknown artist.

Barney Lamar of Conservation Laboratories Inc. spent months peeling away yellow varnish and the rotting canvas that served as backing. Removing each layer of grime and glue, Lamar came closer to his hunch that he was looking at an Old World masterpiece.

"From the very beginning, my instinct kept telling me this is a 17th century painting," said Lamar. "The more I worked with it, the more I was convinced."

As he revealed more of the original painting, Lamar was reminded of a show he had seen more than a decade ago in Washington, D.C. — an exhibition of 17th century Neapolitan painters. Caravaggio is the most famous name, but Naples boasted dozens of accomplished artists working in that same period.

Lamar compared brush strokes, lighting, skin tones and clothing, but the sky was the real clue. The same colors and composition found in "The Visitation" seemed to match a painting of "St. John the Baptist" by Massimo Stanzione, a painter who lived from 1585 to 1656.

Stanzione painted a series of scenes for the basilica in Naples, depicting the life of the Virgin Mary. The Italian church still has all of the scenes from the Immaculate Conception to the Annunciation, all except one — the "Visitation." Which is exactly what the painting in Asheville portrays.

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary, pregnant with the Christ child, pays a visit to her cousin Elizabeth, who is bearing the baby who will become John the Baptist.

She greets the Virgin Mary with the refrain familiar to Catholics: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

The painting appropriately hangs in the Chapel of Our Lady to the left of the altar.

Stanzione is still an educated guess. Lamar has sent letters and photos to David Brown, head of the Renaissance Painting department at the National Gallery of Art, and Wolfgang Prohaksa, a Vienna-based authority on Neapolitan painters, for their expert opinion.

But how the painting got from the basilica in Naples to the basilica in Western North Carolina will probably remain a mystery.

St. Lawrence was designed and built starting in 1905 by the Spanish architect Rafael Guastavino, who had contributed tile work at George

See MASTERPIECE, page 10

The Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center
The Chancery

January 15, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ:

The theme for this year's **Latin America Collection** is *"Solidarity Across the Hemisphere."* A little over a year ago, Pope John Paul II convened a Synod for America, where he stressed the need for solidarity across the hemisphere. His prophetic leadership has led to a greater awareness of the Church in Latin America, and his call extends to each and every Catholic.

The needs in Latin America are great; many of the people live in great poverty. New economic policies have yet to yield economic growth; conflict reigns in southern Mexico and Colombia; unemployment abounds in Brazil and there is political unrest in Peru and Ecuador. *El Niño* further complicated and devastated lives already suffering from human rights violations and social injustices.

Please consider seriously the contribution you will give to this year's collection for the Church in Latin America, which will be taken on the weekend of January 23-24. Think about it in terms of solidarity, whether or not you have friends and/or family in Latin America, or know no one there.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

P.O. Box 36776, Charlotte, NC 28236
Phone: (704) 370-6299 Fax: (704) 370-3379

Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte leads a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-22 for the national March for Life. The pilgrimage includes Masses, the march and transportation. Busses will leave the diocesan pastoral center, 1123 S. Church St. in Charlotte, at 7 a.m. Jan. 21. Other pick-up locations are in Asheville, Hickory and Winston-Salem. Bus fare is $40. Room reservations are available through the Respect Life Office at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Va., for $97.98 per room. The busses will return around midnight Jan. 22. For reservation forms and other information, call (704) 370-3229. For more March for Life participation, contact your parish office.

HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated at 7:30 p.m. today in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

22 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte hosts a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today from 11 a.m.-noon at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Other Charlotte parishes will host future sessions.

23 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts a parish retreat titled "Opening Our Eyes to the Love of the Father" today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Highlights include Mass, a speaking presentation by Father Ken Parker and music by David Schoff. Child care is available by calling (704) 549-1607.

27 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte hosts a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today from 10-11 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Other Charlotte parishes will host future sessions.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women sponsors a potluck luncheon today at noon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Current members are asked to bring a dish to share, and donations of $1 will help defray costs. The group also welcomes potential members. The meeting includes a speaking presentation on spirituality and healing. For further information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

30 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte hosts a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today from 11 a.m.-noon at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Other Charlotte parishes will host future sessions.

February

2 GREENSBORO — "Catholics and the Eucharist" is the theme of an adult education presentation by Rev. Mr. Tim and Eileen Rohan today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. The session focuses on the Eucharist as being central to Catholic worship, and expressions of devotion to the Eucharist. Call (336) 274-0415 for more information.

5 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr. The rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m., and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass.

6 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School hosts its annual Valentine Ball and silent auction fund raiser today from 7-10 p.m. at the Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes a buffet dinner, dancing and the auction. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials. Cost is $30 per person, and reservations are required by Jan. 31. For more information, call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886.

Please submit notices of events at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says belief in God as a father points to a reality

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The fact that many of the world's great religions describe God as a father points to a reality and not, as some have claimed, to a widespread psychological delusion, Pope John Paul II said.

Many religions "express the conviction that the supreme being can be perceived and invoked as a father, drawing on the experience of affectionate care from an earthly father," the pope said Jan. 13 during his weekly general audience.

The use of the term father to describe God "has raised in some currents of contemporary atheism the suspicion that the very idea of God is a projection of the paternal image," he said.

"The suspicion, in reality, is baseless," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said it is true, of course, that people are tempted to imagine and describe God with qualities that are too human. It is natural that a human creature gropes for terms to describe the Creator.

"Only the full revelation in which God has shown himself can dissipate the shadows and doubts and make the light shine," the pope said.

The church respects the attempts of all religions to discover and describe the face of God, but it must distinguish between the acceptable and unacceptable on the basis of revelation.

"The perception of God as the universal father of the world and of men and women" is acceptable, he said, whereas the church rejects "the idea of a divinity dominated by arbitrariness and capriciousness."

The true face of God, he said, was revealed first to the people of Israel, whose perception of God as father "is tied, more than to his creative activity, to his saving interventions" and to his establishment of a covenant with his chosen people.

The Old Testament writers describe God as a father whose love is more constant and reliable than that of early fathers, and the prophets promise God will reveal himself to all who seek him with a sincere heart, the pope said.

With the birth of Jesus, he said, people are offered a secure way to the Father.

"For those who want to encounter the Father it is necessary to believe in the Son; through him God does not limit himself to assuring paternal assistance, but gives us a share in his very life, making us sons and daughters in the Son," the pope said.

Pope meets Italian prime minister; two discuss tensions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although their gifts to one another illustrated the overlapping of Italian and Catholic history, Pope John Paul II and Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema spoke about areas of tension. State funding for Catholic schools, a joint preparation to host millions of pilgrims during the year 2000 and the government's ability to investigate Catholic bishops were all on the agenda during D'Alema's Jan. 8 visit to the Vatican.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

When you're not in a relationship

All too many of us define our own worth by whether or not we're in a "relationship." Because Valentine's Day is coming soon, the advertisers, who make big money preying on human frailty put out a clear message this time of year: "If you're lovable and worthwhile, somebody will give you a great big box of chocolates, or at very least a fancy card."

If those tokens of love don't show up, that proves that you aren't a good person.

It's sad, and it's kind of sick, but if you pay attention to the signals you get from the media now, you'll see that message again and again.

Here's the simple truth. If you aren't in a right relationship now, it does not mean that you are useless, unattractive or a loser. It only means you aren't in a relationship right now — period.

Instead of brooding, why not use this time to develop other areas of your life?

This is a good time for investing time in your friendships. Make two phone calls a day just to keep in contact with people. Work on adding new names to your phone list so you don't have to call the same people over and over. Lots of people are looking for friendship and contact, and they're likely to appreciate your seeking them out.

Set up shopping trips. Go to the movies with old pals. Get together to study — or just to hang out.

Of all the ties that develop in the teen years, friendship is the most enduring. You'll probably never call an old boyfriend or an old girlfriend when you're 35, but an amazing number of high school friendships last for years and years. Invest time in your friends, and they'll be there to support you when you need it.

Besides which, if you're just moping on your couch, you'll never meet anybody. But if you're out and around with your friends, who knows what will turn up?

Next, be sure you stay active doing things you enjoy. Often this means exploring new opportunities. Ordinarily, your local paper will have a whole bunch of free activities listed at least once a week. Make a commitment to try something totally new at least once a month.

— If you like movies, they may be showing old films and having lectures about them at the local library.

— If you're interested in art, attend a gallery opening.

All you need to do is show up.

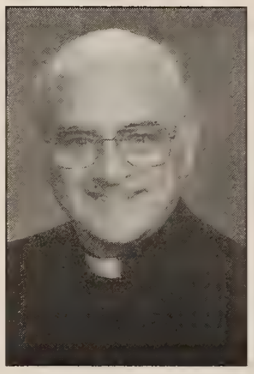
By the way, this will give you new activities to share with your friends, and the most fun way to try anything new is with a friend.

"I've never done that before. How will I know if it's any fun?"

Exactly. You've never done it. It might be a great adventure, and you'll never know if you don't try.

If you're not in a relationship when Valentine's Day arrives, it means you don't have to worry about anybody's expectations but your own. What a great opportunity for finding some new friends and developing your own interests.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

The hidden hand of God

There are periods of upheaval and deep confusion in every life: a broken friendship, a disagreeable assignment, a failed project, an unfulfilled dream. Painful memories are not easy to understand. It is especially difficult when the hidden hand of God is at work.

Discerning the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives takes time. The basic principle of spiritual direction is that the Holy Spirit leads us along paths we would not have chosen for ourselves. We usually go kicking and screaming into the unknown future.

Can you think of a time when that happened to you?

It probably took time to gain the perspective you needed to interpret past events properly. The Russian philosopher Nikolay Berdyiaev made this distinction between remembering and recollecting: "In remembering the past," he said, "I consciously work to achieve the creative act of rethinking the event in such a way as to give it meaning and comprehension."

Why did this happen to me? Why did it happen at this time? We sometimes see the hand of God at work when we re-examine our own history. How often have you heard someone say, "It was a blessing in disguise." Something that first appeared to be a disaster often turns out to be an opportunity for new adventures.

Our hope may not come alive right away, but once we absorb the shock of the bad news, creative energies begin to flow. What follows can be a whole new direction in life.

I remember after my ordination how devastated I was when the bishop told me I had to go for my doctorate in canon law. It meant three more years of dreary study, and I detested canon law. It also implied an unknown future of office work in the marriage tribunal or the chancery office. I was 29, and tired of school. I wanted desperately to do parish work, not office work.

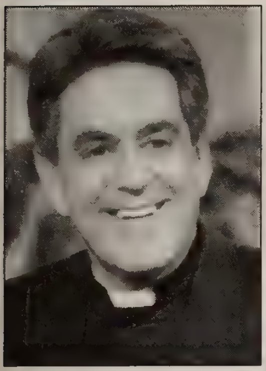
As it turned out, after I got my doctorate I was assigned to the marriage tribunal where I was able to help many men and women through the tragedy of a broken marriage.

Though I never would have chosen this job for myself, I came to understand that the Holy Spirit led me to it. As a result I was able to offer hope and encouragement to many deserving couples.

Looking back on those years of study, I now see the hidden hand of God more clearly. I now understand the path I have traveled better than I did at the time. The words of St. Paul to the Galatians come to mind: "Help carry one another's burdens, in that way you will fulfill the law of Jesus Christ."

Sometimes carrying another's burden can be painful, sometimes it is easy. In either case, the hidden hand of God is at work, nudging us in the right direction even if it means the cross. Which leads to the most profound piece of knowledge one can ever learn.

If the Holy Spirit leads us to the cross, it must mean that the cross is in some way good. Nothing worthwhile in life ever happens without sacrifice and self-denial. We may not like it, but it's true.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The acting profession

As a kid I did a lot of amateur theatre, as an adult I taught university theatre, and occasionally I still get the chance to "trod the boards" at my hometown's community theatre. The craft of acting has always intrigued me and I remain in awe of those who have the commitment and talent to make it their life's work.

My many actor friends stay doggedly at their craft not out of a deep craving to be stars but simply to act: to imagine and to create. And that is probably just as well, since few actors, however talented, ever achieve celebrity status with all the fame and wealth it can command. Most trained actors also know that today's near-idolization of "stars" is a long way from their dubious — and contradictory — reputations in earlier centuries. Only recently has the acting profession become an acceptable, let alone a desirable career.

The word "actor" comes from the Greek word for hypocrite — one who pretends to be what he is not. The philosopher Plato didn't think too highly of those who performed the earliest tragedies and comedies. He protested that actors violate their human nature by projecting themselves as persons other than their true selves. He decried "this deviant and inhuman practice" as injurious to both the individual and society.

In Shakespearean England, actors were considered prostitutes. Women were barred from performing and young boys played female roles. Yet, the theatre was immensely popular. Queen Elizabeth I so enjoyed plays that she granted special performance licenses to her favorite acting companies.

The brilliant French comedian and playwright Moliere courted favor with Louis XIV, who relished the actor's knack for satirizing the King's own royal family and government. But, alas, when Moliere died he was not even granted a Christian burial.

And actors didn't necessarily get appreciation from theatrical colleagues. Duke Saxe-Meiningen of 18th century Germany created stunning stage pictures by manipulating his acting company more like puppets than humans. Asserting the dominance of the director, the Duke rotated actors from leading to small bit parts on a nightly basis. "Stars" were a threat to his directorial authority. As recently as the 1940s Bertold Brecht trained his actors to keep an emotional distance from their roles so that the audience would analyze rather than identify with the characters they were playing.

Writer Truman Capote once argued that the one requirement for being a good actor was "simple-mindedness — a void filled with the playwright and director's brilliance." Ouch!

Yet, the fact remains that for going on 3,000 years, audiences have loved the theatre and people have wanted to be actors. I think the most basic reason is simple. We human beings love stories. And actors turn themselves into the characters of the storyteller's tale. And when they do their jobs well they create characters so convincingly that they and their audience are able to discover some truth about life, about other people, perhaps even about themselves.

Anyone who seeks the truth is attempting to meet a fundamental spiritual need. Whether it comes to us while we are at prayer or reading a book, feeding a hungry stranger at a soup kitchen or in the semi-darkness of a theatre, all truth, if we can only grasp it, leads to God, Source of truth, Creator of life.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Attending a marriage outside the church

Q. A few of our family happened to watch a supposedly Catholic television program recently. The subject was marriage, and the speaker was talking about the wrong of Catholics marrying out of the church.

He then very seriously said that any Catholic attending such a marriage commits a sin. This surprised us a lot.

We had a similar situation in our family where someone Catholic (a cousin) who was very close to all of us married a non-Catholic woman in her church. We troubled over our decision for weeks, and then decided we should attend.

We made sure he realized what we thought about his action and that we were disappointed. But we then told him we would be there because we love him and hope for his happiness. We certainly didn't want this to destroy our relationship or our friendship. He thanked us and said he understood.

We still think we did the right thing. Was that speaker really giving a law that every Catholic must follow in all circumstances?

A. Events like this are always hard for families to deal with. It is necessary to weigh all the factors, as you tried to do, and make a judgment that seems most fair and supportive in a good way for everyone involved.

It would be difficult, I believe, if not impossible, to bring valid moral reasons for making such attendance always wrong, in every conceivable circumstance. One would need to prove that attending such a wedding is either sinful cooperation in wrongdoing or gives genuine scandal.

Neither of those conditions is necessarily fulfilled. Whatever sin might be connected to the action was certainly not intended by the presence of family like yourselves. You made that clear to your cousin, and obviously to your children or others, so there was no scandal that could honestly be taken by anyone over what you did.

And your presence did not facilitate the marriage; from what you have written, it seems certain the wedding would have taken place whether you were there or not. Your "cooperation," if any, was certainly not sufficient or proximate enough to outweigh the good you wished to achieve by being there.

Those are the kinds of questions people should ask themselves when confronted by such decisions. It seems to me you did it quite thoughtfully and correctly.

Two further points need at least mention. You appear knowledgeable enough of your faith to know that the marriage of a Catholic before a non-Catholic minister or pastor is fully recognized by the church if a dispensation (technically called a dispensation from the form of marriage) was previously granted by the bishop.

Apparently a great number of Catholics do not realize also that Catholics are not obliged to be married before a priest if they have joined another faith or in any other way formally left the Catholic Church.

Let's say, therefore, your cousin had abandoned the Catholic Church and become a Methodist. He would no longer be bound to the Catholic form of marriage, and his marriage would be completely according to church law, if of course there were no other invalidating impediments (Canon 1117).

One may agree or not with these laws, or with what another person does. But these realities naturally constitute additional serious considerations for people facing the decisions you made.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Achieving personal goals in 1999

Advent, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's Day have passed. Now it is time to put away all the wreaths, lights, candles, decorations and, of course, the Christmas tree. With the background sounds of NFL playoffs coming from the TV, we spend the day putting our house in order. There is a bit of sadness in the holiday season's passing. Yet, there is an excitement about the new year that overrides any melancholy. The passing of the holidays, the arrival of the new year, and the team effort to return our home to its normal state have us experiencing a sense of transition.

We are more reflective this time of year. This is a time to think about where we are going as individuals and as a family. We discern what we need to do differently, what we need to start doing, what we should stop doing, and what we should keep doing to get there.

Andrew is determined to lose a few pounds by living more healthily. Terri will spend more time studying and developing spiritually. Andréa is going to work on not procrastinating so much. Marty's going to do what he can to maintain a harmonious relationship with his sister.

Critiquing our efforts of the past year, we discern how we can work better as a family. How have we served one another? How have we encouraged? How have we forgiven? How have we celebrated? How have we loved?

These questions lead us to a more important evaluation of our spiritual life as a family. This is an area of growth in which we've made some strides as a family over the years. However, there is always room for plenty of growth. Our family goal is to be more prayerful by walking more closely with God.

Because families are living organisms, when one element changes the whole system changes. Therefore, achieving our personal goals will lend toward our collective spiritual goal.

As Andrew improves his life through healthy eating and exercise, he will model healthy living for us all. Terri's spiritual development will surely take us all on new journeys. Andréa's effort to curtail procrastination will help us all to live in the "NOW" where God is. And Marty's campaign for sibling harmony will surely bring us all greater peace in our lives.

We will surely need each other's help to meet our objectives this year. Our efforts toward each other's success will be prayerful initiative. As we pray and work for the success of each of us, we move closer to our collective spiritual goal.

We pray that all our readers seek transition in this new year. May 1999 bring us all more into the light of God. May God's light shine more brightly on all our family relationships. May we enter into the Jubilee Year 2000 more serving, more encouraged, more forgiving, more celebrating, and more loving because of what we have done as families in 1999.

The Lykes are coordinators of Marriage Ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Pope ordains nine bishops on feast of the Epiphany

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ordaining nine bishops, including the new heads of dioceses in Sudan and Vietnam, Pope John Paul II prayed they would bring the light of Christ's love, truth and peace to the world.

"On the threshold of the third millennium more than ever, the world needs to experience divine goodness, to feel the love of God for every person," the pope said during his Jan. 6 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

As he has done on every feast of the Epiphany since 1979, Pope John Paul ordained bishops and archbishops during the Mass.

"The church continues through the centuries the mission of its Lord; its primary commitment is to help all men and women know the face of the Father by reflecting the light of Christ, the light of the peoples, the light of love, of truth and of peace," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told the new bishops that although some would head dioceses, some would serve as nuncios and some would work at the Vatican, all of them were being ordained "to spread among men and women the Gospel of salvation."

The pope recognized the difficult situations in which Bishop Cesare Mazzolari of Rumbek, Sudan, and Bishop Pierre Tran Dinh Tu of Phu Cuong, Vietnam, were called to serve.

He described Sudan as "a land where the population, subjected to years of wearying suffering, awaits a just peace in respect for the human rights of all."

Bishop Mazzolari had been apostolic administrator of the diocese for eight years. But for much of the time he has had his office in Kenya because of the civil war which has pitted the Muslim-dominated government against rebels from the South, where the majority of the population is Christian or follows traditional African religions.

The bishop told Vatican Radio that although peace negotiations continue, "the results are certainly not encouraging. We are still very far from a peaceful solution."

In addition, he said, the war and bad weather have created a famine in southern Sudan where thousands risk dying of hunger.

Pope John Paul told Bishop Tran Dinh Tu that he is called "to be a messenger of hope ... among brothers and sisters in the faith who are tried by many difficulties."

Although the Vietnamese government has shown increasing tolerance of the church and its work — a few years ago simply naming a bishop involved long negotiations — the Catholic Church still faces restrictions there.

The others ordained by the pope during the Mass included: Archbishops Alessandro D'Errico, an Italian named nuncio to Pakistan; Salvatore Pennacchio, an Italian named nuncio to Rwanda; and Alain Lebeaupin, a Frenchman named nuncio to Ecuador.

The pope also ordained Irish Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; Spanish Bishop Jose Luis Redrado Marchite, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Workers; Spanish Bishop Rafael Cob Garcia, apostolic vicar of Puyo, Ecuador; and Auxiliary Bishop Mattew Moolakkattu of the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Kottayam, India.

The ordinations brought to 277 the number of bishops personally ordained by Pope John Paul during his 20-year pontificate.

According to Vatican Radio, the ceremony brought to 4,492 the number of Catholic bishops in the world, of whom 2,676 were named by Pope John Paul.

In his 20 years as head of the church, the pope has named a total of 2,859 bishops, of whom 183 have died.

After the Mass, the pope addressed thousands of people gathered in the bright sunshine around the Vatican Christmas tree after watching a parade featuring the Three Wise Men on horseback and "La Befana," the witch who brings Italian children stockings on Epiphany.

The pope prayed that the light which led the Magi to find Christ would help men and women find him as well.

"Humanity needs Christ, his word of salvation, his consoling presence and his love which renews everything," the pope said. ▼

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Statuary
- Fountains
- Trees & shrubs
- Spring bulbs

30% off entire inventory!

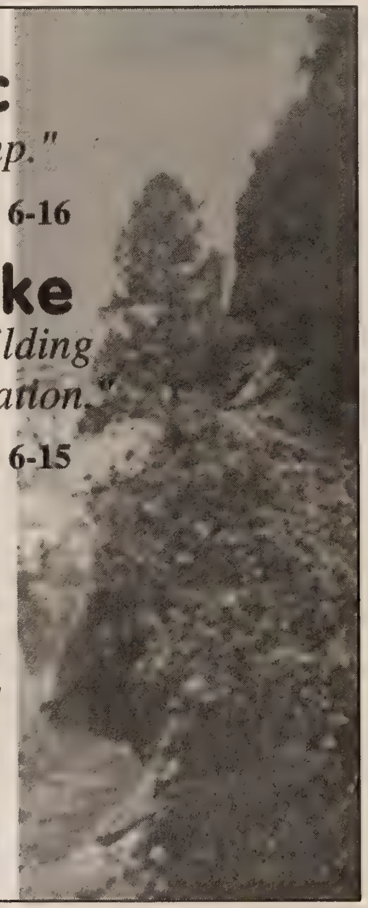
10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

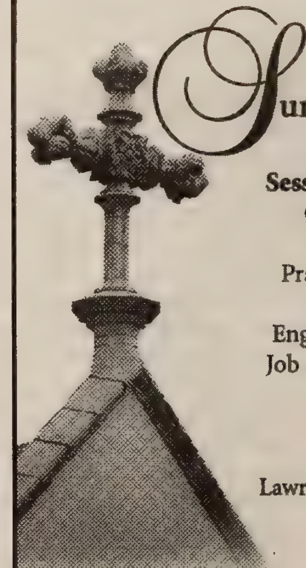
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Laurence parish



Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16

Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766



The Jesuit College of the South
Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality

Session I: May 30-June 5
Christian Holiness*
Desert Mystics
Prayer & Discernment I
Syriac Spirituality
English Meditative Poets*
Job & Prayer of Complaint

Session II: June 6-12
Thomas Merton*
Early Christian Women
Prayer & Discernment II
Spirituality of Aging
Simone Weil
Dialogue: Christ & Buddha

Graduate • Undergraduate • Audit

Guest Faculty
Lawrence Cunningham, Marian Davis, O.S.B., John Haughey, S.J.

Guided Retreats
May 25-May 30 • June 14-June 19
Fr. Robert Rimes, S.J.

Graduate Studies/SICS
4000 Dauphin Street • Mobile, AL 36608-1791
(334) 380-3094 • Fax: (334) 460-2190
www.shc.edu • E-mail: grad@shc.edu

Nurturing learning for body, mind & spirit

SPRING HILL 1830 COLLEGE

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

15 de enero de 1999

Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

Foto por Héctor Andrade

El obispo Curlin besando la imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

Fiesta de la Guadalupana

Por HECTOR ANDRADE

CHARLOTTE — El culto a la Virgen de Guadalupe es una muestra de fe que el pueblo de México lleva desde hace más de 400 años. Actualmente esta fiesta es una tradición que ha hecho historia a través de los años traspasando las fronteras desde su primera aparición en el cerro del Tepeyac —extremidad o remate agudo sobresaliente en el dialecto náhuatl— localizado en lo que anteriormente se le llamó el valle de Anáhuac.

El pasado 12 de diciembre con entusiasmo y alegría, el pueblo latinoamericano festejó, en diferentes puntos de Carolina del Norte, éste día en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

En la iglesia de San Gabriel de la ciudad de Charlotte, el obispo William Curlin presidió la Misa, acompañado del Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M. y del Rev. Diácono Rafael Torres, ante la asistencia de aproximadamente 1500 feligreses. Durante la homilía el padre Vicente Finnerty dijo que la presencia de la Virgen María convoca a ser mejores personas y mejores hijos e hijas de Dios e invitó, a los presentes, a tomar conciencia de la culpabilidad que se tiene al utilizar la discriminación entre el mismo pueblo latino al ver con malos ojos a ciertas personas de otros países, y recalcó la necesidad de recobrar la dignidad para poder respetar a toda persona.

El obispo William Curlin al dirigirse a la comunidad dijo: “Agradezco que me hayan dado la oportunidad de compartir el día de hoy con ustedes e invito a todos los padres a que sigan transmitiendo ese mensaje de amor y de fe de la Virgen María a sus hijos” y agregó: “Necesitamos sacerdotes y espero que en el futuro salgan sacerdotes de aquí”. Asimismo se dio a conocer que el obispo William Curlin está cumpliendo su décimo aniversario, como obispo, recibiendo el reconocimiento con aplausos por todos los asistentes en la Iglesia de San Gabriel durante la noche dedicada a la Virgen de Guadalupe. ▼

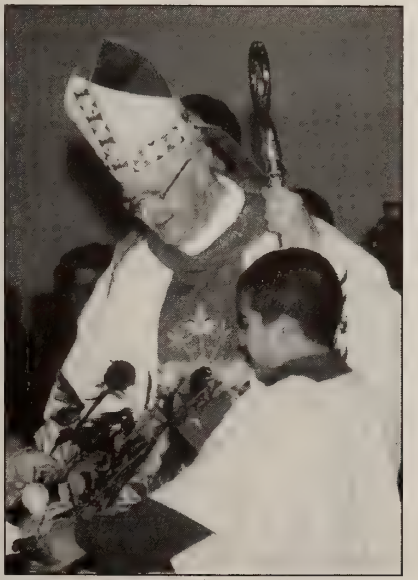


Foto por Héctor Andrade

El obispo William Curlin recibiendo las flores que los niños traían para depositar a los pies de la estatua de la Virgen.

El Papa agradece a Castro por reponer la Navidad en Cuba

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II envió por telegrama su agradecimiento al Presidente cubano Fidel Castro por reponer oficialmente la Navidad como día de fiesta en Cuba.

En un mensaje del 23 de diciembre emitido el 28 de diciembre en el Vaticano, el pontífice dijo que quería “expresarle mi profundo aprecio de la decisión tomada a reponer al día de Navidad su carácter festivo para todos los cubanos”.

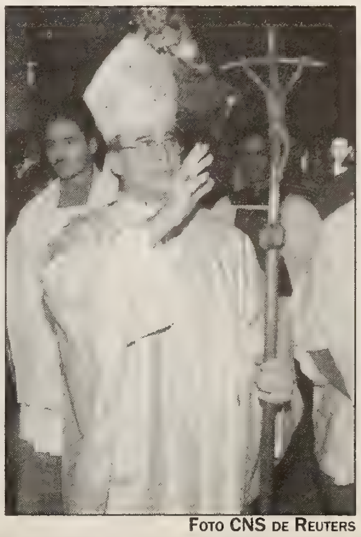


Foto CNS de Reuters

Monseñor Jaime Ortega Alamino, Cardenal cubano entra a la catedral de La Habana para celebrar la Misa de Navidad el 25 de diciembre.

El gobierno comunista de Cuba anunció el primero de diciembre que “de este año en adelante”, el 25 de diciembre sería un día de fiesta nacional. Esta declaración repuso la Navidad casi 30 años después de que los oficiales suspendieron su celebración.

En el telegrama, el Papa Juan Pablo le mandó a Castro sus “sinceras felicitaciones en esta ocasión de la inminente fiesta de Navidad” y “mejores deseos” referentes al día nacional cubano, el primero de enero, que conmemora el aniversario de la revolución que llevó a Castro al poder en 1959.

“Ofrezco oraciones fervientes al Todopoderoso”, añadió el Papa, “para que, con la cooperación de todos los ciudadanos, este país noble, siempre presente en mi corazón, continúe su rumbo hacia una sociedad más próspera, justa y fraternal”.

El gobierno cubano se declaró ateo en 1962 y prohibió la Navidad en Cuba en 1969 — los oficiales explicaron que los obreros se necesitaban en los campos para cumplir con las demandas de la cosecha de caña de azúcar.

Se canceló también la Navidad del año siguiente. En años consiguientes, la Navidad en Cuba continuó como un día laborable mientras que se volvió a celebrar la llegada del año nuevo.

Castro abrió el paso a la celebración legal de la Navidad en diciembre de 1997, 40 días antes de la visita pastoral del Papa Juan Pablo II, del 21 al 25 de enero, de 1998.

En ese momento, Castro anunció que haría una “excepción” y que permitiría la observación de este día de fiesta, pero no indicó por cuánto tiempo lo haría.

El Papa había pedido personalmente este paso del dirigente cubano durante su visita en noviembre 1996 al Vaticano.

Además de reponer el día de fiesta permanentemente este año, el gobierno cubano también permitió que las autoridades eclesiásticas emitieran por radio nacional su saludo navideño. ▼

Asesinato de sacerdote, monja en Bolivia alzan el número de muertes de misioneros

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Un sacerdote y una monja colombianos fueron asesinados en una emboscada a finales de diciembre en las montañas de Bolivia, elevando el número mundial de misioneros muertos a 39 en 1998.

La agencia Fides del Vaticano dijo que la memoria de los misioneros asesinados debe llevar a los católicos a ponderar el sentido de la Navidad, y a mostrar su preocupación por los millones de cristianos perseguidos en todo el mundo.

Los misioneros asesinados fueron Padre Redentorista Alvaro López Sora y Misionera de Teresita Hermana Celina Posada, los dos de Colombia. Según el Vaticano, fueron asesinados “en una emboscada en un área montañosa cerca de Palos Blancos”, en Bolivia.

El 23 de diciembre, el Papa Juan Pablo II envió sus condolencias a la gente y al vicario apostólico de Reyes, la jurisdicción en la que los misioneros ejercieron su ministerio y murieron.

La lista de 1998 de los misioneros martirizados incluyó a grupos de sacerdotes, monjas, hermanos y seminarios muertos en Rwanda, la República Democrática del Congo, Angola y Yemen. ▼

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vincente H Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo:

Una de mis canciones favoritas es una de José Luis Perales que se llama "Navidad". Permítanme compartir las estrofas:

Mientras haya en la tierra un niño feliz
Mientras haya una hoguera para compartir
Mientras haya unas manos que trabajen en paz
mientras brilla una estrella, habrá Navidad.

Navidad, Navidad, en la nieve, en la arena
Navidad, Navidad, en la tierra y en el mar.

Mientras haya unos labios que hablen de amor
Mientras haya unas manos cuidando una flor
Mientras haya un futuro hacia donde mirar
Mientras haya ternura, habrá Navidad.

Navidad, Navidad ...

Mientras haya un vencido dispuesto a olvidar
Mientras haya un caído a quien levantar
Mientras paren la guerra y se duerma un cañón
Mientras cure un herido, habrá Navidad.

Hermanos y hermanas, piensen en esta canción. Traten de captar su mensaje. Es un mensaje de esperanza. El Adviento, la Navidad, el Año Nuevo, están repletos de esperanza.

¿Qué es la esperanza? Es creer en la fe de Dios en nosotros. Escuchen bien... es la fe de Dios en nosotros. Imagínense, no sólo creemos en Dios sino creemos que Dios cree en nosotros. Esta es la esperanza. Tengan cuidado. No recorten la generosidad de Dios. No sean reacios a creer en la plena fe de Dios en cada uno de ustedes. Dios no se hecha para atrás, no se arrepiente cuando ama.

¡Qué difícil es creer en esta fe de Dios en nosotros! El conoce nuestras limitaciones, nuestras debilidades, nuestras traiciones. A pesar de todo, El sigue creyendo en nosotros. No se puede medir su fe en nosotros: **"¿Puede una madre olvidarse de su criatura, dejar de querer al hijo de sus entrañas? Pues, aunque ella se olvide, yo no te olvidaré. Mira, como te tengo grabada en la palma de mis manos"** (Isaías 49, 15-16). Aún cuando no creamos en nosotros, El cree. Por eso cada día saldrá para esperarnos con los brazos abiertos, seguro de nuestra vuelta. Y apenas nos vislumbre desde lejos se adelantará de nuevo en el amor, correrá hacia nosotros y hará más fiesta que antes de habernos ido. Dejen que Dios sea necio, necio en insistirles que su fe en ustedes es inquebrantable.

Amigos y amigas, conviertan esta fe de Dios en ustedes. Conviértanla en energía, entrega, encarnación en la vida y en la historia. Y si Dios cree en ustedes, también cree en toda la humanidad. Compartan, hermanos y hermanas, las alegrías y las penas de las personas con quienes conviven, sean ó no conscientes ellos de la realidad de ser objetos de la fe de Dios. Nuestra fe en el prójimo, en su historia, es la señal de que esperamos por Dios. El nos confía la construcción del mundo. Lo que queda estropeado por nosotros será definitivamente rehecho, purificado, transformado, resucitado al final de los tiempos porque el triunfo está ya jugado: ha ganado la vida sobre la muerte, venció el amor.

Amigos y amigas, la esperanza es María. Ella siente estremecerse sus entrañas al descubrir que el Todopoderoso ha confiado en ella y la ha hecho "maravillosa". Ella grita, canta su esperanza, su alegría. Dios la ha hecho "grande". Y ella es consciente y lo disfruta aquí, sin esperar el después. **"Desde ahora me llamarán feliz todas las generaciones"** (Lucas 1, 48). No sólo los ángeles y los santos en el cielo, sino también las personas sobre la tierra, reconocerán la fe de Dios en ella. **"Feliz la que ha creído que se cumplirán las palabras que le han dicho de parte del Señor"** (Lucas 1, 45). Si, hermanos y hermanas, María no sólo creyó en Dios, sino que creyó en la fe que Dios ponía en ella. Y esa fe la hizo dichosa en la tierra. Ese salto es el más difícil para nosotros. Es más difícil "dejarse amar por Dios" que amarle; aceptar "su fe en nosotros" que nuestra fe en El. Para ello es necesario ser tan pobre, tan abierto a la verdad, tan virginalmente consciente de la propia dignidad, tan audazmente humilde como María.

Amigos y amigas, que el Señor nos conceda esta gracia en este nuevo año.

Aceptación del Señor

El Señor vino al mundo y, a través de su vida, se nos va manifestando con palabras y hechos para que creamos en El y lo aceptemos como nuestro Redentor y Salvador. Los que creen en El, como los Magos de oriente, encuentran el camino que los conduce a la salvación y a la vida.

El Señor quiere que lo conozcamos. El se manifiesta a nosotros y sus revelaciones son auténticas y creíbles puesto que tienen el sello de la misma verdad eterna.

El Señor se nos da a conocer para que creamos en El y nuestro modo de vivir sea según su ley.

Ya desde el inicio de su existencia terrena El se revela a nosotros como *verdadero hombre.* A la par que cualquier otro hombre, nace débil y desvalido. Además nace en la más absoluta pobreza y necesitado de todo para poner de manifiesto desde el mismo principio de su vida su amor para con los más pobres y menos afortunados.

Se manifiesta además como *Rey y Señor* al cual los Magos, en nombre de la humanidad entera, vienen a ofrecer sus regalos: oro, incienso y mirra.

A este Rey y Señor nosotros tenemos que ofrecerle el libre e iluminado homenaje de nuestra fe y de nuestro amor, aceptando confiadamente las verdades que El nos va revelando.

Finalmente, se nos manifestó como *Hijo unigénito* de Dios, por el testimonio del mismo Padre celestial en su Bautismo en el Jordán. A este Hijo nosotros debemos abrir de par en par las puertas de nuestro corazón para que entre la verdad que ilumina nuestro camino hacia la casa del Padre.

Pidámosle a Dios que nuestra propia vida sea una continua manifestación de la presencia de El y nuestras obras manifiesten claramente que hemos recibido el mensaje de salvación.

Reimpreso con permiso.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 6 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

Tercer Milenio: "El Jubileo"

Desde hace algún tiempo es común escuchar, hablar o leer informaciones acerca de la celebración del "Jubileo del Año 2000". Pero... ¿qué es un jubileo?

El término "jubileo" expresa alegría; no sólo alegría interior, sino un júbilo que se manifiesta exteriormente , ya que la venida de Dios es también un suceso exterior, visible, audible y tangible, como recuerda San Juan (Jn 1,1). Es justo, pues, que toda expresión de júbilo por esta venida tenga su manifestación exterior. Esta indica que la Iglesia se alegra por la salvación, invita a todos a la alegría y se esfuerza por crear las condiciones para que las energías salvíficas puedan ser comunicadas a cada uno. Por ello, el año 2000 marcará la fecha del Gran Jubileo.

Los dos mil años del nacimiento de Cristo representan un jubileo extraordinariamente grande no sólo para los cristianos, sino indirectamente para toda la humanidad, dado el papel primordial que el cristianismo ha jugado en estos dos milenios. Esta gran celebración se inició en los umbrales del año 2000 con un amplísimo programa, pleno de contenidos cristológicos, que comenzó en 1977. Este primer año fue dedicado a la reflexión sobre Cristo, Verbo del Padre, hecho hombre por obra del Espíritu Santo.

El año 1988, segundo de la fase preparatoria, fue dedicado de modo particular al Espíritu Santo y a su presencia santificadora dentro de la comunidad de los discípulos de Cristo.

Este año de 1999, tercer y último año preparatorio, tendrá la función de ampliar los horizontes del creyente según la visión misma de Cristo; la visión del "Padre Celestial", por quién fue enviado y a quien retornará.

El Jubileo deberá confirmar en los cristianos de hoy la fe en el Dios revelado en Cristo, sostener la esperanza prolongada en la espera de la vida eterna y vivificar la caridad comprometida activamente en el servicio a los hermanos.

¡A celebrar el Tercer Milenio, felices de saber que Jesucristo es el mismo ayer, hoy y siempre! ▼

Editado de un artículo publicado en la "Vida Cristiana", boletín dominical de la Iglesia Católica de Cuba

Arzobispo de Corpus Christi lleva personalmente auxilio a Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Un zapato blanco de mujer yacía arrugado en medio de un camino polvoriento cerca de las orillas del Río Choluteca en Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

El camino polvoriento — alguna vez pavimentado — cruzaba el río con un puente, para que los viajeros pudieran cruzar con facilidad de un lado al otro. Pero entonces, vino a comienzos de noviembre el azote del huracán Mitch.

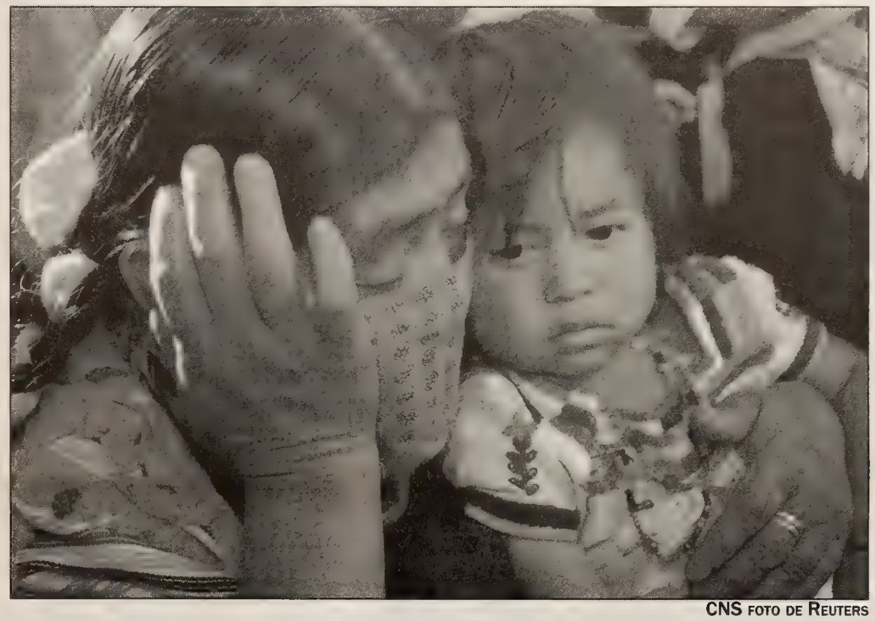
Ahora no hay puente, sólo una bajada que mira las orillas baldías y pantanosas que antes lucían casas.

"Es abrumador y triste ser testigo de esto. Un cosa es enterarse por oídas, y otra es verlo con los propios ojos. Cada una de estas casas albergaba a una familia, sus recuerdos y sus vidas", dijo Monseñor Roberto González, Arzobispo de Corpus Christi, Texas, al inspeccionar barrios vacíos en un viaje del 14 de diciembre a la capital hondureña.

La visita incluyó una reunión con Monseñor Oscar A. Rodríguez Maradiaga, Arzobispo de Tegucigalpa, a quien se le presentó una donación de $60,000 del Comité de Obispos Estadounidense para la Iglesia Latinoamericana. Los fondos se destinarán a la reconstrucción del país — un esfuerzo que puede durar una década y más.

Al ver la escena devastadora, el zapato blanco solitario estaba entre las imágenes que le dejó una impresión duradera al Monseñor González.

"Uno se pregunta, ¿quién usó ese zapato y dónde estará ahora, y cómo estará? ¿Vive? ¿Murió?", se preguntó el obispo, sabiendo que llevará mucho más que buenos sentimientos la reconstrucción de Honduras, Nicaragua y Guatemala, cuyo monto combinado de muertes llega a más de 11,000 personas, con otro sinnúmero de personas vivas, pero desamparadas. ▼



CNS FOTO DE REUTERS

Mujer Maya

Una mujer indígena maya con la cara cubierta y un niño en brazos llora el 22 de diciembre durante una misa que conmemoró el primer aniversario de la masacre de 45 indígenas campesinos sin armas por miembros de un grupo de paramilitares en Acteal en el estado mexicano de Chiapas. Unas 5,000 personas asistieron a la misa celebrada por dos obispos locales.

CNS FOTO DE MARK KEMPF, ST. LOUIS REVIEW

Coro de angeles

Miembros del Coro Arzodiocesano de Niños practican en la Catedral Basílica de St. Louis en preparación para una próxima misa papal. Casi 80 jóvenes, bajo la dirección del coordinador de música para la arzodiócesis, John A. Romeri, cantarán para el Papa Juan Pablo II en la misa del 27 de enero en el TWA Dome en St. Louis.

Calvin el burro sirve a Dios en obras de teatro navideñas, de Pascua

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (CNS) — Calvin será solamente un burro, pero sirve a Dios de manera especial durante las obras de teatro navideñas y de Pascua que conmemoran el nacimiento y la pasión de Cristo.

Antes de la Navidad, Calvin participa en Las Posadas, procesiones tradicionales a la luz de vela del 16 al 24 de diciembre, durante las que los católicos de Albuquerque representan el viaje en el que José y María fueron rechazados al buscar albergue en Bethlehem.

Las Posadas llegaron a Nuevo México hace 400 años con los misioneros españoles y se utilizaron para enseñar al pueblo del Nuevo Mundo cómo se celebran los misterios de la Encarnación, comenzando con el nacimiento humilde de Jesús, notó el Padre Millán García, nativo de España.

El Padre García, capellán del ministerio de detención de la diócesis arzobispal de Santa Fe, dijo que las obra de la vida real, tales como las que incluyen a Calvin, son importantes para la gente.

"Es mediante nuestra naturaleza carnal y humana que intentamos percibir el misterio de Dios hecho hombre. Nos ponemos en la eterna presencia de Dios haciéndose hombre", dijo el Padre García. "Además, el carácter del burro es dócil, persistente en seguir, y humilde".

Cada fiesta de Pascua y Navidad, Calvin ayuda en las obras de teatro y procesiones religiosas.

Durante la época de Pascua, la entrada triunfante de Cristo a Jerusalén a cuestas de un burro el domingo de ramos se recrea con un actor representando a Jesús sentado sobre Calvin. ▼

Nuevo programa de inmigración se dirige a trabajadores ilegales de empresas empacadoras de carne

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (CNS) — hace más de una década, Cecilia Madrigal inmigró a los Estados Unidos de El Salvador. Su vida dependía, literalmente, de ello.

Por lo que su país se veía en medio de una revolución, Madrigal pudo hacerse ciudadana de los Estados Unidos mediante una amnistía otorgada por los Estados Unidos.

"Vine aquí para salvarme la vida", dijo. "Recibí una bendición de Dios".

Pero Madrigal, directora del ministerio hispano de la Catedral de Santa María en Grand Island, se preocupa que un programa llamado "Operation Prime Beef" — también llamado "Vanguard" — regresará a los hispanos a sus países destruidos por la guerra, como El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua.

"Sus vidas están en peligro porque estaban involucrados en cuestiones políticas", dijo. "Estas personas tienen mucho miedo de volver. No sería lo mismo para ellos".

Auspiciado por el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización de los Estados Unidos, la Operation Prime Beef quiere dirigirse a las plantas empacadoras de carne de Nebraska para encontrar y sacar a los trabajadores indocumentados.

Adolpho Barros, director del ministerio hispano de la diócesis de Grand Island, dijo que podría afectar de manera adversa a los que vienen aquí de países pobres como México.

"De muchas formas, podrán destruir a una familia al deportar al padre," dijo Barros. "Sería una tragedia tener a niños sin padres".

Jerry Heinauer, director del distrito de Omaha del Servicio de Inmigración, dijo que hasta un cuarto de todos los empleados de las plantas empacadoras de carne viven ilegalmente en el país. Las plantas de la diócesis incluyen a las de Grand Island, Lexington, Gibbon y Gering.

Mediante la Operation Prime Beef, los oficiales de inmigración enviarán por correo anuncios de inspección y citaciones administrativas a cada uno de los negocios de empaque y procesamiento de carne en Nebraska.

Pedirán la fecha de contratación del empleado, su número de Seguro Social, número de registro de extranjero y copias de los formularios de I-9, que verifican la elegibilidad de empleo. Los agentes regresarán a las instalaciones del Servicio de Inmigración donde se procesarán las informaciones con una base de datos para determinar quién está autorizado a trabajar en los Estados Unidos y quién no.

El Servicio de Inmigración entonces concertará una cita para visitar a cada empresa y hablar con los empleados cuyas informaciones muestren discrepancias. Los empleados que no tengan la información necesaria probablemente dejarán los trabajos antes del regreso del Servicio de Inmigración, ha comentado la organización. En algunos casos, el Servicio de Inmigración detendrá a empleados sin documentación que encuentren durante la visita.

El Servicio de Inmigración no efectuará ninguna detención hasta marzo de 1999, dijo Heinauer. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Finalizando 1998
Una mujer y su nieto ven la última puesta de sol de 1998 sobre las orillas del río Hooghly en Calcuta, India, el 31 de diciembre. El mundo conmemoró el comienzo de 1999 reflejando en el venidero nuevo milenio.

Arzobispo de Minnesota quiere más diáconos de color

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Monseñor Harry J. Flynn, Arzobispo de St. Paul-Minneapolis, ha pedido que se hagan diáconos permanentes más hombres de minorías raciales y culturales.

En una carta pastoral marcando el vigésimo quinto aniversario del establecimiento del diaconado permanente en la diócesis arzobispal, dijo que uno de sus deseos "es que se acerquen más hombres de color para aceptar la invitación de Dios a servir la iglesia como diáconos".

"En la medida en que la población de la diócesis arzobispal se haga más diversa", dijo, "existe mayor necesidad de diáconos de los diversos grupos étnicos. La lengua es solamente un elemento necesario para el ministerio efectivo de nuestros hermanos y hermanas de color. El ministerio debe tener en cuenta también las diferencias culturales que son parte íntegra a las vidas de muchas personas de color".

La carta se publicó el 17 de diciembre.

La diócesis arzobispal tiene minorías grandes de africano-americanos, americanos nativos, hispanos, hmong, vietnamitas y coreanos.

Tiene unos 180 diáconos permanentes y 250 sacerdotes diocesanos activos que sirven a 222 parroquias con una población católica de aproximadamente 750,000 personas. ▼

Monseñor DiMarzio, aplaude decisión estadounidense sobre refugiados centroamericanos

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Monseñor Nicholas A. DiMarzio, Obispo y Director del Comité de Obispos Estadounidense sobre la Migración, alabó la decisión tomada por los Estados Unidos el 30 de diciembre de otorgar Temporary Protected Status (Estatus de Protección Temporal) a 150,000 hondureños y nicaragüenses que viven en los Estados Unidos ilegalmente.

El obispo auxiliar de Newark, N.J., dijo que es desafortunado, sin embargo, que aproximadamente medio millón de salvadoreños y guatemaltecos — cuyos países sufrieron enormes daños con el huracán Mitch el pasado octubre y noviembre — no reciban la misma protección.

"El efecto del huracán Mitch fue regional y requiere una respuesta regional", dijo.

Bajo el Estatus de Protección Temporal, los hondureños y nicaragüenses que entraron a los Estados Unidos ilegalmente antes del 30 de diciembre pueden registrarse para vivir y trabajar legalmente en los Estados Unidos durante los próximos 18 meses para poder enviar parte de sus ganancias a los parientes que quedaron atrás en sus países natales. Si las condiciones lo merecen, se podrá extender más adelante el periodo de 18 meses.

La Fiscal Janet Reno suspendió todas las deportaciones pendientes de hondureños, nicaragüenses, salvadoreños y guatemaltecos inmediatamente después del golpe del huracán, pero esta suspensión caducaría el 7 de enero.

Mientras que los inmigrantes ilegales de El Salvador y Guatemala no recibieron el Estatus de Protección Temporal, Reno ha extendido la suspensión de deportaciones a tales países por 60 días, hasta el 8 de marzo.

En una conferencia de prensa la Comisionada del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, Doris M. Meissner dijo que se está favoreciendo a los hondureños y nicaragüenses porque sus países fueron afectados mucho más severamente por el huracán Mitch.

Dijo que el 90 por ciento de los 3 millones de centroamericanos desplazados por el desastre provienen de Honduras y Nicaragua, y que la mayoría de salvadoreños y guatemaltecos desplazados han podido regresar a sus casas.

El Monseñor DiMarzio dijo que aunque El Salvador y Guatemala no sufrieron tanta devastación como Honduras y Nicaragua, son también países pequeños y pobres que han sufrido daños severos.

"Están muertas o desaparecidas centenares de personas en los dos países, con centenares de caminos y puentes dañados o destruidos", dijo. "Han sido destruidas miles de casas, al mismo tiempo que han sido destruidas las cosechas".

"Sólo en Guatemala", añadió, "95 por ciento de la cosecha nacional de banana se ha dañado, al igual que 25 a 60 por ciento de la cosecha de maíz, frijol, café y azúcar, y se ha perdido 30 por ciento del ganado".

Insistió que la administración vuelva a considerar su decisión y extendiera Estatus de Protección Temporal a nacionales salvadoreños y guatemaltecos también.

Dijo que el envío de las ganancias de los extranjeros a sus países "exceden por mucho anualmente la asistencia extranjera estadounidense y el alivio de desastres combinados" y formará una parte importante del esfuerzo de reconstrucción en Nicaragua y Honduras. ▼

Family is key to success of evangelization

In this issue and in the coming months, The Catholic News & Herald will bring its readers a variety of information on the church's celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity. The following story comes from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000.

By JOE TOWALSKI

Getting young children to Sunday Mass isn't a serious problem for most families. The exercise of a little parental authority usually goes a long way to convince recalcitrant youngsters to climb out of bed and into the car for the trip to church.

But what do you do about older children, spouses and other family members who don't share your joy when it comes to church-going? Trying to force these folks into the pews often just fuels resistance and resentment.

The predicament challenges families as the third millennium nears. Pope John Paul II has identified evangelization as a major theme in preparations for the Jubilee Year 2000, and that includes evangelization within the "domestic church," as the family is called.

When it comes to Catholics evangelizing to convince reluctant family members about the value of church attendance, one approach gets a ringing endorsement: Be a good example.

The success of efforts at home hinges on being a positive role model, according to Margaret Ralph, secretary of educational ministry in the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.

"I don't think you can ever persuade children that something is important and essential to their well-being and then not practice it yourself," she said.

Father Leroy Kremer, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Little Falls, Minn., believes parents need to share their faith with children, be patient and keep the channels of communication open.

"Parents and other adults shouldn't keep their faith to themselves," he said. "They need to let kids know that indeed this person Christ is important in their lives. In due time the kids will discover this Jesus too, but it's not easy or something that may come that quickly."

Father Kremer added that it's necessary to "encourage parents to be patient with their kids who are trying to find their spiritual wings."

"Christianity is an adult expression, it's about an adult practice, and we can't expect kids to assume that maturity and that posture toward discipleship that some of us would like to think we have after 30, 40, 50 years of struggle," he said.

And children, especially teen-agers, struggle with a lot of choices. Many teen-agers are interested in spirituality, but rebel against going to church as a way of asserting their independence.

"I think parents need to be respectful," she said. "I think they need to share with the kids their concern. That would really go a long way without forcing it down their throats. It helps to engage them in conversation about it, to hear their questions and doubts."

That doesn't mean parents would leave the impression that it doesn't matter whether or not children go to church, because it does matter, Father Kremer said. "Roman Catholicism is communitarian and sacramental in nature. We believe as members of the Body of Christ we are the arms and legs of Jesus, and we need each other on this pilgrimage we're on together."

Parishes can do their part, too, by inviting teen-agers to share their gifts and talents with the church and by giving parents support and ideas so they can provide a loving and faith-filled environment in which their children can grow.

"We need to help that domestic church grow," Father Kremer said. "Because if that domestic church is healthy, the parish church will be healthy."

Sometimes it is the adult members of the family who are slow to join the faith pilgrimage. When that's the case, according to Christine Codden, spouses and other family members should still focus on being a good example.

"Don't try and convert them," said Codden, director of the Family Life Bureau in the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minn. "You have to work on your own spirituality. By doing that, you'll be able to receive the graces and strength from the sacrament.... Sometimes working on yourself pulls other people along with you."

Margaret Ralph of the Lexington Diocese concurs.

"I think what attracts people to the church is meeting other people who are joyful, who are loving, and for whom the church is essential," she said. "People simply get curious about the source of this joy and this ability to love."

Of those instances Ralph knows where a partner has had a conversion experience and come back to the church, it hasn't been through the efforts of the other partner. Rather, she said, "it's been through a Cursillo invitation, or some other friendship where the person felt more freedom, not demands and expectations."

Finally, don't underestimate the power of prayer, Ralph said. Evangelization, after all, is the work of the Holy Spirit. ▼

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

Fr. Paul Maier
Thurs. Feb. 25 & Sat. Feb. 27
9:30am — 3:30pm

Fr. Paul Maier leads this day of prayer and reflection on the book of Psalms with special emphasis on the Psalms of the Holy Week Triduum. The day includes Eucharist at noon and lunch. The same program is offered both days.

Cost: $30 (lunch included)
Pre-register by February 19

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Opening a 2nd location late January...
72 Long Shoals Road · Arden, NC
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Book Review

Reviewed by BRAIN T. OLSZEWSKI
Catholic News Service

"Shopping for Faith: American Religion in the New Millennium"

by Richard Cimino and Don Lattin. Jossey-Bass Publishers (San Francisco, 1998). 240 pp. $25.00

During and after the Second Vatican Council, parishes hosted discussion groups in which the council documents were studied, and practical applications were sought. While not of the magnitude of the council documents, "Shopping for Faith" is a book that could provide productive discussions among those who are employed as church ministers, such as catechists, pastors, bishops, etc.

Like others who must recognize trends in markets, and who seek a part of that market, ministers at all levels will want to read this book. Even if they don't want to, they have to if they are going to have people to whom to minister.

Marketplace is not a word often associated with faith and spirituality. Cimino and Lattin say as much: "Shopping for faith can trivialize religion or empower the spiritual search. Viewing religion as a kind of cafeteria — a few bites of Zen meditation washed down with Gregorian chant and topped off with latest self-help book — can leave one hungry in the end."

However, through interviews and research, they demonstrate that people are shopping for the place where their faith and spiritual lives will be fortified. Americans, used to shopping for everything else, want to know what options are available when it comes to religion, and are willing to search until they find one, or a combination of several.

Does this mean Catholicism and other traditional denominations are in trouble? The authors don't think so. Rather, they see the marketplace spirituality as an opportunity for shoppers to leave an "abusive or alienating religious climate" and to find an "authentic spiritual path."

Those ministers who read this book should do so with an open mind. What you will read might make you uncomfortable, because words like "adapt" may raise defenses. However, the authors' explanations are worth considering.

In preparation for the millennium, Pope John Paul II has spoken of the new evangelization — an evangelization that encompasses self, the community of practicing Catholics, alienated Catholics, and people who are not part of any denomination. It is against that background that this book should be read. If the reader reflects in terms of evangelization, what is reported will not be threatening but, rather, enlightening.

The book also includes a CD-ROM with links to topics and denominations mentioned in the text. Those with Internet access will appreciate this electronic faith map.

The marketplace for faith and spirituality is vast. Churches and their ministers are going to need guidance if they are going to reach and serve those in the market. "Shopping for Faith" is a good place to begin. ▼

Brian T. Olszewski is the communications director for the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

RESPECT LIFE
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

No public official, especially one claiming to be a faithful and serious Catholic, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct attacks on innocent human life.

— NCCB, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics"

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

Word to Life

January 17, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4ab, 7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
3) John 1:29-34

By JEAN DENTON

At 26, Michele was a top marketing specialist in the headquarters of a large corporation. Smart, energetic, confident, attractive, hard-working, respectful of her superiors and enthusiastic about learning from them, she fit all the adjectives that describe a young professional on the fast track up. Socially, she was "the life of the party," with a positive, outgoing personality to which people automatically gravitated. Many of her friends had active faith lives, but many, especially among her peers, had no religious or spiritual background at all.

When Michele answered God's call to the religious life, only her closest friends were not surprised. She slowly, diligently had been following a process of discernment for several years. When she finally made her decision, however, the transition from secular to religious life came more rapidly than even she had expected. So to her wide social circle, and especially to her co-workers, this move was both radical and sudden.

Although she faced a huge amount of personal business to complete before moving halfway across the country to join her new religious community, Michele's most daunting task was to explain her decision to offer herself fully to the service of God. Just after she gave her two-week notice at the office, she was bombarded with questions and comments. "You know," she lamented, "I sort of wish I could've slipped away without anyone noticing." Immediately she laughed at the notion and added, gamely, "But I know the Lord calls me to a bit more than that. This is all part of what I am to do."

God had shown Michele what He explains through Isaiah in today's first reading: "It is too little for you to be my servant.... I will make you a light to the nations."

She had a not-to-be-missed opportunity to share the faith that led her to this decision to alter her life. Yes, she had chosen to be a servant of the Lord, but as a light to others she would tell about a love for God that is so strong that she would choose to leave behind a "successful life" that most people strive for and few have the courage to give up.

Since Michele is a person others naturally want to emulate, her witness had a big impact on many, including some "nonbelievers," making obvious God's choice of her as both a servant and a light.

Questions:

Have you ever kept your service to God quiet so you wouldn't have to explain yourself to skeptics or nonbelievers? Who is a model for you as a servant of God as well as a light to others?

"You are my servant, he said to me,
Israel, through whom I show my glory."

— Isaiah 49:3

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 17 - Jan. 23, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34; **Monday**, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday**, Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday**, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19, **Saturday**, Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21

MODULARCORP
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

New at the box office

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM GRAMERCY PICTURES

"The Hi-Lo Country"

Billy Crudup (left) and Woody Harrelson star as cowboy buddies in "The Hi-Lo Country." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Emperor's Shadow"
(Fox Lorber)

Violent historical drama set in 210 B.C. as a ruthless warlord (Jiang Wen) conquers surrounding kingdoms to unite China under his tyrannical reign, but cannot control the rebellious spirit of his court musician (Ge You) who has dared to take the dictator's daughter (Xu Qing) as his lover. Director Zhou Xiaowen provides intriguing character studies of the two men, and the picture's visual spectacle is impressive, but the constant period barbarity overwhelms the narrative. Subtitles. Much stylized violence, discreet sexual encounters and fleeting nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Hi-Lo Country"
(Gramercy)

Western-themed melodrama set in 1946 New Mexico where two cowboy buddies (Woody Harrelson and Billy Crudup) court tragedy after falling in love with the same married woman (Patricia Arquette). Directed by Stephen Frears, the backdrop of the dying cowboy culture proves of more interest than the twisted loyalties of the tangled threesome. Sporadic violence, frequent heavy drinking, discreet sexual encounters, some profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Hurlyburly"
(Fine Line)

Pointless couple of hours spent in the company of a manic, doped-up Hollywood agent (Senn Penn), his mixed-up pals (Kevin Spacey, Chazz Palminteri and Garry Shandling) and a few women they mistreat along the way. Directed by Anthony Drazan from David Rabe's 1984 play, the one-dimensional characters are chiefly defined by their drug, alcohol and sexual preferences in stagey proceedings dominated by Penn's delusional ranting and raving, but none of it has any dramatic interest or human insight. Nasty violence, sexual situations and references, frequent substance abuse, constant rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Theory of Flight",
(Fine Line)

Seriocomic misfire in which a feisty, terminally ill paraplegic (Helena Bonham Carter) is so determined to experience sexual intimacy before death that her daily caretaker (Kenneth Branagh) sets out to rob a bank to pay for the services of a dashing gigolo. While striving to emphasize the characters' humanity, director Paul Greengrass fails to mesh comedy with tragedy as the situation becomes increasingly bizarre and contrived. Discreet bedroom scenes, several sexual references, fleeting background shots of Internet pornography and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen – Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Retiring or changing jobs?

How will you handle your Lump Sum Distribution?
"Guide to Lump Sum Distributions" can help answer your questions. Call for a free copy.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc Member SIPC

Enjoy Catholic programming through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus all your favorite cable channels!

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

dish NETWORK

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878

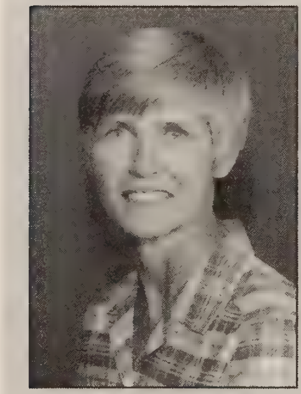
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas
For 17 Years

Chastity lecturer to address Charlotte students, parents

CHARLOTTE — Molly Kelly, an author, lecturer, homemaker and widowed mother of eight, brings a message on chastity to Charlotte Catholic High and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle schools Feb. 9 and 10.

A devout Catholic, Kelly speaks to more than 100,000 teen-agers each year throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, England and Wales. Her radio and television appearances have included spots on "CBS This Morning," "Nightly News with Peter Jennings" and EWTN.


Molly Kelly

While she mostly addresses teen audiences, Kelly has also spoken at colleges, medical schools and theological schools. In her presentations, she promotes an active faith life.

"Chastity means self-control," Kelly says. "It involves understanding our human sexuality and how God intends us to use it."

In addition to her speaking engagements to the Charlotte Catholic and Holy Trinity student bodies, a special presentation for the open public is Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of Holy Trinity, 3100 Park Rd.

Kelly is the author of the book "Let's Talk to Teens About Chastity." Her video "Teens and Chastity" has been shown on cable television and in schools around the country. She has also authored three brochures on chastity and is a contributor to several periodicals.

She has received many awards for her ministry, and has been appointed by the federal government to the Grant Review Board of the Department of Health and Services for the promotion of abstinence.

For more information on Molly Kelly's visit to Charlotte, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760. ▼

Masterpiece unmasked, from page 3

Vanderbilt's Biltmore House. At St. Lawrence, Guastavino constructed the largest elliptical free-standing church dome in the United States.

Over a carved door in the Chapel of Our Lady, the architect planned a niche especially for the painting. Guastavino died in the middle of his building project and was buried in a crypt that faces the painting of the Visitation.

During the restoration, Lamar found that the top curved portion of the painting was added to the original, evidently to make the artwork fit the niche.

Lamar also discovered that the painting has been restored at least three times, and often badly. Previous restorers had often not removed some of the old varnish in some places but had destroyed the original paint in other spots.

The role of the restorer is to save what the artist actually painted and to guess what he might have intended. With the help of his friend Vadim Bora, Lamar worked on the curved portion of the canvas that had been added to the original. They created an arching window that completed the composition.

Lamar was impressed with Stanzione's original composition, how all of the figures face each other in pairs. Mary meets Elizabeth in the center of the painting, while two servant women look at each other at the left, and two disciples converse at the right. A lone man at the far right stares out of the picture, making eye contact with the viewer.

Monsignor John McSweeney, pastor at St. Lawrence, was gratified to see the centuries-old colors come true again on the wall of the chapel.

"I was privileged to be in Rome when they were restoring the Sistine Chapel and I was excited to see how this would turn out. I believe in the preservation of our history. It's a sense of stewardship." ▼

This story is reprinted with permission from the Asheville Citizen-Times.

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte

#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast

#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen

6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC

(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336

"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC

(336) 886-2444

Visit our website at

http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Catholic Social Services

The Diocese of Charlotte

1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Listening Sessions

Housing Needs of Catholic Elders in the Charlotte area

The Elder Ministry Program of the Diocese of Charlotte will be holding one hour listening sessions to hear your views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic Seniors.

Friday, January 22, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Matthew
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

Wednesday, January 27, 1999
10am — 11am
St. Thomas Aquinas
1400 Suther Road

Saturday, January 30, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Gabriel
3016 Providence Road

Wednesday, February 3, 1999
10am — 11am
Our Lady of Consolation
2301 Statesville Avenue

Friday, February 5, 1999
12 noon — 1pm
Our Lady of the Assumption
4207 Shamrock Drive

Co-sponsored by:
Elder Ministry of Catholic Social Services and Charlotte Mecklenberg Area Task Force

For information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220

Bishop McGuinness students compete, win awards in mock trial

WINSTON-SALEM — For the third time in four years, a Bishop McGuinness High School team was named regional finalist in the Wade Edwards Mock Trial High School Competition.

The statewide competition allows students to simulate a court case. Teams are evaluated by actual judges and attorneys.

Two Bishop McGuinness teams competed and won awards.

Philip Palmer, a sophomore, and junior Jesse Short won awards for Best Witness. Beth Adamaski, a junior, won two Best Attorney awards. Sean Dabhour, a senior, was selected as Best Witness for his portrayal of the defendant, a high school senior caught in a narcotics sting operation.

This year's case involved the issue of drugs in high school. Beyond learning the law, students were confronted with an issue pertinent to high schoolers.

Within the scope of the competition, students also function as courtroom artists and journalists. This year, two Bishop McGuinness students were selected as state champion finalists. Meredith Roche, a junior, joins four other state finalists for her news story, while Peter Fleming, a senior, joins two other finalists for the top state award for his feature story. Later this month, the two will travel to Raleigh for an awards banquet sponsored by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Both of the remaining state finalists attend Cardinal Gibbons Catholic High School in Raleigh.

At Bishop McGuinness, the mock trial program involves 25 students and is part of a larger program of the History Department's extracurricular activities that include the Harvard University Model Congress, the Duke University Model United Nations, the N.C. Bar Association's High School Moot Court Competition, and the Johns Hopkins University Model United Nations. ▼

Sisters of Mercy Foundation awards grants

CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announced grant awards totaling $456,200 to 13 nonprofit organizations in Brunswick, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Gaston, Guilford and Mecklenburg counties in North Carolina.

The Sisters of Mercy Foundation operates in part from a mission to support nonprofit health care, educational and social service organizations in the Charlotte metropolitan area and throughout the Carolinas.

Receiving grants are:

Ada Jenkins Families and Career Development Center in Davidson, $15,000 over three years to help fund its Parish Nurse Program; *ARC of High Point*, $45,000 over two years to provide for educational and therapeutic resources for children with severe developmental disabilities; *Assistance League of Charlotte*, $10,500 to help fund the Snacks at School program for low-income children in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools;

Belmont Community Organization, $10,000 to provide emergency assistance for clients; *Catherine's House, Inc.*, in Belmont, $50,000 to provide a computer laboratory and training for female residents, and for a children's playground; *Communities in Schools of Asheville*, $50,000 for expansion of the Communities in Schools program;

Community Free Clinic in Concord, $25,000 for operating costs; *Family Emergency Teen Shelter, Inc.*, in Southport, $20,000 over two years to assist with operating expenses of the Providence Home Teen Shelter; *Hospitality House of Asheville*, $90,000 over three years to serve as matching funds for a HUD grant to help the unsheltered homeless;

Lannin-Tunstall Society for Children, Inc., in Asheville, $7,500 for operating expenses for a drop-out prevention and educational outreach service; *Piedmont Pregnancy Care Centers, Inc.*, in Greensboro, $25,000 to start a sonogram program; *Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte's Hispanic Ministry*, $83,200 over three years to provide support for a religious Sister to work in ministry in the Hickory area; *Western North Carolina AIDS Project* in Asheville, $30,000 over three years to help with operating expenses of its Interfaith Action program. ▼

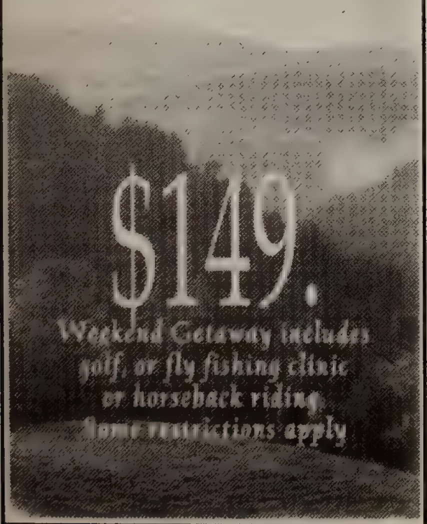
For information on the Sisters of Mercy Foundation or its next grant-making cycle, which begins April 1, call (704) 366-0087.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations. Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.

Only 90 minutes from Charlotte

(800)813-9676


$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf, or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Want to re-finance your home at a better rate?
Need help with debt management?

Jeff Branstrator
(336) 370-4100
(888) 322-9503
Parishioner of St. Pius X Church

Call today.

FIRST HORIZON HOME MORTGAGE, INC.

ABLE AIRE
24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948

A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company

Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands

Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary
5% off parts with this ad

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to 770-516-4664.

Assistant Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Assistant Teacher positions. Please contact the school principal, Mrs. Janice Ritter, at (704)333-3174 for an interview. Positions available immediately.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 600 families near Raleigh, North Carolina in process of building new church desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have B.A. in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time; salary of 30K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by March 15 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Director of Pastoral Care: St. Joseph of the Pines has an opening for a Director of Pastoral Care to work at the Southern Pines Health Center location. Provides counsel, guidance and support to residents, patients, employees, and families. Must have CPE certification, a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry, Psychology, or Theology. Three to five years' experience as a Chaplain a plus! Send resume to St. Joseph of the Pines, Administration, Attn: Lorena Moree, 95 Aviemore Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374. EOE. JOBLINE: 1-800-436-7791

Pastoral Administrator: The Pastoral Personnel Board of the Diocese of Raleigh is seeking Pastoral Administrators to direct parishes. Candidates must have pastoral and administrative experience, preferably in North Carolina, as well as pastoral and theological training. A master's degree is preferred. Must be a practicing Catholic. Individuals must be able to work with people and encourage the development of gifts of the parishioners. Send resume to: Sister Carol Loughney, I.H.M., St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 124 Palmer Street, Raeford, NC 28376. Deadline: January 15

Youth Ministry: St. Gabriel Parish is seeking creative, well-organized youth minister for large parish of 3900+ families. This full-time position has responsibility for grades seven through twelve. Applicant must be practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in related field and experience working with youth preferred. Send resume, salary requirements and references to Youth Ministry Search, c/o Susan Krasniewski, DRE, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Freelance Writers/Photographers: The Catholic News & Herald is seeking experienced freelance writers and photographers. Candidates should have professional writing/photography experience and be familiar with Associated Press style. Contact The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237 or jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Garden Center Staff: Full-time and part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Competitive wages. Southeast Charlotte. Colchester Place Garden and Nursery. Call 341-2200

Black Mountain couple sow seeds of stewardship

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BLACK MOUNTAIN — George and Edith Hilbert will never see the flowering of the seeds they've planted, but countless other people will enjoy the fruits of their generosity for years to come.

Late last year, the Hilberts put 5,054 shares of Pfizer stock, worth almost $600,000, into a trust to benefit their parish, a Catholic school, and the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We couldn't have timed it better," Edith said. "It was right after Viagra (manufactured by Pfizer) came out."

The trust sold the stock. A charitable remainder unitrust, administered through Wachovia Bank, has been created for the Hilberts. The couple will receive lifelong income from the trust. After their deaths, the funds will go into an endowment in the diocesan foundation and be divided three ways: 50 percent will go to the Charlotte diocese, 25 percent to Asheville Catholic School, and 25 percent to their parish, St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa.

"This is irrevocable," Edith said.

"We can't change our minds," George added. "We've been investing in Pfizer stock since about 1960. All we were doing was reinvesting. It got to the point where we said, at our age, what do we need more for."

They could have specified how the beneficiaries would use the money, but decided against that.

"They were very strong in saying they wanted the money to be used where it was most needed," said Cindy Rice, the diocese's director of planned giving.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Edith and George Hilbert have been investing Pfizer stock since 1960. Last year, they put more than 5,000 shares into a trust benefiting Catholic entities in western North Carolina.

Like the Hilberts during their lifetime, the beneficiaries will receive income from the endowment, but the principal will remain in the diocesan foundation to continue to generate income.

"It's a double thing," Edith said. "We get a benefit, and they get a benefit."

The Hilberts moved to Black Mountain from Schenectady, N.Y., in 1987. Married 50 years ago next month, they have no children. She was a secretary for General Electric; he was a salesman for firms in the transportation industry.

And, they had invested in the stock market.

"Merrill Lynch had a plan where you could send in $40 a month," George said. "So, we did that, and we just left it there for years. If we sold it, we'd get clobbered with the capital gains taxes."

"We gain more by doing it this way," Edith said.

Among the benefits the Hilberts are enjoying is increased income from their investment. The Pfizer stock was paying them about $4,000 a year in dividends. However, the trust pays them nearly 10 times that much annually.

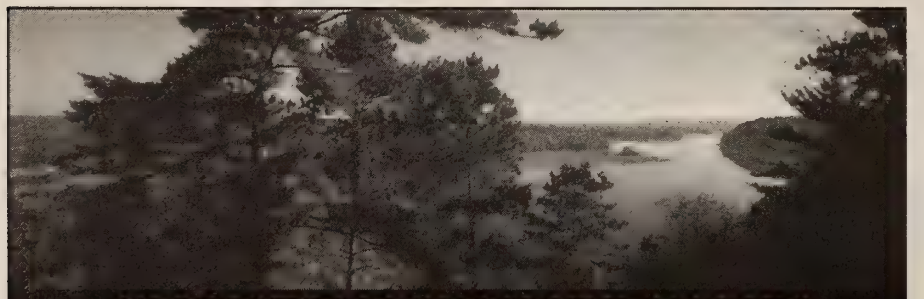
"In addition to the income, they get a significant charitable deduction on their income tax," Rice said, "and at some point the parish, the school and the diocese will be the beneficiary of a very generous gift."

This will be called the Edith I. and George P. Hilbert Endowment.

Currently there are 51 such endowments with more than $5 million in assets in The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Its executive director, Jim Kelley, said that, in addition to charitable remainder trusts such as the Hilberts have, there are several other methods of planned giving.

People can agree to donate stock or cash to the diocese through charitable gift annuities. A life estate agreement allows individuals to live in their homes, with the diocese receiving the property after their deaths. With a charitable lead trust, the diocese receives income for a specified period, after which the money reverts to the designee. People can give life insurance and also specify bequests to the diocese in their wills.

"By leaving their gifts, they're leaving a legacy in perpetuity," Kelley said. "More and more people across the diocese take another step in living out the life of stewardship. I think that's exciting." ▼



CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

"I was accepted at four colleges and universities, but once I saw all Belmont Abbey College had to offer, there was really no comparison. The Abbey was the right decision."

Patrick Cahill, Class of 2002

Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Catholic High School

Major: Undecided

Patrick Cahill — who excelled in high school sports and musical productions, and served as president of his student body — says Belmont Abbey College is the perfect fit for him, for many reasons.

"The Abbey has so much to offer. The campus is beautiful and the environment is warm and welcoming. When I visited, I just knew I would fit in here."

Patrick claims it is "the right people in the right positions" that has made his Abbey experience so unforgettable.

"The hearts of the people are genuine and caring; that's one of the things I love about this place. I receive personal attention from people who really know what they're talking about. All five of my current instructors have their doctorate degrees. My classes range from just 15 to 30 students — which is really ideal ... I've been so impressed."

Patrick is leaning toward a major in philosophy or history and plans to try out for the baseball team. He will also continue the work he began in high school helping underprivileged children in downtown Charlotte with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

"You can't ask for a stronger Catholic identity than here at Belmont Abbey College, yet our Benedictine instructors don't really care what denomination you're from; they just want the opportunity to teach you. In fact, a fair percentage of our students are not Catholic, and all are welcome with open arms."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Belmont, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • Toll-Free 888.BAC.0110

*******************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S300 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 22, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 20

Inside

Diocese celebrates King's legacy ...PAGE 3

Papal visit to St. Louis-Mexico City ...PAGE 7

New papal nuncio arrives in United States ...PAGE 14

Vatican to use high-tech tools to celebrate jubilee ...PAGE 13

Living the Faith
Priest's chaplaincy post combines two callings ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

> **"Conscious of their own rights, families will be able to make their voices heard with greater authority in the forums where laws and policies concerning the family are formulated."**
>
> — *Pope John Paul II, 1993*

Western project seeks economic justice

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HAYESVILLE — Shelby Woody knows a lot about Clay County. She was born here, and taught school here for 35 years. She knows the place abounds with gorgeous scenery and community pride.

And she knows about the poverty, too.

"We served 2,575 people last year, and the need is growing every day," said Woody, who serves as treasurer of the food pantry in her home county. "There are no jobs, people can't find housing, they can't find food."

Woody is one of nearly 50 concerned people from Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties who attended a Jan. 15 conference that examined social and financial needs of citizens in one of the economically poorest regions in the state.

The gathering is the latest step in a project led by the Diocese of Charlotte to bring local religious, business, education, health care and charitable entities together to study and realize opportunities for economic development here.

The Rev. Mark Sills, a Methodist minister and executive director of the ecumenical research ministry Faith in Action Institute in Greensboro, shared findings of a report he researched and presented for the project.

"I had been asked to come here and look at these communities not to find fault, not to discover what's wrong, not even to discover the weaknesses and the shortages and the lack that exist — but to discover the opportunities that are here for moving forward, for helping people improve their lot in life, for building stronger communities," Dr. Sills told participants.

The project was commissioned in the fall of 1998 as diocesan officials sought ways to implement the goals of "Of One Heart and One Mind," the economic justice pastoral letter written by North Carolina's two Catholic bishops. The pastoral was issued by Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh.

"What (the bishops) said in effect is if you work, you should not be poor," explained Joanne K. Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace. "Lifting up the ethical and moral dimensions of economic life in our state, they provided a moral framework based on Scripture and drawn from a long tradition of Catholic teachings ... , especially as they apply to human dignity, productive work, and wage standards."

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

Members of the liturgical Kabaka Dancers share their gift of dance during the 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Charlotte, N.C.

For more than a year, Frazer has traveled throughout the diocese working with people interested in making the goals the pastoral a reality. The Jan. 15 conference was the second such meeting of the Western Counties Project.

Frazer heads the project with Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Catholic Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville.

> The gathering is the latest step in a project led by the Diocese of Charlotte to bring local religious, business, education, health care and charitable entities together to study and realize opportunities for economic development here.

While conceding that challenges in the four counties are real and at times complex, Dr. Sills stressed that the project offers many positive approaches to implementing the report's proposals. Emphasis on the self-effort and entrepreneurial spirit of those being helped is key, he added.

Six detailed recommendations for ministry, replete with creative, viable ways of achieving them, are included in the report. They are:

— Increase the supply of affordable child care, especially on evenings and weekends in each of the four counties;

— Expand the number of registered in-home child care providers;

— Form a worker-owned cooperative to provide small home repair and maintenance services not adequately supplied in the region;

— Establish a "cars-to-work" program providing quality used vehicles to people in transition from welfare to employment;

WESTERN COUNTIES PROJECT, PAGE 15

Quake remembrance Residents light candles to offer prayers Jan. 16 for victims of the Kobe earthquake in western Japan four years ago. The 1995 quake killed more than 6,400 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Canadian bishops protest violence against Christians in India

OTTAWA (CNS) — Troubled by increasing violence against Christians in India, Canada's bishops urged the government of India to launch a public inquiry and bring those responsible to trial. "We are seriously concerned by the increased number of violations of basic human rights committed against Christians, especially since the beginning of 1998 and, as a result, must condemn such abuses in your country," said Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte of Montreal, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. In a letter to Rajanikanta Verma, India's High Commissioner to Canada, Cardinal Turcotte pointed to violent attacks committed against Christian communities in the state of Gujarat since Christmas Day.

Number of Catholics applying to join RUC increased in 1998

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The number of Catholics who applied to join Northern Ireland's police force in 1998 was double the number who applied in 1993. At the end of 1998, more than one-fifth of the 5,000 applicants to the Royal Ulster Constabulary were Catholics. While Catholics make up 47 percent of Northern Ireland's population, Catholics make up only 7 percent of RUC police officers. The police force is currently under review by the Independent Commission for Policing in Northern Ireland. The commission, headed by Chris Patten, a Catholic who was the last British governor of Hong Kong, is due to make recommendations later this year on how the force should be made more acceptable to Northern Ireland's nationalists.

High court hears case over lower welfare benefits for newcomers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For the second time in three years, the Supreme Court is considering whether states may provide lower welfare benefits to people who have recently moved from states with different benefit levels. The court heard oral arguments Jan. 13 over whether California may legally save money and discourage poor people from moving to the state by paying different levels of welfare to newcomers for a year. The case is being closely watched by social service agencies such as Catholic Charities USA that are called upon to help support people who have inadequate money on which to live, and by other states that want to avoid drawing new residents who arrive without jobs.

Austrian bishops report rise in Catholics not paying church tax

VIENNA, Austria (CNS) — The number of people discontinuing their tax payments to Austria's Catholic Church increased in 1998. Meanwhile, in a recent survey, only one in five Austrians said they felt linked to any church, compared to 50 percent before the outbreak of recent church controversies. More than 33,400 Catholics discontinued their "church tax" payments between January and November 1998, a rise of 15 percent over the previous year, according to data presented at a Jan. 4-5 bishops' conference meeting in Linz, Austria. It was not known how many Catholics discontinued payment of the church tax because of economic difficulties or how many as a sign of protest against recent conflicts, said the Vienna Archdiocese's spokeswoman, Margareta Matich.

Congo's cardinal says army troops attacked Catholic institutions

ROME (CNS) — The Democratic Republic of the Congo's cardinal said government soldiers sacked several Catholic institutions in the nation's capital and attempted to break into the Vatican nunciature. Cardinal Frederic Etsou-Nzabi-Bamungwabi of Kinshasa, in a Jan. 15 letter to the people of his archdiocese, said the Jan. 12 raids were led by members of the army's 50th brigade and resulted in varying degrees of damage to the buildings. MISNA, a Rome-based missionary news service, reported the incidents started in the Gombe neighborhood with the complete pillaging of the Bethanie Center housing Rwandan refugees. Then soldiers moved on to the student dormitory at a nearby Catholic school and to the Sacred Heart Convent, before arriving at the gates of the Vatican Embassy in Kinshasa.

Stories on boat exhibit prompt flurry of statements in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israeli press reports about an agreement with the Vatican to display a 2,000-year-old boat prompted a series of reactions in Rome. A Vatican spokesman expressed surprise at the reports, saying the Vatican had declined an Israeli proposal for a cooperative exhibit. This prompted a statement later that day from the Israeli Embassy to the Holy See. "Neither the ambassador nor the Israeli Embassy to the Holy See made a proposal of co-participation regarding the wooden boat," the embassy statement said. "Clearly, the Holy See could not have declined a proposal that was never made."

El Salvador poll reports little interest in upcoming election

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Two-thirds of Salvadorans are ambivalent about the March presidential election and a greater number expect massive abstentions, according to an opinion poll by Jesuit-run Central American University in San Salvador. The poll, carried out by the university's Institute of Public Opinion, showed 62 percent of those interviewed said that they have "little or no interest" in the election campaign that began last November. Another 49 percent said they have "little or no interest" in turning out to vote, and 75 percent said they expected "many (other) people" would also abstain, principally because "there is no confidence in politicians." El Salvador's second post-war presidential elections are scheduled for March 7.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

January 22, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 20
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 26
Papal Visit
St. Louis, MO

January 29 — 11 am Mass
Asheville Catholic School

January 30 — 5 pm Mass
St. James, Concord

February 2 — 10 am Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School

February 3 — 9:15 am Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

February 4 — 10 am Mass
Bishop McGuinness High School

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church, 4929 Sandy Porter Rd., has added a Mass in English to its weekend schedule each Sunday at 5 p.m. Masses in Vietnamese are celebrated Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. For more information call Father Tan Van Le, chaplain, at (704) 504-0907.

January

25 CHARLOTTE — Sign-ups begin today for Lenten faith-sharing groups which will meet each week during Lent at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For information, call the parish office at (704) 543-7677.

27 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte hosts a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today from 10-11 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Other Charlotte parishes will host future sessions.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women sponsors a potluck luncheon today at noon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Current members are asked to bring a dish to share, and donations of $1 will help defray costs. The group also welcomes potential members. The meeting includes a speaking presentation on spirituality and healing. For further information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators hosts a "couples night" featuring German cuisine at 7 p.m. today in the Laurentine Hall of St. Lawrence Basilica, 97 Haywood St. Nursing babies are welcome. R.S.V.P. by Jan. 25 to Sheryl

Pursuing the dream

Diocesan ministry celebrates King's legacy

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — "We gather to remember a man of tremendous faith, someone who stirred up the hearts of Americans and challenged us to see Christ in everyone," said Bishop William G. Curlin as the Diocese of Charlotte honored Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy of hope.

The bishop's remarks came during a liturgy culminating a celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. The event was sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry Jan. 16, the day after what would have been King's 70th birthday.

In song and word, the spirited Mass recalled the grace of freedom and faith.

"The good news of the Gospel is one of liberation," said Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, who delivered the homily.

"We are deeply aware that African-American spirituality is based on the sacred Scriptures," Father West added. "In the dark days of slavery, we know that reading was forbidden, but our ancestors knew that the Bible was not a closed book."

Father West focused on the "real motivation" for celebrating King's birthday and ideals. "We remind ourselves that everything we have and everything we are is a divine gift," he said. "Racial prejudice is alive today. Freedom, though, is still a cherished gift from God."

King, a Baptist minister, devoted much of his public life to promoting nonviolent, civil disobedience in a time and place where social and racial discrimination ran rampantly. He was named Time magazine's Man of the Year in 1964, won the Nobel Peace Prize later that year, and spent much of the late 1950s and the 1960s giving stirring speeches calling for a revolution of values.

Photo by Joann Keane

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, left, accepts a service award from the African American Affairs Ministry named for the late Glenda Rollins-Gaither. Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd bestowed the honor prior to Mass at the Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968.

"In working for the full realization of freedom, no sacrifice is too great," said Father West. "Today, the example of Dr. King challenges every one of us. We must use Christ and his standards to fashion our lives."

Father West explained that perpetuating hope requires prayer, communal worship and meditation on the Scriptures. "As a people of faith, we have much to offer — gifts clearly needed in our time," he added. "We must continue to share the love of God in tangible ways with all of our brothers and sisters, regardless of the human differences that would separate us."

As King was remembered, another African American was eulogized prior to the Mass for her efforts toward racial harmony. The late Glenda Rollins-Gaither, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church and a founding member of the African American Affairs Ministry, was commended by having a service award named in her memory.

The award recognizes an individual "in the Diocese of Charlotte who has made significant contributions in advancing the full recognition and inclusion of African Americans," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, director of the African American Affairs Ministry and Our Lady of Consolation Church's permanent deacon.

Rev. Mr. Todd recalled how Rollins-Gaither reaffirmed him in his faith and, later, in his calling to ministry. "When Glenda said, 'God told me something,' you could take it to the bank," he said.

One of two African-American priests in active ministry in the diocese, Father Mauricio W. West is the first recipient of the Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award.

Earlier in the program, a "Word Events" seminar gave participants an opportunity to make the Scriptures come to life through communication and role playing.

"Sometimes people look at the Bible as just parallel with history, but what occurred here was that you were able to see how this is a living word," said Leslie Johnson, one of Our Lady of Consolation Church's youth ministers. "You could see how applicable it really is today."

Based in Scripture and evangelization, Word Events incorporate drama, music, dance, storytelling and visual arts to more fully realize one's blessings. Several such events were presented at the National Black Catholic Congress VIII in Baltimore, Md., last year.

Emphasis on youth also highlighted the gathering, as a seminar on the empowerment program Rites of Passage explored the importance of young African Americans' leadership potential.

Lorene Craig, a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, said was the diocesan event as a way of keeping King's dream alive in today's world. "It ties in with the idea that he didn't (see people) just by their color, but by the contents on the inside of them," she added with a smile. ▼

Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

30 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte hosts a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today from 11 a.m.-noon at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Other Charlotte parishes will host future sessions.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School placement test is today for all interested eighth graders from 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the school, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. Testing fee is $15 (checks payable to Charlotte Catholic High School), and no pre-registration is required. Students should arrive by 8:15 with the fee, two #2 pencils, and a light snack for the break. Scores and test explanations will be mailed the week of April 19. For more information, call (704) 543-9118.

31 WINSTON-SALEM — Today is the deadline for registering for a small group interaction program for Lent at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. "Follow Me: Disciples for the 21st Century" is a program designed to encourage personal and group prayer, build supportive relationships, enhance knowledge of the Scriptures and further the mission of Christ and the church. Call (336) 724-7071 for registration.

February

1 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., hosts a charismatic Mass today at 7:15 p.m. The laying on of hands follows. Call (336) 778-0600 for details.

5 HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 W. Hamlet Ave., hosts its annual pit-cooked barbecue today from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dinners include pork or chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, bread, dessert, and tea or coffee. Eat in or take out.

6 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School hosts its annual Valentine Ball and silent auction fund raiser today from 7-10 p.m. at the Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes a buffet dinner, dancing and the auction. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials. Cost is $30 per person, and reservations are required by Jan. 31. For more information, call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886.

9 CHARLOTTE — Molly Kelly, an author, lecturer, and widowed mother of eight, discusses chastity in a speaking presentation at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., at 7:30 p.m. The presentation is open to the public. For details, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

13 CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelists Scott and Kimberly Hahn bring their message of faith to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The Hahns are converts to the Catholic faith, make frequent appearances on the cable network EWTN, and have produced many audio and video tapes. They will discuss four topics relating to the 1999 papal theme of the "Father." Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. For more information, call (704) 364-5431. This event is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

26 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says every Christian called to promote unity

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every Christian has an obligation to pray and work for Christian unity so that the faith truly will be a light to all peoples, Pope John Paul II said.

On the eve of the annual Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said God's plan is for his church to be a "sign and instrument of unity for all humankind."

The theme of the 1999 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: "He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his people."

Pope John Paul said the theme "is a strong call to hope: God, in fact, is communion and in Christ he has generated the church, an icon of the Trinity, a sign and instrument of unity for all humankind."

Each year the theme is proposed by a local ecumenical committee and formally adopted by the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"Every baptized person is called to contribute" to the search for Christian unity "with unceasing prayer and fraternal charity," the pope said.

Also during his Jan. 17 Angelus address, the pope praised Italian Catholics and Jews who dedicate the day before the week of prayer to deepening their own relations and dialogue.

In preparing for the year 2000, he said, the Catholic Church has dedicated 1999 to prayer and reflection on the person of God the Father.

Jews and Muslims should be invited to join Catholics in the reflections, he said, since Christians, Jews and Muslims share belief in the one God.

Also in the context of the week of prayer, Pope John Paul met Jan. 18 with Lutheran Archbishop Jukka Paarma of Turku and Finland.

The pope told the archbishop that his visit was a sign that Catholic-Lutheran relations "will continue to become ever stronger as we strive to move forward in our joint quest for the restoration of that unity which Jesus Christ desires for his followers.

"As the third Christian millennium rapidly approaches, we are conscious of the need to commit ourselves ever more firmly and irrevocably to the noble goal of Christian unity, and we are aware of the beneficial effects that this unity will have on the new evangelization of Europe and the world," the pope said.

Pope to make longest trip to Poland in June

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will make his longest visit to his Polish homeland, including dioceses he has not visited as pope, during a 13-day June visit. The June 5-17 pilgrimage, taking in 16 dioceses and 21 towns and cities, will include the beatification of 108 World War II martyrs. Outlining the itinerary, the co-chairman of a joint church-state planning committee, Auxiliary Bishop Jan Chrapek of Torun, said Pope John Paul wished to celebrate Mass in all dioceses he had not previously visited.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

In the interest of Christian unity

In the interest of Christian unity, I recently conducted an informal (and very brief, I might add) public research project near escalators at J.C. Penney. I asked, "What do you know about the Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?"

"Does it last seven days?" was the first response.

Others included: "I'm Jewish. Are we invited?"

"I gave at the office," "What do I win if I know?"

This provided a hint that Christians of different denominations have a way to go before they leap onto the PUB (Prayer for Unity Bandwagon).

For starters, we need to speak the same language. Let's be honest. We use the same word for different things all the time — and need to know this.

For example, how do Catholics, Baptists and Presbyterians define "sing" at the pew level?

— Catholics: Sing is something choirs do for those attending Mass, sometimes joined in song by five or six people (often converts or non-Catholic spouses).

— Presbyterians: holding a hymnal in front of you and singing nicely into it at periodic times during church services.

— Baptists: humming on the bus and in the car, singing hymns in the shower and belting out songs on Sundays as if Scripture was serious about this "joyful noise" stuff.

What about "cardinal"?

— Catholics: a high church official.

— United Methodists: mascot of St. Louis baseball team.

— Lutherans: a color close to magenta.

Ask Christians about "wing tips."

— Catholics: feathery appendages decorating cherubs who populate much classical church art.

— Mormons: The extreme ends of the fuselage protrusions that keep airplanes in the air.

— Episcopalians: shoeware, often worn to church, usually by men.

Define "bingo."

— Nazarenes: a form of gambling; should be shunned.

— Catholics: a social gathering that simultaneously funds parish programs.

— Anglicans: a dramatic exclamation, reserved for extraordinary moments when emphatic verbal attention might be appropriate. Rarely used during sermons.

"Fellowship" is interesting:

— Evangelicals: a sharing of Scripture, prayer and worship in a community setting.

— Quakers: a good feeling.

— Catholics: a terrific study grant.

Just for fun, during Christian Unity Week (Jan. 18-25 this year) conduct your own parish poll. Ask, "What do you think about 'Ut Unum Sint'"? (Hint: It's a papal encyclical calling for Christian unity.)

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Making gods of mere humans

It's the end of an era. Michael Jordan has retired from basketball and a dark shadow has cast itself over our humble home. Our despair is accentuated by the barrage of media coverage. This is more than a sports event. The likes of Tom Brokaw and other serious journalists are treating this with the same importance as matters of state. So, it must be that important. Right? And our gloom over MJ's leaving is exacerbated with each superlative attributed to "his Airness" on and off the court.

Or are we being manipulated by soap-selling media, ever hungry for sensational news? Did we take the bite — hook, line and sinker — when we dispensed with our "No TV on Wednesday" rule to view the coverage? Were we but a few of the herded masses who got bamboozled into the hyperbole?

As ardent fans of basketball, the Bulls, and Michael Jordan, the pains of loss are real and legitimate. It has been a privilege to witness such great talent.

Yes, we were inspired by Michael's obvious dedication to his talent. Yes, Michael was a model-worthy gentleman of the game, a breath of fresh air in a league of self-absorbed prima donnas. Yes, we will miss Michael and the caliber of play that he brought to the game. We'll tell our grandchildren "We were there!"

But, let's be serious here. Michael's return to basketball after retiring before was not "The Second Coming" and his recent leaving, despite the angst we experience, is not worthy of all the fuss.

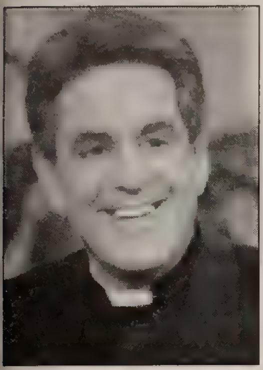
This is a family lesson for us on how easy it is to be lulled by human tendencies to make gods of mere humans. What slapped us into reality was an inference by a reporter that Jordan's will to win was so strong that he even willed the growth of a few inches in his adolescence.

A great athlete and entertainer has retired. His stats and his immense talent speak volumes about his place in sports history. We'll miss him, for sure. But this doesn't add to or detract from the quality of life we share.

It is the end of an era in sports, the end of an era in our home Chicago. But our full and grace- filled lives will absorb the loss. The void will be filled with something else. But this isn't life-changing or worthy of all the page space and air time that was dedicated to it. It certainly wasn't worth the major distraction for us.

We thank Michael Jordan for many hours of excitement watching him perform. We salute him for doing it so well, with such style and grace. But we don't genuflect before him. And we don't pay the kind of homage to him that the media so readily gave. So, when the next sensation hits the news, no matter how much hype, if it's Wednesday, NO TV!

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

A woman's place?

I have vivid memories of how embarrassed and guilty my mom was made to feel at having to get a job back in the 1950s. Of course, she already had the non-paying job at home being wife, mother and homemaker. But family exigencies left little choice, and she found additional work as a telephone operator at our hometown newspaper — a job she prized for some thirty years. The beginning, however, wasn't easy.

Post-World War II America looked down on women in the workplace. The view was that they had only been "filling in" during the war until the men came home and with the return to "normalcy" wives could and should leave the workplace.

In my mind's eye, I can still see my mom literally sneaking out of the back door of our home, scampering across the back alley to catch a bus three blocks away from the stop on our own street. She did this to avoid running into any of a number of women neighbors who were quite vocal and heartless in laying on guilt: "Don't you know a mother's place is at home with her family!!?" Sometimes they would make my mom cry. But they never made her change her mind.

All of this came back to me in a rush last week while reading Cokie Roberts' refreshing look at issues that continue to affect women and their choices. I had the privilege of interviewing Cokie on Christopher Closeup before her book "We Are Our Mother's Daughters" was published.

Through her personal and historical account I could feel the sting my mom must have felt. I also came to understand the fulfillment that my mom eventually acquired through that paying job.

Like Cokie and the women she eloquently describes, my mom came to learn that people who question your choices are often trying to validate their own choices. Before and long after her sons were out on their own and her husband had died, my mom's work brought her the companionship of co-workers, the satisfaction of work well done and an added opportunity for happiness. Cokie's observations help me realize that my mom, like countless others, was a woman who made a positive difference in both her family and her world: "Because our communities and our country need us just as the children do, the country requires the services of women soldiers and politicians and businesswomen and clubwomen and consumer and civil rights activists and women helping other women get off welfare and nurses and nuns. The country needs us to be sisters and aunts and friends and mothers and daughters and wives first in the literal sense, and then in the figurative one — sisters to society, caretakers."

I remember how upset my mom became when she realized she had to retire from her job after a debilitating second stroke. Scores of friends, especially women co-workers, streamed through the nursing home to hug her and thank her for her faithfulness and loyalty — a faithfulness and loyalty she also shared with her family. Mom always took her responsibilities seriously, but the decision which was right for her might have been wrong for someone else. And that's the point.

Every human being is entitled to make choices without being second-guessed. Family obligations should be paramount to women and men. But how you fulfill them, how you spend your time and live your life is ultimately between you, your loved ones and God.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Health concerns and drinking from the communion cup

Q. At a time when Hepatitis C and AIDS are so prevalent a health hazard, why does the church still give Communion under both species? Also, what do eucharistic ministers do who cannot drink the remaining wine after Communion, but do not wish to give up this ministry?

A. The simple and direct answer to your first question is that neither of these diseases can be transmitted through any remnants of saliva on the Communion cup.

The Hepatitis C virus was discovered only 11 years ago, by molecular cloning. It was found to be the apparent primary cause of those cases of hepatitis which do not result from A or B virus.

In preparing this column I talked with the hepatitis section of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the main center for disease-related information and analysis in the United States. Their studies confirm that Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus and is not spread by eating utensils or drinking glasses.

Harmful exposure to the virus is normally through blood or blood components, use of injected drugs, possibly through infected sexual partners or by percutaneous (skin-piercing) professional accidents — for example, when a physician, nurse or other health care person is exposed to an infected individual's blood.

This column has dealt several times over the years with the question whether AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), or the virus which causes it (HIV — human immunodeficiency virus), might be transmitted by a common Communion cup.

The Center for Disease Control's answer has been and still is that HIV-AIDS is transmitted in several ways: sexual intercourse, blood or blood-borne products, breast milk, occupational accidents mentioned above and so on. Scientists agree, however, that what is called casual contact is not among the ways of communicating the virus.

Several years ago, the U.S. surgeon general, following advice from the Center for Disease Control and other scientific sources, sent an informative brochure to every household in the country.

"You won't get the AIDS virus," said the study, "through everyday contact with the people around you in school, in the workplace, at parties, child-care centers or stores. You won't get it by swimming in a pool, even if someone in the pool is infected with the AIDS virus.... You won't get AIDS from saliva, sweat, tears, urine or ... a kiss.... It can't be passed by using a glass or eating utensils that someone else has used."

The bottom line is that, following the best available scientific knowledge concerning these viruses, there has never been, and is not now, any reason the church should discontinue or discourage Communion from the cup, because of them.

To your final question, for any of several good reasons, it is not uncommon that people ministering Communion, including deacons and priests, cannot consume the consecrated wine left in the chalice. They may always ask another to consume it for them.

It is good to check with the priest. Instructions covering this possibility should be, and usually are, part of the normal preparation of eucharistic ministers.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Overcoming passivity with creativity

My 16-year old son is, for the first time in years, excited about a class in school.

Nothing much has done it for him, quite frankly, since ninth-grade English, and that only for a few months before he got disillusioned with the teacher. But something's different with this course: creative writing.

One of the most glorious but also excruciating aspects of adolescence is the mad, churning crush of "feelings" that ache to be expressed. It's glorious because it's evidence of a broadening perspective and awareness. The world, inner and outer, seems to expand and evolve by the moment.

But it can be excruciating because those feelings are new and often confusing, no matter what they're about: spirituality, sexuality, your family, your future or just yourself. You often are convinced no one else on the planet could understand and that others might even be shocked by what runs through your head sometimes. You just want to let it all out.

That's where creativity comes in.

The ability to create is one of the most vital things separating humans from the rest of the animals. Sure, animals may build things, but they do so completely by instinct: Birds don't wake up in the morning and wonder what style of nest to build. Instinct dictates the kind of nest they'll make.

We humans, on the other hand — we have imagination to build any kind of house we want (given the means!), write any poem, compose any song. It's one of the things about us that shows we are created in the image of God.

So the urge to express yourself and all your feelings, whether they be love or anger, satisfaction or confusion, is something you could say is almost spiritual, since it is something, in a way, you have in common with God.

And since it has that potential, it's something you should never fail to explore and direct in the most positive way you can.

Like everyone else over the past 40 years, you've been raised in a culture that encourages passivity — our primary pastime requires no more energy than it takes to prop your eyelids open and absorb whatever the television tells you.

But all those desires to express and be heard and understood are telling you, even as you sit there, that you're more than a sponge. So get up and stop acting like one. Part of your restlessness and dissatisfaction with life might be because you're keeping it all locked inside without attempting to do anything about it.

So arise and walk — away from the television, away from your video game. Write poems, short stories or songs. Design a Web page. Break new boundaries in the kitchen. Build something out of wood or rocks or metal. Turn a piece of junk car into a gleaming thing of beauty. Design clothes. Paint a mural on the wall of your room.

And if your mom asks you what in the world you're doing, shut up in there sloshing paints around madly or scratching out words in a notebook, it's OK to say that you're praying. Because, in a way, you are.

NBA player pleased lockout over, criticizes negative reporting

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Jim McIlvaine of the Seattle Supersonics said he was delighted that negotiators from the National Basketball Association and the NBA players were able to salvage part of the 1998-99 pro basketball season. "Thank God, I'm glad it's over," said the former Marquette University player of the lockout imposed by NBA owners. In an interview with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper, McIlvaine said he felt reports of bitterness between owners and players were exaggerated, and said players' images were tarnished by a minority of their ranks.

Auxiliary Bishop Welsh of St. Paul-Minneapolis dies at 63

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — A funeral Mass for Bishop Lawrence H. Welsh, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis since 1991, was to be celebrated Jan. 19 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul. Bishop Welsh, who also headed the Diocese of Spokane, Wash., from 1978 to 1990, died of cancer Jan. 13 at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in St. Paul. The bishop, a recovering alcoholic, was 63.

Vatican commission, British rabbis agree to begin dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican commission and a group of Liberal and Reform Jewish rabbis from Great Britain have agreed to begin preparations for the start of a theological dialogue. The rabbis, including the United Kingdom's first woman rabbi, briefly met Pope John Paul II at the end of his general audience Jan. 13. The seven rabbis, members of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, also met with Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy and other officials of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. Dominican Father Remi Hoeckman, secretary of the commission, said, "What they want and what we want coincide: a religious dialogue, a theological dialogue looking at the challenges facing society from the basis of our religious faiths."

CNS photo from Reuters

Jordan prayers

Jordanian Christians, including members of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, recite a prayer of thanks for King Hussein's recovery from cancer at a church in Amman Jan. 16.

Philippine cardinal urges prayer over death penalty issue

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila urged people to pray and study so that the controversy over the death penalty will not continue to divide the Philippine church. "The death penalty issue has divided us," the cardinal wrote in his Jan. 13 pastoral letter, "Pray, Study, Listen." Appealing for a rational approach to the problem, the cardinal called on people to unite in prayer to allow national healing and restore unity, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Franciscans to leave some parishes, but remain in Medjugorje

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Franciscan priests will leave seven parishes in the Diocese of Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, but no immediate change was foreseen for the parish at Medjugorje, the site of alleged Marian apparitions. Archbishop Marcello Zago, secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said Jan. 13 the agreement "is connected to the fact that there are too many priests in the area — some diocesan priests have no parishes." "Medjugorje was not part of the discussion. It was not one of the parishes listed," Archbishop Zago said. In separate interviews with Catholic News Service, the procurator general of the Franciscans in Rome and the secretary to Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar confirmed the details reported by Archbishop Zago.

Father Vincent O'Connell, 'sugar cane priest,' dies

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Marist Father Vincent J. O'Connell, a labor and social justice advocate known as the "sugar cane priest" for his work among Louisiana's sugar cane workers, died of respiratory arrest Jan. 9. He was 86 years old. He died at Chateau de Notre Dame, a Catholic nursing home in New Orleans. He was to be interred in the Marist tomb at St. Bartholomew Cemetery following a funeral Mass Jan. 14 at Holy Name of Mary Church in New Orleans, where he served 1978-82.

Newly named Lima archbishop played key role in hostage crisis

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — The newly appointed head of the Lima Archdiocese, Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne, became world famous as a key figure during the 1996-1997 hostage crisis at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima. The Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II named Archbishop Cipriani, a member of the personal prelature Opus Dei, to head the archdiocese following the retirement of Cardinal Augusto Vargas Alzamora. After guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement took nearly 500 hostages at the ambassador's residence in December 1996, Archbishop Cipriani made several visits.

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families
in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With affordable
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK Chris Headley, PGK — Member of J.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus
Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association.
HERITAGE
FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

God calls us in many ways.
Is God calling you?
If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.
Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

Mexico City/St. Louis

Shofar, chips and screams all part of next papal journey

CNS FILE PHOTO

President Bill Clinton greets Pope John Paul II in Newark, N.J., in October 1995. Their next meeting — in St. Louis Jan. 26 — comes at an awkward moment in U.S.-Vatican relations.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What do the sounding of a Jewish shofar, the rustling of potato chip bags and the screaming welcome of thousands of young people have in common?

They all are related to the Jan. 22-27 visit of Pope John Paul II to Mexico and St. Louis, during which the pope will unveil his apostolic exhortation on the Synod of Bishops for America, a document addressed to Catholics in North and South America.

During the Mexico portion of the trip Jan. 22-25, the pope plans to deliver an important message that touches on old and new themes about the church's social justice role, according to Vatican sources.

Many expect the pope to make an appeal on behalf of all those struggling under economic, social and spiritual burdens.

Then the pope will travel to the other side of the Americas' economic divide, spending Jan. 26-27 in St. Louis. There, the pontiff may return to themes of previous U.S. visits, appealing to Americans' sense of economic fairness and their history of welcoming and helping those in need.

At the Trans World Dome in St. Louis Jan. 27, Alan E. Freed of the Central Reform Congregation will open the prayer service prior to the papal Mass with a blast on a 3-foot-long shofar.

The shofar, a trumpet made of a ram's horn, is used by Jewish congregations to call people to prayer, to proclaim the jubilee year, to escort processionals and to solemnize coronations. Because the shofar recalls the story of the binding of Isaac, it also has become a Jewish symbol of repentance.

Msgr. James T. Telthorst, pastor of St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, said his committee planning the prayer service came up with the idea. Blowing the shofar is "a wonderful way to remind us how our ancestors were called to worship and to this day our Jewish brothers and sisters are still called," he said.

In St. Louis, a highlight of the papal visit was expected to be his Jan. 26 meeting with youths in the 20,000-seat Kiel Center.

Like any papal trip, this 85th journey outside Italy by Pope John Paul II has attracted some efforts to commercialize it.

But the distribution across Mexico of potato chip bags bearing about 90 million stickers showing images of the pope and Our Lady of Guadalupe has been supported by officials of the Archdiocese of Mexico City as a powerful outreach.

Hector Fernandez of the archdiocesan press office said the deal between the archdiocese and the Sabritas company was a way for the church to "project its message to all the corners of the earth."

"We are trying to reach everyone with the Holy Father's message of dignity and peace," he added. "Sabritas provides us with a way to reach all people, even those who live under restricted economic means."

"His most significant contribution is always with the young people, and I'm certain it will be the same in St. Louis."

— Lindy Boggs

Another apparent effort to make commercial hay from the papal visit was being resolved in court.

A federal judge in St. Louis opened a hearing Jan. 13 on whether an Internet purveyor of sexually explicit material infringed a St. Louis archdiocesan trademark by setting up a "papalvisit1999.com" site on the World Wide Web to promote its sex sites.

U.S. District Judge Stephen Limbaugh had issued a temporary restraining order five days earlier removing the Web site until the case could be heard.

In St. Louis, a highlight of the papal visit was expected to be his Jan. 26 meeting with youths in the 20,000-seat Kiel Center.

U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs told Catholic News Service that Pope John Paul will bring a significant message to America's heartland and especially the young people of the region.

"His most significant contribution is always with the young people, and I'm certain it will be the same in St. Louis," she said.

Papal visits always have a "tremendous impact" in the United States, not only in religious circles but throughout the culture, she added.

Boggs will be in St. Louis Jan. 26 when President Bill Clinton welcomes the pope for their fourth meeting.

But Vatican insiders said the sex scandal and impeachment trial plaguing Clinton were not likely topics of conversation between the two men. Vatican officials had often things on their minds — among them, the recent bombing of Iraq, the continued embargo of Cuba, the death penalty and abortion. ▼

Contributing to this roundup was Jean M. Schildz in St. Louis.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3140

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

The virtues families rely upon

By FATHER JOHN W. CROSSIN, OSFS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

Sharing a joke on ourselves, acknowledging the "stupid things" we all do and learning to laugh at ourselves: These are central to developing the virtues needed in families and in all our relationships.

Humor, a form of humility, helps us to keep family life in perspective. In fact, we can come to treasure these comical moments when the "joke is on us."

These moments teach us not to expect perfection — from ourselves or from other family members. "The perfect is the enemy of the good" is a bit of wisdom we might ponder.

At times our expectations of ourselves and of others might be a little unrealistic. We expect only the best. Our team must win every soccer game. Every one of our children's grades must be an A. Our house must always be in order! We must be caught up with our work.

Yet, we are far from perfect. Luckily, the title of perfect family already has gone to Jesus, Mary and Joseph! So we do well to keep family life in perspective.

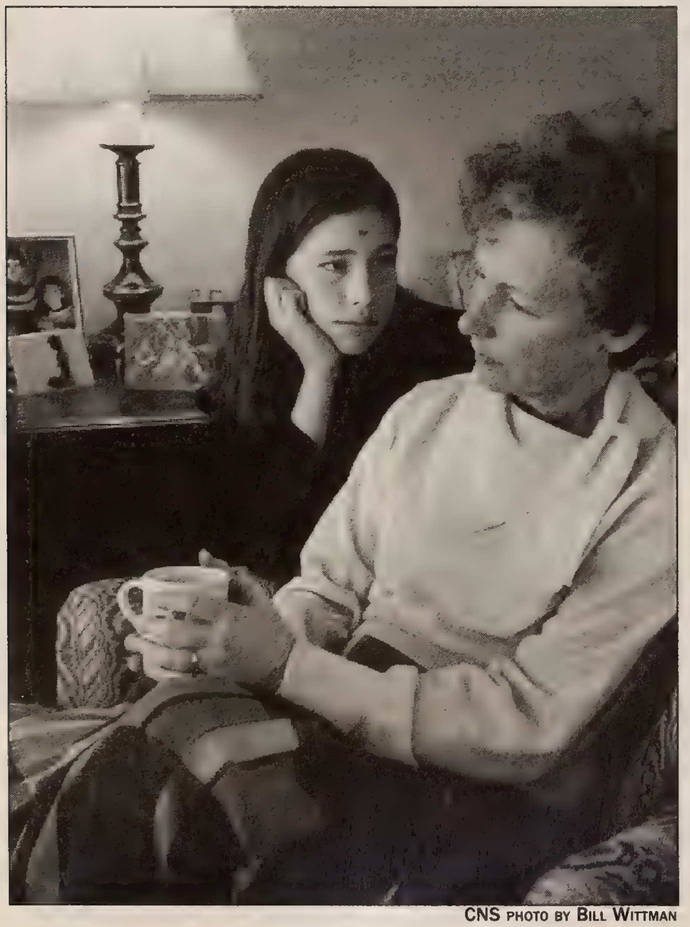
With humor comes the insight that we are not in complete control of our family's life. We work legitimately to achieve worthwhile goals such as financial support for family members. But many things happen to us that we do not expect. Ultimately, God is in control.

Just as an infant learning to walk, we have to learn to "let go." For adults, this letting go is a daily thing. It is also a deeply spiritual reality. God calls us to let go of our expectations and our accustomed ways of doing things — for our own good and the good of others.

> "At home, we need patience with little children's unending questions, with a teen-ager's quest for identity, with the concerns of our neighbors and the intrusion of unexpected events," says Oblate Father John W. Crossin. "Thus we realize our need for God's help — our need to pray."

However, this calls for more than a little patience.

The virtue of patience is immediately applicable every day. We need patience while we wait in lines in stores. We need patience in traffic as we drive to work or to the mall to wait in the lines!



CNS PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

At home, we need patience with little children's unending questions, with a teen-ager's quest for identity, with the concerns of our neighbors and the intrusion of unexpected events.

We also need patience with ourselves. Changing our ways of doing things or our expectations is slow. Growth takes time.

As we become older, we see how change is possible but difficult. Overcoming our own doubts and insecurities can be slow. We seem to fall into the same impatience, incivility and uncharity again and again.

Thus we realize our need for God's help — our need to pray.

I have been privileged to be with several families when they pray. Sometimes this prayer takes the form of an extended grace before the evening meal.

One husband and wife I know pray with their children in the living room before they go to bed. Each member takes a turn doing a Bible reading, reading about the life of a saint or lighting a candle. Every member has an opportunity to offer a petition for others — family members, friends, schoolmates or colleagues at work.

Such an experience reminds both children and adults of the importance of our relationship with God.

The Christian virtues are rooted in prayer. A senior couple I know pray a decade of the rosary every night for their family. They have done so for more than 50 years.

We are likely to need more silent time to pray. This can be hard to achieve if we have a noisy and bustling family life.

We are used to noise. Noise surrounds us. And we create noise as well. As soon as we come into a room we may turn on the radio, the television, the CD player or the computer. Or we need to talk on the telephone. At times, we seem to flee silence.

Yet, to listen to God we need some silence.

Even if we find time and a quiet place, we can find silence difficult. It can be difficult to sit still for even five minutes to listen to God. I can testify personally to this difficulty!

There always seem to be outside interruptions - a knock on the door or the phone ringing. And our interior noise — our to-do lists, our worries — can interrupt as well.

Yet if we persist, God does speak to us. God gives us surprising insights into our daily situations. Silent prayer, even if only for a few minutes, enhances the practice of humor, humility and patience.

These virtues of families are the virtues of daily living. There are many opportunities each day to practice them. They strengthen our relationships. They take us out of ourselves to others.

These small acts of patience or kindness make our families happy places to be. ▼

Oblate Father Crossin is the executive director of the Washington Theological Consortium. His new book, "Walking in Virtue: Moral Decisions and Spiritual Growth in Daily Life," was published in December by Paulist press.

FAITH alive!

The virtue in service and humility

Is there a virtue for families in connecting with the larger community around them?

By ANDREW AND TERRI LYKE
Catholic News Service

There are values — false values — that can insulate us from the community. Materialism and individualism are examples of such values.

But risking overuse of our ancestors' wisdom, we would stress the valuable role played by the "village" — the community — in raising children and contributing to the family's well-being. These days we all hear that it takes a village to raise a child.

But instead of asking how the village should impact the family, let's invert the question. Let's ask what families need to do to connect with the community.

False values beguile us into a sense of well-being based on self-sufficiency and personal achievement. This insulates families from the community. The antidote in our family is found in stressing the virtues of service and humility.

Service begins at home. Though clashes of personalities, sibling rivalries, marital and parenting issues often make it difficult, we believe it is essential that we serve each other as a family. This service happens in household chores, helping with homework, running errands, rubbing aching backs, chauffeuring to activities, preparation of meals.

Andrew routinely brings Terri coffee in the morning. Terri nurses all of us through sicknesses. Marty serves us dessert after dinner. Andrea helps Marty with his homework.

The reward for all this good-doing is the good of doing it.

Community service, whether it is working with Habitat for Humanity, going on an Appalachian service trip or helping at a soup kitchen, grows out of an expectation of service we experience at home.

A hazard of economic prosperity is falling into the trap of classism. Material prosperity becomes the gauge of worth.

This, too, can insulate us from those who have less and those who have more. The village then gets limited to a zip code. It's easy to become "drunk with the wine of the world."

The virtue of humility keeps us sober.

Serving others with humility keeps us from falling into the trap of believing that we are better than those who have less, or not as good as those who have more. Our way of living with humility is to try to live simply.

We also pay attention to the stories of others' lives, rather than their outward circumstances. Ultimately, everyone's story is connected to the story of God, since we are all children of God. And that is where we derive our worth.

Through the virtues of service and humility we connect with the "village." And Scripture assures us that "those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13). ▼

> Serving others with humility keeps us from falling into the trap of believing that we are better than those who have less, or not as good as those who have more.

The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry to the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

My candidate for No. 1 family virtue

By DAVID M. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

"It didn't turn out the way I thought it would."

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

Did you ever say those words? Did you ever think them? If you are married and live in a family, I guarantee you did. We all create hopes and plans for our lives.

If you are married, you want to be happy by sharing your life with your husband or wife. You imagine a certain marital lifestyle. You think about all those wonderful moments you will have together. Perhaps you imagine the two of you nestled in the back of a gondola as you float past the ancient palaces in Venice; or maybe you are just sitting together in front of the fireplace sharing your deepest spiritual thoughts.

Perhaps you are a parent. You have great hopes for your children. You hope they will be bright, athletic, popular and graduate from college with the promise of a great job. Or maybe you just hope they'll stay out of trouble.

Whatever your hopes, they are within you for a very good reason. God made us to be people filled with hopes and dreams.

Without hopes and dreams we become stale, and our lives become boring. We are made to want "more." It is one of the precious signs that we are really made for God.

But we also are made to hope for the best for ourselves and everyone else. In family life, "everyone else" is a spouse or children.

Perhaps one of life's greatest difficulties is that our earthly hopes rarely reach fulfillment in the exact way we hope for. ▼

> "Our children ... enter our families without much of a script. As the years flow by, the script becomes less ours and more theirs. This is not easy for many parents — especially if love gets confused with control," observes David M. Thomas, a graduate professor of community leadership.

Food for Thought

Forgetting can serve as a virtue for families. Other times, the virtue of a good memory is what families need.

One problem with family life is that there are problems in family life. Sometimes we handle problems well; other times we disappoint each other.

This gets complicated by the fact that at home people feel so free to be themselves; family members sometimes hurt each others' feelings. Hanging onto hurt feelings forever just won't work, however.

Eventually, family members have to let go, to forgive and to forget.

Where does a good memory fit into this picture?

First, family members need to remember — and not doubt — that they have the ability to forgive and forget.

Second, memory is a virtue at home when family members remember, amid all the pressures, who they are — who they are to each other.

And families need to remember that they, more than others, are called to recognize and appreciate just what makes each member tick — why each one is unique and invaluable, that is.

David Gibson, Editor
Faith Alive!

Faith in the Marketplace

An upcoming edition asks:

What are two important ways family members can express their love for each other?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Book Review

Tom Wolfe's latest is brilliant writing that disappoints

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

"A Man in Full" by Tom Wolfe, Farrar Straus Giroux, $28.95

"A Man in Full," Tom Wolfe's sprawling novel set in a South once again undergoing change, is like a Fourth of July spectacular that sputters at climatic moments. Incandescent at times, undisciplined at others, it is, ultimately, disappointing in its resolution despite the rich promise of its 742-page march through Georgia.

The book chronicles the fall of a brassy, boisterous, bullying Cracker who has scaled the financial heights as an Atlanta real estate developer. It is contrived, overcooked, recognizably Wolfeian in its preening style and peopled with enough stereotypes for a community hog roast.

And yet, "A Man in Full" (Farrar Straus Giroux, $28.95) features one brilliant writing achievement after another. Character development is never less than fulsome, biting social and cultural commentaries echo hidden realities, comic settings abound, and scene after scene bursts with enough energy to light all of Atlanta and its environs.

To dismiss it as entertainment, as have some critics, is to do Wolfe and his book less than justice. If it disappoints in some regards, one reason could be because its reach is so grand.

At the heart of the story is a moral dilemma facing Charlie Croker ("Cap'm Charlie," to his black plantation hands and various functionaries and lackeys) as he plunges towards a bankruptcy that is the fruit of his own egotism.

The dilemma: whether or not to call off the hounds baying at his financial heels by succumbing to the blandishments of Atlanta's new black leadership, which is squeezing him to defend an obnoxious jewel-encrusted black athlete suspected of raping the sexually adventurous daughter of one of the city's white establishmentarians.

By Charlie's side as the denouncement nears is a most unlikely figure: an idealistic young man facing a dilemma of his own, his marginal life having deteriorated rapidly following his dismissal from a job at a Croker frozen-food plant when Croker, attempting to save his empire, downsizes some of his operations.

The young man, Conrad Hensley, a fugitive and a victim of circumstances when he meets Croker directly, is one of the few moral individuals in a crush of shallow people ranging from politicians to attorneys, bankers, forsaken wives, body-beautiful women, and assorted snobs, hypocrites, revelers, good old boys and jailhouse thugs.

What is most compelling is Wolfe's throbbing descriptive powers. Whether the scene is the frozen-food warehouse where Hensley works, a profane prison cellblock, a black-tie party, a spring-break binge, a primal horse-mating, an intimidating financial conference room, a car impoundment or Cap'm Charlie's plantation (36 buildings, 40 dogs and 59 horses on 29,000 acres given over to quail shooting and egomania), Wolfe sets the stage the way grandmothers set festive tables — slowly, with great care and attention to all the details.

And once you have entered a Wolfe scene, even if it be brutal and violent, you are ensnared. For instance, there is nothing in literature quite like Wolfe's evocation of life in prison, and evocation so potent you almost seem to experience it personally in all its dehumanizing and horrific details.

In stripping away the protective outer masks worn by his characters, Wolfe exposes the ambiguities that bedevil the best of us, leaving us vulnerable to distorted and perverse imaginings. ▼

Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.

Word to Life

January 24. Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Isaiah 8:23-9:3
   Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
2) 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
3) Matthew 4:12-23

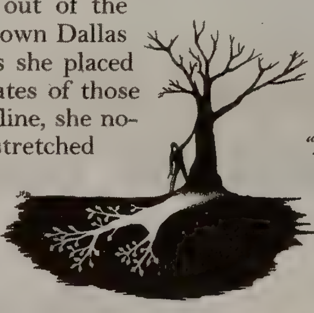
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

The promise of the Messiah is here in these verses from Isaiah in today's readings.

The Matthew reading offers the same verse rendered differently, as the Gospel writer uses it to introduce the opening of Jesus' ministry. "A people living in darkness has seen a great light. On those who inhabit a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."

We who follow Jesus, with him living in us, are now the bearers of that light to those "who inhabit a land overshadowed by death."

I have a friend who is one of those light-bearers we would all like to be like. Mary has the sort of holiness that shines from her face, not just her actions. Some years ago, she told me a story of working the cafeteria line at a ministry serving the homeless and poor out of the basement of a downtown Dallas Episcopal church. As she placed cornbread on the plates of those coming through the line, she noticed that the line stretched out considerably farther than the amount of cornbread she had left to serve.



The people just kept coming, she said, but so did the cornbread. It lasted until the last person had received a helping. It was a genuine case of multiplication of food, in her opinion.

I have no doubt that Mary's account is true. She has never been one to exaggerate or make huge claims, and dishonesty is not something she would be familiar with.

In today's Scripture from Matthew, just after the "great light" verse from Isaiah is quoted, and just after Jesus begins proclaiming repentance and the coming of the kingdom of heaven, comes the account of Jesus calling the first two disciples, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew.

Here's the last verse of that reading: "Jesus toured all of Galilee. He taught in their synagogues, proclaimed the good news of the kingdom and cured the people of every disease and illness."

I suspect Mary would have been as comfortable walking along with Jesus in those times as she is now.

Questions:

Have you known someone like Mary, from whom the light of Christ shone brightly? Can you somehow draw strength from the love that person showed, to give more love yourself?

> *"A people living in darkness has seen a great light. On those who inhabit a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen"*
> — *Matthew 4:16*

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 24 - Jan. 30, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 8:23-9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23; **Monday**, Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Tuesday**, 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday**, Hebrews 10:19-25, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday**, Hebrews 10:32-39, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday**, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Mark 4:35-41

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

RESPECT LIFE

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

No appeal to policy, procedure, majority will or pluralism ever excuses a public official from defending life to the greatest extent.

— NCCB, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics"

The Franciscan Center

Catholic Gift & Book Store

Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Video reviews

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"FM" (1978)

Lightweight, derivative comedy about a popular radio station which is taken over by its disc jockeys because they refuse to contaminate their music with unsuitable commercials. Under John A. Alonzo's direction, the characters are uninteresting and the jokes feeble. Some highly suggestive dialogue. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Anchor Bay, $14.95)

"A Face in the Crowd" (1957)

Cautionary tale about an Arkansas drifter (Andy Griffith) whose homespun appeal is discovered by a local radio producer (Patricia Neal), then goes on to become a national television star, but his ambitious ego and nasty disposition ultimately make him a dangerous political force. Directed by Elia Kazan from Budd Schulberg's savvy script, the result takes a close look at the media's power to influence and manipulate, a theme given credibility by Griffith's chilling two-faced performance, but the story itself grows increasingly contrived and predictable. Sexual situations and innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Warner, $19.98)

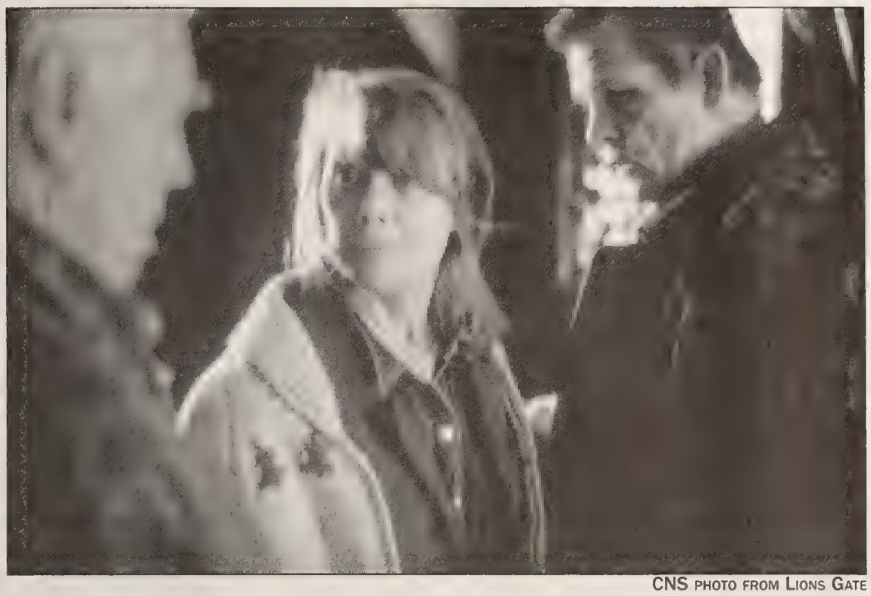
MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Meet John Doe" (1941)

An unassuming hobo (Gary Cooper) is hired to embody the average American but when he discovers that his media-created popularity is being used to further the ambitions of a home-grown fascist politician (Edward Arnold), he decides to commit suicide. Director Frank Capra plumbs the darker side of the American character in an interesting but ultimately heavy-handed story about the dangers of media manipulation. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Nostalgia, $14.95)

"Quiz Show" (1994)

Fact-based retelling of the late 1950s television scandal in which quiz contestants are fed answers beforehand until a disgruntled loser (John Turturro) spills the beans to a congressional investigator (Rob Morrow) about the show's corrupt producer (David Paymer) and a much-admired winner (Ralph Fiennes) who reluctantly confess to betraying the public trust while the network and sponsor escape official blame. Producer-director Robert Redford dramatically captures the contrasting personalities involved and the manner in which basic ethical considerations got shoved aside in favor of personal and corporate greed. Questions of moral integrity and minimal rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Touchstone, $19.99)



CNS PHOTO FROM LIONS GATE

"Affliction"

James Coburn, left, Sissy Spacek, center, and Nick Nolte star in "Affliction," which the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office for Film and Broadcasting calls "Nolte's finest hour." The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Truman Show" (1998)

Beguiling fantasy in which a 30-year-old man (Jim Carrey) eventually discovers his life from day one has been secretly televised 24 hours a day and all the people in his tranquil island community, such as his parents and wife, are paid actors. Director Peter Weir's bracing tale is emotionally involving while only scratching the surface of its moral themes concerning blatant media intrusion and control. Mature theme, marital discord and a few instances of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Paramount, rental) ▼

"I have a desire to learn about everything from teachings and writings to my faith and the world around me. I had no desire for these things before. When I came to the Abbey, I began to desire to grow in knowledge."

Maureen Davis, Class of 2001

Harrisburg, NC

Northwest Cabarrus High School

Major: Psychology

Maureen Davis is on a mission. Her goal is to share hope with young people who have none — and she's off to a blazing start.

Prior to beginning her journey at Belmont Abbey, Maureen went on a mission trip which sent her and co-workers to 140 towns across America. In each, they offered retreats for struggling youth.

"I know what it's like to be a troubled teen and to have a difficult time growing up. In high school, I didn't care much about anything. Then God made me realize how important He is — and doors started opening."

As a freshman at the Abbey, Maureen received one of the College's most highly-respected awards, the Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders. Since then, she's found that Belmont Abbey College's close-knit community, family-oriented environment, and "approachable" faculty provide the combination she needs to prepare to accomplish her life's mission.

"For me, success is truly making a difference in other peoples' lives. There's no greater joy than knowing that, because of something I did, someone else's life is better. To do that, you've got to develop the gifts you've been given to better serve others. Belmont Abbey is helping me do that. It's been a real gift in my life."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Belmont, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • Toll-Free 888.BAC.0110

ABLE AIRE 24-hour emergency service
(336) 887-8948

A Full Service Heating and Air Conditioning Company

Same low service fee
Any hour, Any day, Any emergency
Service all major brands

Member of Immaculate Heart of Mary *5% off parts with this ad*

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Boggs says pope's visit will have special meaning for U.S. youth

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II visits St. Louis in late January, he'll bring a significant message to America's heartland and especially the young people of the region, said U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs.

The ambassador, who will be in St. Louis Jan. 26 when President Bill Clinton welcomes the pope, said papal visits always have a "tremendous impact" in the United States, not only in religious circles but throughout the culture.

"His most significant contribution is always with the young people, and I'm certain it will be the same in St. Louis," Boggs said in an interview in Rome Jan. 14. The pontiff is scheduled to meet with youths in the Kiel Center the evening of his arrival.

Boggs has seen the pope interact with huge crowds of young people before; she said she still gets goose bumps recalling his rally with 75,000 youths in the New Orleans Superdome in 1987. In Alaska, where the pope stopped briefly in 1984, she watched as he drove a dogsled full of delighted children to his departure plane.

That event left her with a lasting image, she said.

"I think his greatest contribution to the world is that he is going to lead, with 'tough love,' the young people of this generation into the next millennium," she said.

By "tough love," she explained, she means the pope's approach to young people is demanding, not "cherubic," but they seem to respect that.

The 78-year-old pope has increasingly shown signs of age and a neurological disease, with a slower walk and less distinct speech. But Boggs, 82, said she has no apprehensions about the pope's health and his ability to communicate with people.

"Just today, I was in an audience where he was speaking to a group of theologians, to great intellectuals and scientists, and was giving a very remarkable speech," she said.

Lindy Boggs
Ambassador to the Vatican

"What I thought about was: Look at him! He's reading four pages of small print without any glasses on," she said with a laugh. She noted that he had celebrated a three-hour-long Mass a few days earlier with no apparent difficulty.

"I think he does remarkably well. ... I admire him so tremendously for being able to exhibit as much vigor as he does," she said.

Boggs, who represented Louisiana for many years in the House of Representatives, said the papal visit would highlight the church's history in the U.S. geographical center. Many of the early settlers and missionaries went up the Mississippi River from Louisiana, founding towns and building churches. ▼

Dialogue needs 'respect on all sides,' says Cardinal George

By MICHAEL WAMBLE
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — "Dialogue is only fruitful when there's great respect on all sides," said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago during a symposium on "The Catholic Faith and the Secular Academy" at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Cardinal George gave the keynote talk opening the Jan. 9 symposium, which was co-sponsored by the national Catholic Common Ground Initiative and the Lumen Christi Institute of the University of Chicago.

His address focused mainly on the role of the Catholic faith in the world, but he also spoke of dialogue within the church, a major concern of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative founded by his predecessor, the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin.

Panelists responding to the cardinal's talk were Father David Tracy and Paul Griffiths of the University of Chicago, Robin Darling Young of The Catholic University of America in Washington, and Precious Blood Father Robert Schreiter of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Attendees at the symposium included graduate students, professors and theologians.

In her response to the cardinal's discussion of Catholic faith on a secular campus, Young raised the question of how one defines a Catholic intellectual.

"Is it a scholar who goes to Mass?" she asked, suggesting that she thinks of a Catholic intellectual as someone who approaches religious faith from an academic background.

Cardinal George said that he thought of a Catholic intellectual as a believer who enters the world of academia.

They agreed that religious commitment and scholarship are fundamental elements of either definition, but their different approaches to the question might lead to differences in nuance.

Young, an associate professor of patristic theology, said she felt different tensions between faith and the academy while teaching at Catholic University and then at the University of Chicago as visiting professor last spring.

"There is a certain anomie of the secular university where any thought or belief or position is just another position. That is something that would be different here than at a Catholic university," she said.

Panelists noted that debate within the church can shed new light on issues and correct misunderstandings, but they raised the question of whether or to what extent internal divisions may limit the church's effectiveness in the world. ▼

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Gen King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370-3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widowed/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

A CONFERENCE
Understanding
God's Gift of Sexuality

A conference for
Catholic Leaders
Feb. 3 & 4, Columbia, SC

Cost: $85 includes meals and materials
Please call to register

Family Honor Inc
(803) 929-0858
A Family Organization Upholding the Virtue of Chastity

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

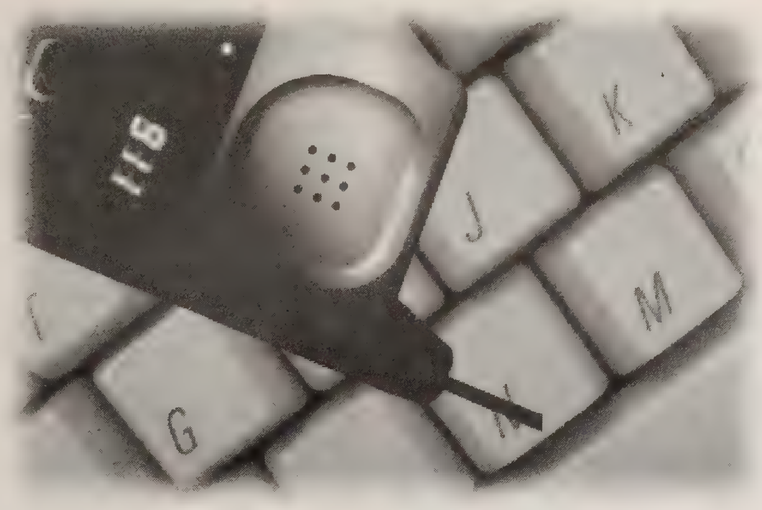
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Vatican to use high-tech tools to coordinate jubilee events



By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — High-tech tools such as the Internet and a private cellular telephone network will help the Vatican's year 2000 celebrations go smoothly, officials said.

At least 10,000 journalists and as many as 100,000 volunteers are expected to visit Rome during the jubilee year, according to Vatican statistics released Jan. 15.

But "it is not easy to foresee the flow" of pilgrims for ordinary trips and special events spread across the calendar, the Vatican official charged with coordinating year 2000 activities, Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, told journalists.

Past estimates by Vatican and Rome city authorities climbed to 26 million visitors for the year 2000, compared with the 21 million who came in 1997.

The city and the Vatican's Central Committee for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 have designed complex ways to handle the increased burden.

The committee's president, Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, said he had "pulled from the shadows" several technical and logistical experts to publicize organizational plans so that discussion of the commemorations will not seem to be "spirit without a body."

They described programs as diverse as multilingual magazines and pilgrims' identity cards with microchips containing emergency medical information. The cards also were meant to be used to register participants in special events and to reserve overnight accommodations.

Msgr. Liberio Andreatta, whose job was described as "relations with international and regional interfaces," said the Vatican had made agreements with hotels in the Rome region to offer 55,000 rooms at affordable prices, in addition to the 5,000 places normally available in religious institutions and an additional 5,000 spaces to be created in campgrounds and bed-and-breakfast facilities.

Despite extensive discussion of the technical and logistical aspects of the jubilee, Cardinal Etchegaray said, it must not be forgotten that the event's nature remains essentially spiritual.

Information on times and locations for special celebrations would be made available on a special Internet site, which was to go on line in February, and at fixed computer terminals throughout Rome, said Luca Magri, head of "Peregrinatio Ad Petri Sedem" the Vatican-related agency that oversees pilgrim activities.

In addition, special year 2000 information offices were to be opened in the city center.

An "intranet" linking bishops' conferences and nunciatures worldwide for the exchange of millennium-year information was already up and running, Magri said, and tour operators with experience in bringing pilgrims to Rome were forming an ad-hoc organization to ease jubilee year visits.

Francesco Silvano, the official responsible for telecommunications, said the main Italian telephone company was to provide dedicated cellular phones to help organize volunteer activities.

Volunteer coordinator Donato Mosella said 54,000 helpers would be needed for normal periods during the jubilee year, and 51,000 for special events. He noted that there would be some crossover between the volunteer forces, which were being recruited through bishops' conferences.

Authorities also discussed several programs still in the works:

— The Vatican was preparing to release an official hymn for the jubilee year.

— An unnamed "famous composer" has been commissioned to make liturgical music dedicated to the year 2000.

— The major Italian publishing house Mondadori was to make available several translations of its collections of pilgrims' prayers, as well as a book on a pilgrim's "typical day" and "typical week," which would give suggested itineraries and an idea of how long they might take.

— Pilgrims were to receive special satchels with information, maps and small portable camp chairs.

Despite extensive discussion of the technical and logistical aspects of the jubilee, Cardinal Etchegaray said, it must not be forgotten that the event's nature remains essentially spiritual.

"What we are talking about is not just a jubilee as a pure social fact, a simple change of the millennium," he said. "What we are hoping for is a necessary minimum of material organization at the service of a maximum of spiritual impetus.

"It is evident that, on one hand, this minimal material cannot be microscopic," he added, "and that, on the other, the spiritual maximum cannot be visible to the naked eye." ▼

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• Debt Consolidation
• Lower Monthly Payments
• Cash Out
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm
A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and answers for Catholic teens)

Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16
Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7007
(800) 331-0768

Pope says all Archives documents should be preserved, studied

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The holdings of the Vatican Secret Archives, including documents that might not be flattering to the church, should be preserved and studied, Pope John Paul II said.

The texts contain "the memory of the church and, therefore, the continuity of its apostolic service through the centuries with its lights and shadows," the pope said Jan. 15 during a meeting with officials of the Vatican Secret Archives and the Vatican Library.

The pope said triumphs and failures should be "known and made known, without fear — in fact, with sincere gratitude to the Lord, who does not cease to guide his church."

Pope John Paul said the belief that the church has nothing to hide was what prompted Pope Leo XIII to open the archives to scholars in 1880.

In addition to holding the memory of the church, he said, the archives and works collected in the library can contribute "to the evangelization of culture."

The archives can help the church in its efforts to influence the development and transmission of culture with "the values which the Gospel has given us together with those arising from a true humanism; both in reality are closely connected," he said.

"If, in fact, the Gospel teaches us the absolute primacy of God and salvation in Christ the Lord alone, it also is the only way to appreciate, respect and truly love the human creature made in the image of God and called to be inserted into the mystery of the Son of God made man," the pope said. ▼

FBI's Freeh honored with Ethics in Government Award

SOUTH RIVER, N.J. (CNS) — FBI Director Louis J. Freeh was named recipient of an Ethics in Government Award by the Passionist Eastern Province based in South River.

The award was to be presented Jan. 25 at a fund-raising event at the New York Stock Exchange Luncheon Club.

Prior to his appointment as FBI director in 1993, Freeh worked as an attorney and then as a federal district judge in New York. Freeh, a Catholic, also was an adjunct professor at Jesuit-run Fordham Law School.

Passionist Father Paul Wierichs, director of development for his province, also serves as chaplain to the FBI office in New York. He told Catholic News Service Jan. 14 his work with the FBI had given him a number of opportunities to meet and talk with Freeh, including visits at his office in Washington.

"I have been impressed with him and his family life and ideals," Father Wierichs said. "I see few leaders that young people can look up to, but I find there are a lot of young FBI agents who are good people and who look up to Mr. Freeh."

The priest said part of the money raised would go to his order's St. Gabriel Retreat House for Youth on Shelter Island, off eastern Long Island. "It is the only retreat house on the East Coast exclusively for youth, and it needs help," he said. ▼

Listening Sessions

Housing Needs of Catholic Elders in the Charlotte area

The Elder Ministry Program of the Diocese of Charlotte will be holding one hour listening sessions to hear your views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic Seniors.

Friday, January 22, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Matthew
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

Saturday, January 30, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Gabriel
3016 Providence Road

Friday, February 5, 1999
12 noon — 1pm
Our Lady of the Assumption
4207 Shamrock Drive

Wednesday, January 27, 1999
10am — 11am
St. Thomas Aquinas
1400 Suther Road

Wednesday, February 3, 1999
10am — 11am
Our Lady of Consolation
2301 Statesville Avenue

Co-sponsored by:
Elder Ministry of Catholic Social Services and Charlotte Mecklenberg Area Task Force

For information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220

New papal nuncio arrives in United States

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the new Vatican ambassador to the United States, arrived in Washington to take up his post Jan. 16.

Among those greeting him at Reagan National Airport were Vatican Embassy and U.S. State Department representatives; Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington; Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., NCCB vice president; Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, NCCB general secretary; and Msgr. William P. Fay, NCCB associate general secretary.

Colombia-born Archbishop Montalvo, who celebrates his 69th birthday Jan. 27, is a veteran of more than 40 years in Vatican diplomatic service.

He worked in Vatican embassies in Bolivia, Argentina and El Salvador before he was called to Rome in 1964, where he spent 10 years as an Eastern Europe specialist in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Pope Paul VI named him nuncio to Honduras and Nicaragua in 1974. Since then he has also served as the chief papal representative in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Yugoslavia and Belarus. Since 1993 he has been head of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, the Vatican's diplomatic training school in Rome.

Archbishop Montalvo is the first papal representative in the United States to hold the title of nuncio.

Until 1984, when formal U.S.-Vatican diplomatic relations were established, papal representatives in Washington were called apostolic delegates. They were officially responsible only for Vatican dealings with the U.S. Catholic Church and their contacts with the government were informal and unofficial.

The first two Vatican ambassadors to the United States, Archbishop (now Cardinal) Pio Laghi, 1984-90, and Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, 1990-98, had the title of pro-nuncio because at the time of their appointment the Vatican reserved "nuncio" for ambassadors who held the rank of dean of the diplomatic corps in the country where they served.

Shortly after Archbishop Cacciavillan was appointed, the Vatican decided to drop the title of pro-nuncio and start calling all its ambassadors nuncios, regardless of their rank in the local diplomatic corps. But those who had been appointed as pro-nuncios retained that title for the duration of their appointment.

Archbishop Cacciavillan was named president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See last November and Archbishop Montalvo's appointment to Washington followed in December. ▼

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA

K of C

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Western Counties Project, from page 1

— Establish a mentoring or job-coaching program to increase long-term employment success of entry-level workers and to assist others advance their careers;

— Increase efforts to make available affordable housing for low-income families and the elderly.

Data for Dr. Sills' report were gleaned over several months. Interviews were conducted, focus groups convened, written surveys taken, recommendations devised. Heath care and social service professionals were asked about needs, as were civic leaders.

Dr. Sills said the study found that in spite of a lack of living-wage jobs, affordable housing, and other various resources, the region boasts a "large number of people who want to work — people with pride, stamina and interest in supporting themselves and their families."

As the Jan. 15 conference progressed, plans for action became more specific. Small discussion groups became implementation committees that agreed to develop marketing plans, agendas, and short- and long-range goals.

In addition to diocesan support, leadership is coming from a variety of avenues. The contributions of local religious leaders bring an ecumenical vigor, while members of involved agencies and organizations possess a variety of skills, knowledge and influence needed to effect change.

Still, discussions revealed that help and cooperation are needed from more people of good will.

"Part of the value of this kind of project is it shakes us out of our locus," Dr. Sills said. "Where we are in life colors our perceptions; we tend to see only those things that we are most directly exposed to.

"Few of us take the time or effort to rise above our place to do a really critical analysis of the larger community and its needs."

Child care, transportation, housing and community needs like those Shelby Woody described can indeed be addressed, the report finds. And with enough technical support, Dr. Sills added, goals will become realities.

"If you have an opportunity to do something, and you're willing to take hold of that opportunity, the resources are there," he said. "A lot of these resources are already here in the community. Others are available to you from private foundations and government sources.

"You've just got to be creative, ask for them, and not take no for an answer." ▼

To lend support or for more information on the Western Counties Project, or to receive a copy of the economic justice pastoral letter "Of One Heart and One Mind," contact Joanne K. Frazer at (704) 370-3225.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

The Rev. Mark Sills of the Faith in Action Institute and Joanne K. Frazer of the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Justice and Peace discuss strategic opportunities following a meeting of the Western Counties Project, an economic development project aimed at improving situations in Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN
RESORT
Explore our highland ridges and magnificent streamside locations.
Enjoy the mountain club with golf, pool, restaurant and lodge.
Only 90 minutes from Charlotte
(800)813-9676
$149.
Weekend Getaway includes golf or fly fishing clinic or horseback riding.
Some restrictions apply

Enjoy Catholic programming through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus all your favorite cable channels!

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

dish NETWORK

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to 770-516-4664.

Assistant Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Assistant Teacher positions. Please contact the school principal, Mrs. Janice Ritter, at (704)333-3174 for an interview. Positions available immediately.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 600 families near Raleigh, North Carolina in process of building new church desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have B.A. in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time; salary of 30K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by March 15 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Director of Pastoral Care: St. Joseph of the Pines has an opening for a Director of Pastoral Care to work at the Southern Pines Health Center location. Provides counsel, guidance and support to residents, patients, employees, and families. Must have CPE certification, a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry, Psychology, or Theology. Three to five years' experience as a Chaplain a plus! Send resume to St. Joseph of the Pines, Administration, Attn: Lorena Moree, 95 Aviemore Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374. EOE. JOBLINE: 1-800-436-7791

Youth Ministry: St. Gabriel Parish is seeking creative, well-organized youth minister for large parish of 3900+ families. This full-time position has responsibility for grades seven through twelve. Applicant must be practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in related field and experience working with youth preferred. Send resume, salary requirements and references to Youth Ministry Search, c/o Susan Krasniewski, DRE, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Youth Minister: Growing parish of 1900 families has immediate opening for full-time Youth Minister for established Total Youth Ministry program, youth grades 6-12. Candidate must be faithfilled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Successful candidate will have work experience and BA in Theology or related field. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume and statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Youth Minister Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410, or FAX (366)294-6149.

Priest combines two callings in police chaplain post

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — When he was growing up, Bob Romano always knew he would be either a priest or a cop. But he never believed he could become both.

Today he is Father Romano, pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Dyker Heights, and Inspector Romano, a chaplain for the New York City Police Department, wearing an NYPD uniform for official duties.

For the Brooklyn priest, the two callings mesh well.

"Cops love priests, and I've always seen a camaraderie between them," he said. "As a priest or a cop you often find yourself in a situation where you can make things happen. I find an excitement in it all."

> "Cops love priests, and I've always seen a camaraderie between them. As a priest or a cop you often find yourself in a situation where you can make things happen. I find an excitement in it all."
>
> *— Father Bob Romano*

Father Romano is the third Catholic police chaplain in the city, joining Msgr. John P. McCullagh, also of the Brooklyn Diocese, and Msgr. Joseph J. Zammit of the Archdiocese of New York. Both are also inspectors.

Historically, only two priests served as Catholic chaplains at one time, according to Father Romano, but he said Police Commissioner Howard Safir expanded the staff because of the large number of Catholics employed by the police department.

"It's estimated that 86 percent of the 52,000 uniformed and civilian personnel are Catholics," the priest said.

Msgr. McCullagh, who has responded to more than 300 emergency calls in his 18 years as chaplain, described the priest-chaplain as "a visible reminder of the invisible presence of God."

"The chaplain is recognized by the families of police officers as someone they want and trust at critical times," he added.

Within a week of his swearing-in last fall, Father Romano rushed to Staten Island to console the families of husband-and-wife police officers who were victims of a murder-suicide.

"Those are tough moments," he said. "There is almost no way to answer questions about why people do what they do. You try to comfort those who remain behind and let them know they're not alone. But there is no way at that moment that you can make them feel better."

As a chaplain Father Romano also is on call to counsel police personnel on personal, family or professional matters on a confidential basis whenever needed.

CNS PHOTO BY ED WILKINSON, THE TABLET

Father Robert Romano, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, serves as a chaplain for the New York City Police Department and as pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Brooklyn.

When Brooklyn Bishop Thomas V. Daily approved the new duties for Father Romano, he expressed confidence that the new chaplain would serve police personnel well in "this added pastoral responsibility," while carrying out his primary obligation to serve members of St. Bernadette Parish.

The bishop indicated the same to Father John Delendick, pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Red Hook, when Father Delendick became a New York Fire Department chaplain in 1996.

Father Romano said he and Father Delendick share the same birthday, Sept. 4, although the latter is one year his senior at 49.

"When we were students at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, our classmates, knowing our interest in the police and firefighters, would kid us by saying, 'Here comes the fireman. Here comes the policeman,'" Father Romano said. "And it worked out that way." ▼

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

A Community of Believers

While Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools emphasize traditional Christian values in a secure environment, today's programs and facilities are anything but old school. A state-of-the-art high school, before- and after-school care and a new transportation program make all Catholic schools in Charlotte more attractive than ever.

If you value these values, call MACS Admissions Office at 370-3273.

All Saints Catholic School
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
St. Ann Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
St. Patrick Catholic School
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
Charlotte Catholic High School

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

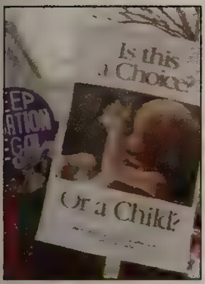
******************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S300 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 29, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 21

Inside


Is this a Choice?
Or a Child?

March for Life

Annual event draws thousands to Washington

...PAGES 16-17

Earthquake hits Colombia

...PAGE 20

Local News

Living the Faith:

Charlotte principal receives national award

...PAGE 15

Elder Ministry hears needs for senior housing

...PAGE 3

Diocese explores options for Good Shepherd

...PAGE 7

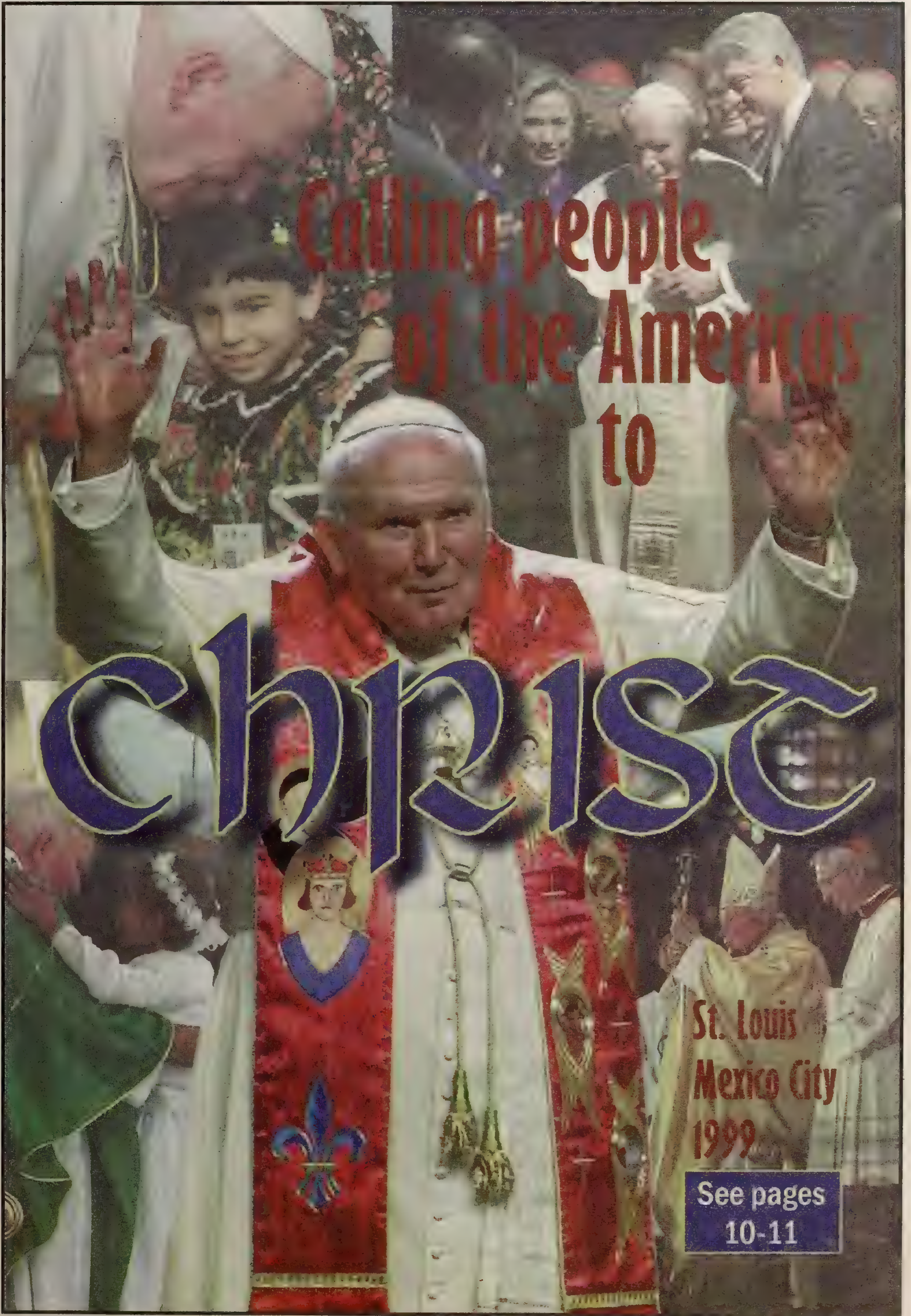
Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 8-9

Catholic Schools Week

Faith for a Brighter Future

January 31-February 6, 1999



Calling people of the Americas to Christ

St. Louis
Mexico City
1999

See pages 10-11

The World in Brief

Chiapas church officials welcome pope's remarks on indigenous

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Church officials from Mexico's conflict-ridden state of Chiapas expressed satisfaction with Pope John Paul II's remarks on indigenous rights and with the apostolic exhortation on the Synod of Bishops for America. Dominican Father Gonzalo Ituarte, vicar for justice and peace in the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas, said in a news conference Jan. 25 that the pope's remarks and the synod document were an affirmation of the work of the church in San Cristobal. In response to questions, 74-year-old Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas said indigenous people, "as subjects in history," are transforming the Americas. He described the uprising five years ago by indigenous people in his diocese as "an undue use of violence," but said their reasons were understandable and the cause was a just one.

Vatican condemns U.S. attacks on Iraq; civilians reported killed

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Vatican condemned renewed allied attacks against Iraq as Pope John Paul II preached peace during a pastoral visit to Mexico. Prompted for comment on the Jan. 25 attacks thought to have claimed nearly a dozen civilian lives, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told members of the traveling Vatican press corps: "This new incident confirms once again what the Holy Father has said before, in recent days: That military measures do not by themselves resolve problems. On the contrary, they make them worse."

Survey finds fewer describe themselves as 'strong' Catholics

CHICAGO (CNS) — Although the percentage of Americans identifying themselves as Catholic has remained at 26 percent over the past 30 years, the percentage who describe their attachment to the church as "strong" is dropping, according to survey results released by the National Opinion Research Center. The center at the University of Chicago said that in its 1998 General Social Survey, 37 percent said they were "strong" Catholics and 29 percent said they attended church each week. In the 1970s, 46 percent said they had a strong attachment to the church and 48 percent reported going to church weekly.

Kosovo Street
A woman and child follow a unit of the Kosovo Liberation Army through the streets of Drenica Jan. 22. The bishop in Kosovo appealed for prayers for the region's unsettled situation.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Feb. 7 marks day of prayer for African-American family

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several Catholic organizations are urging black Catholics to observe Feb. 7 as the National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family. The annual observance, now in its 10th year, is being supported by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the Black Sisters' Conference, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African-American Catholics and the Josephite Pastoral Center. "We are appealing to the black family to celebrate on this day their rich heritage (and) unwavering faith and renew their courage to hope," said Franciscan Father James Goode, founder of the national day and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

Lebanese bishops express concern over government reforms

BKERKE, Lebanon (CNS) — Lebanon's Maronite bishops lauded recent social reforms undertaken by the government, but said they were concerned the reforms would reach only a sector of society. "There is an apprehension that they will not reach everybody, but will save some of those who have the luck of being protected," the bishops said in a statement after their mid-January meeting.

Mexican church groups warn of 'delicate' human rights situation

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Six church-related groups wrote Pope John Paul II just before his visit to Mexico about the "especially delicate" human rights situation in the country. In a five-page letter, dated Jan. 18, the groups said poverty was the main obstacle to fully guaranteeing the exercise of human rights by millions of Mexicans. The letter was signed by representatives of Jesuit and Dominican national human rights offices and four diocesan human rights centers, in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero. Large parts of the three states, all in southern Mexico, are heavily militarized in the wake of peasant uprisings in the past five years.

St. Louis Polish parish takes pride in pope's visit

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Though St. Louis is miles away from Pope John Paul II's native Poland, parishioners in the city's only Polish parish said they hoped he would feel right at home. That's why they spent more than five months rehearsing Polish songs to greet him upon his arrival at the archbishop's residence, where he was to stay Jan. 26, and to perform prior to the Mass at the Trans World Dome Jan. 27. "The most important thing is to let the pope know we're here — the Polish community and a Polish parish," said Joseph Skudrzyk, a member of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, and a member of the choir with 21 other parishioners.

Catholic Press Month has millennial theme for 1999

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Open the Doors to a New Millennium" is the theme for Catholic Press Month, observed in February. In a statement for a booklet prepared by the Catholic Press Association expanding on the theme, the Vatican's top communications official said the Catholic press "can and should be a most effective instrument for reminding people of the true significance of the new millennium." Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, noted how "all human history is measured from the moment of the birth of the God-man, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh."

On the cover:
Collage composed of CNS photos by Nancy Wiechec and Reuters

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

January 29, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 21
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 30 — 5 pm Mass
St. James, Concord

February 2 — 10 am Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School

February 3 — 9:15 am Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

February 4 — 10 am Mass
Bishop McGuinness High School

February 5 — 7:30 am
Mass for the Knights of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral

9:30 am
Mass and Mural Blessing
St. Gabriel School

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Adult bereavement sharing and caring groups meet each Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. in the council room and each Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. in Classroom 12 of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Anyone who has sustained a major loss in life is welcome. For details, call (704) 573-1023.

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace offers free Operation Rice Bowl workshops to parish leaders and faith formation teachers. Operation Rice Bowl is a Lenten program incorporating prayer, fasting, learning and giving. Catholic Relief Services provides all program materials at no cost. Funds donated through the program provide resources to Catholic Relief Services to help people become self-reliant and self-sufficient. To schedule a workshop or for more information, call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3231 or send faxes to (704) 370-3377.

February

1 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., hosts a charismatic Mass today at 7:15 p.m. The laying on of hands follows. Call (336) 778-0600 for details.

3 CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte sponsors a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., from 10-11 a.m. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

5 ARDEN — "Song of Mark," a contemporary musical based on Mark's Gospel, is today at 7 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. An encore performance is Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. For details, call the church office at (828) 684-6098.

CHARLOTTE — The Elder Ministry

Elder Ministry looks at needs for Catholic senior housing

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — As parishioners of St. Matthew Church, Pat and Jerry Brown worship at daily Mass, go to senior aerobics twice a week, and attend Bible study regularly. They enjoy a spiritual and social balance while appreciating a sense of community.

It's a sense Pat Brown hopes will continue as her and her husband's needs as Catholic seniors become more pressing, especially in relation to where they will live in upcoming years.

"My husband had a stroke two years ago," she says. "I was able to (care for him) at home, but I know some day I may not be able to. I would like us to be together so that I could be there with him if he needed extra care."

The Browns and some 50 others gathered Jan. 22 at St. Matthew Church to discuss their hopes and needs regarding Catholic senior housing. The listening session was the first of five scheduled through Feb. 5 in Charlotte-area parishes.

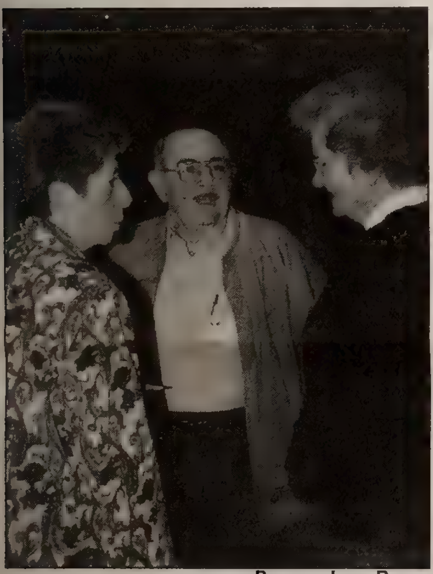


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

From left, Mary and Sal Bianchi discuss their hopes for Catholic senior housing with Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, a pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church.

The sessions' purpose is two-fold: to verify a want for such housing in Charlotte, and to discuss housing-related needs particular to Catholic seniors.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Elder Ministry and the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging, the sessions were scheduled in response to recommendations of a diocesan task force on aging formed in 1997.

"Housing is one of the things that has continued to come about ... in reference to a need and concern," said Sandra Breakfield, director of Elder Ministry and a member of both task forces.

The listening sessions were designed to define and explore three topics:

— Desired or needed types of senior housing.

— Affordable housing.

— Catholic housing.

Ruth Huey, director of the Selwyn Life Center at Mercy in Charlotte and a member of the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging, is facilitating the sessions.

Feedback was varied and far ranging at the Jan. 22 session, though affordability, spiritual resources, and the feeling of fraternity Pat Brown stressed were among the needs agreed upon most clearly.

"As people get older and lose their spouse or have the empty nest, they have lost their support team," Brown said. "Therefore, community is a very important factor."

A majority of those in attendance also agreed that a continuing-care community — one that offers independent, assisted and skilled-nursing care living — is an important consideration.

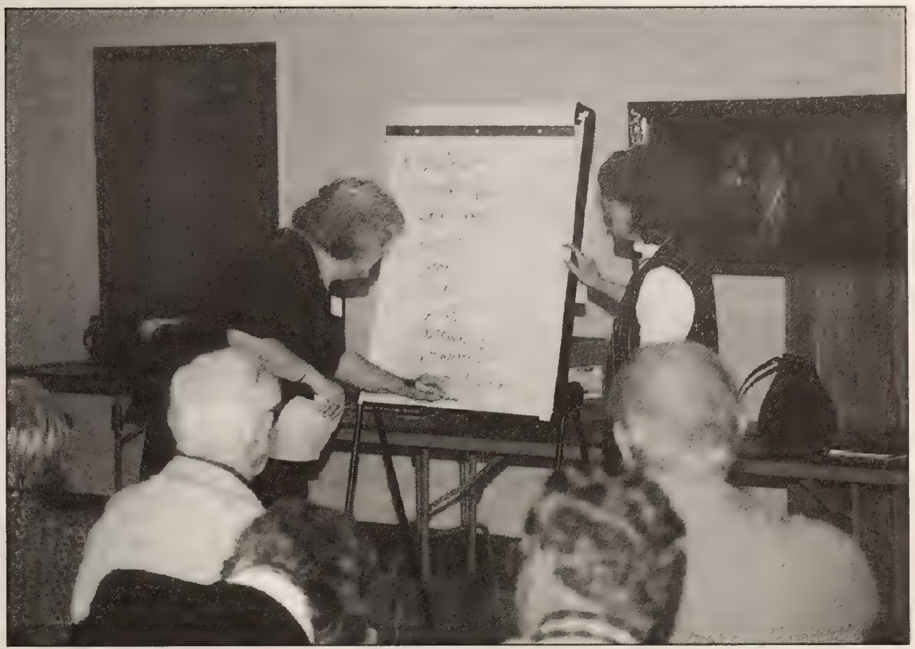


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Ruth Huey, left, and Sandra Breakfield compile comments from seniors at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte during a listening session on the housing needs particular to Catholics who are elderly. Huey, director of the Selwyn Life Center at Mercy, facilitated the session. Breakfield is director the Diocese of Charlotte's Elder Ministry.

The primary challenge is finding a way to pay for such a facility, said Gerry Carter, diocesan director of Special Ministries. "We are not going to build a Catholic elder facility anywhere unless we are going to do it right," he added.

He said a systematic plan would have to be proposed for the building and maintaining of the facility, allowing it to pay for itself over time and ensuring "that it's a decent and honorable place for people to live and die."

Sandra Breakfield stressed that no scheduled plans for housing have been finalized or even approved at this point, but she added that the hope is indeed there. She said the input, ideas and suggestions gleaned from the sessions will assist the Elder Ministry in making future proposals.

Information gathered will be studied and discussed at the next meeting of the Mecklenburg Area Task Force on Aging in February.

Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, a pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church and a member of the task forces, devotes her service to people with special needs. She told those in attendance on Jan. 22 that she looks forward to the day she can minister to them in a Catholic senior housing facility.

"I think it's possible," she said with a smile. "We've got to work together. We've got men and women in here who are brilliant, who have had all kinds of wonderful experiences.

"Let's leave here today with the determination that it's going to happen." ▾

---

of the Diocese of Charlotte sponsors a listening session exploring views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic seniors today at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., from noon-1 p.m. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

HAMLET — St. James Church, 1018 W. Hamlet Ave., hosts its annual pit-cooked barbecue today from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dinners include pork or chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, bread, dessert, and tea or coffee. Eat in or take out. Call (910) 582-0207 for more information.

6 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are today in the Belmont Abbey Basilica with a new schedule. Mass is at 9:30 a.m., the rosary is at 10 and the sacrament of reconciliation is offered at 10:30. For more information, call Terri or Phil DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. at Appalachian State University's Catholic campus ministry center, 232 Faculty St. A covered dish supper precedes the meeting. For details, call (828) 264-8338.

MOORESVILLE — A training session on implementing the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is today from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., for parish leaders, social concerns committee members, educators, business people and all interested persons. There is no cost, but registration is required by calling Joanne K. Frazer at (704) 370-3231. Bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Catholic School hosts its annual Valentine Ball and silent auction fund raiser today from 7-10 p.m. at the Country Club of Salisbury. The event includes a buffet dinner, dancing and the auction. Proceeds benefit school facilities and materials. Cost is $30 per person, and reservations are required by Jan. 31. For more information, call Phyllis Tonseth, (704) 637-7886.

7 ASHEVILLE — The Reynolds-Miller Chorale presents a program of spirituals in celebration Black History Month at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., today at 3 p.m. Admission is free. For details, call (828) 252-6042.

9 CHARLOTTE — Molly Kelly, an author, lecturer, and widowed mother of eight, discusses chastity in a speaking presentation at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., at 7:30 p.m. The presentation is open to the public. For details, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

13 CHARLOTTE — Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to Bishop William G. Curlin, discusses "Baptism: What Does It Call Us To As Christians?" today at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse of Strawberry Hill Apartments. This meeting is part of a series of monthly talks for adults. Reservations are required by calling Helen at (704) 365-4932. Dessert will be served.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelists Scott and Kimberly Hahn bring their message of faith to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The Hahns are converts to the Catholic faith, make frequent appearances on the cable network EWTN, and have produced many audio and video tapes. They will discuss four topics relating to the 1999 papal theme of the "Father." Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. For more information, call (704) 364-5431. This event is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE — Wilderness themes are explored in a "Journey into Lent" presentation today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The event includes discussion on the pain, anguish and humor of the wilderness as found in Scripture. Cost is $20. R.S.V.P. to Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says love of mother, father closest thing to God's love

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The closest thing on earth to God's "intense, constant and compassionate love" for his creation is the love of a father or mother for a child, Pope John Paul II said.

"Despite the infidelities of his people and the consequent threats of punishment, God has revealed himself to be incapable of renouncing his love," the pope said Jan. 20 during his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, Pope John Paul told visitors he would be traveling to Mexico City and St. Louis within the next week and asked for prayers for the peoples of North and South America.

In his main talk, the pope said that alongside the fatherly images of God in the Old Testament, "characteristics which are usually attributed to maternal love" also are attributed to God.

The pope said Christians' identification of God as "Father" is an inheritance from the experience of the Jews, who recognized in him "a particularly paternal attitude."

They experienced God as Father through his creation, but even more so as he made repeated efforts to save them, the pope said.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, God expresses his love for his people "with profound tenderness, even when he is forced to lament his children's lack of a corresponding love," the pope said.

"A paternity so divine and, at the same time so 'human' in the ways it is expressed, also includes characteristics which are usually attributed to maternal love," he said.

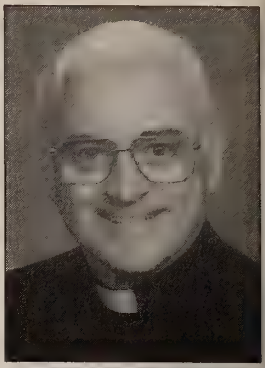
"Even if they are rare, the Old Testament images in which God is compared to a mother are extremely significant," Pope John Paul said.

The pope cited as examples two passages from Isaiah in which the people are told God, like a mother, can never forget them and that "as a mother comforts her son, so will I comfort you."

"Therefore, the divine attitude toward Israel is manifested also with maternal traits which express tenderness and compassion," the pope said.

Pope offers condolences to victims of Kosovo violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his condolences to the victims of recent violence in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia and called for an end to the conflict. In a Jan. 21 telegram to the head of the Yugoslavian bishop's conference, Archbishop Franc Perko of Belgrade, the pope said he was "profoundly pained over the aggravation of the situation in the Kosovo region." The pope urged Yugoslav government officials "to put an end to the spiral of violence and to find again the path of constructive dialogue in respect for the inalienable rights of every human person."



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

"Corpus Christi"

Ben Brantley reviewed the play "Corpus Christi" in the New York Times (Oct. 13, 1998). The play presents a Christlike hero as a gay man. In Brantley's view, the central message of the play is that no one should be persecuted for being different. That is a good message.

Gay-bashing has become sport among some sick individuals. We should all try to uphold the decency and honor of the Golden Rule.

The tragic death of a gay student who was tortured and beaten in Wyoming a few months ago vividly reminds us that gay-bashing is a crime against all humanity. It is no wonder that the gay community is outraged.

Homophobia is the target of the play's author, Terrence McNally. His anger is justified, but he presented a terribly offensive description of the holy family.

Paul Bauman, executive editor of Commonweal magazine, reviewed the play and wrote the following: "Joseph is depicted as a foul-mouthed lout, Mary a blousy, cigarette smoking and uncomprehending bit of white trash, the disciples a boisterous boy-did-we-party band of bar-hopping gay men." You get the picture.

Joshua, the name given to the character intended to be Jesus, is a gay man who is seduced by Judas in a men's room on the night of the prom. The play seems to be more a catharsis of revenge than an appeal to high principle. It succeeds very well in offending the religious sensibilities of many Christians, but it fails in its public relations.

A horde of Catholics and Protestants, some of whom were gay themselves, I am told, protested the play's opening. Tempers were raging though the demonstration was nonviolent.

The American Civil Liberties Union defends the right of artists to say anything they want in their artistic expression, even if they know they will enrage others. McNally's right to artistic freedom is protected by the U.S. Constitution, but the long-range consequences of his work is not.

He may have felt better once he got his pent-up frustrations out, but did he help the cause? Will people come away saying "gays and minorities in general have a right to be different," or will they say "gays don't care if they desecrate our most sacred beliefs."

Perhaps McNally doesn't care about consequences.

When anyone stirs up a hornet's nest he usually reaps a strong negative reaction. The conservative Christians who came out in protest did not see the play as an appeal for understanding or a defense of the principle of "live and let live." They saw it as an attack on the sacred images of their faith. They wonder how any appeal to artistic license can justify the desecration of the religious beliefs of millions of Christians.

As an American I have to defend McNally's right to express his feelings as he sees fit. As a Christian I feel offended by the treatment of his topic. What we all need to do is pray for greater understanding and tolerance. We may not fully understand the world of gays and lesbians, but they are our brothers and sisters, and they are worthy of respect.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Look inward and learn — the folly of judging others

I was visiting my sister Jeannette who lives 125 miles from me. The morning I was leaving we had one of those wonderful sisterly conversations about how our lives were going. I felt very peaceful as we talked. I was telling my sister, who is 14 years younger than I, that now, in my more mellow years, I was becoming so much more relaxed about life. I told her how I was very easy-going. Most of life's annoyances simply roll off me.

I must have sounded like a great sage the way I was going on. My sister listened, smiled and assured me that while she was not yet where I was in this profound development of easy-goingness, she was no doubt on her way.

We said our goodbyes, and I went out to my car. Surprise! It wouldn't start. I couldn't believe it. My car is nearly new. I kept trying to start it, but the engine simply wouldn't turn over.

I went back into the house. Jeannette's son Tony went out to see if he could start it. No luck. By this time I was getting just short of hysterical. I had to get back home for a very important meeting.

As I went on trying to figure out what to do, my sister said, quietly: "Why don't you sit. and I'll make you a cup of hot tea. Just relax, and then we'll figure out what to do."

I looked at her, and we both started to laugh like a couple of kids. I told her to remember all I said about how relaxed I am about life — and to forget how I reacted when my car wouldn't start.

Naturally that initiated another conversation, probably a much more honest one. It hit home hard that we all think we know ourselves, and we do — to an extent. But it's when something happens to upset our smooth routine that we learn much more about ourselves.

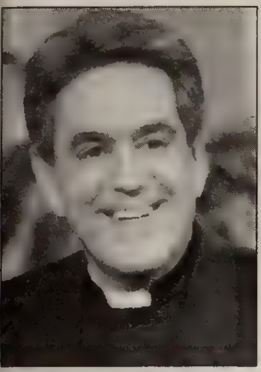
Who are we, really, when a tragedy hits us, when we are beset by disappointment, betrayal, illness, boredom, depression and, yes, even shame if a transgression we hoped to hide came out in public? We can self-analyze all we want, as I did to my sister, but that's not the real picture unless we are seeking to know ourselves when we're under crisis.

If it is so confusing to judge ourselves, how much more so is it impossible and wrong to judge others. I think the wisdom of the Lord Jesus was at its best when he said, "Judge not others that you may not be judged."

In the past year, we became a society that gave itself the right to sit in judgment of anybody and everybody for what anybody could perceive to be their private sins. I pray that all could learn, as I have, how difficult it is to judge oneself and how impossible it is to judge others. May we all listen to Jesus and live by his wisdom.

As for my car — well I went out again after sipping my relaxing tea, said a heavy-duty prayer and tried again. The prayer probably did it. The car started. I guess water had gotten into the gas line. I was on my way, a bit humbled and wiser.

Do we ever really know ourselves? Maybe. But one thing is for sure. We can never really know what is in the depths of another person. Thus, our mission is to love, not judge.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A champion for the potential of people

On the 28th of January, Catholics commemorate Saint Thomas Aquinas, a young man whose enthusiasm for learning knew no bounds. My father introduced me to Aquinas through Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, that famous Catholic prelate who was a regular on TV on Tuesday nights back in the 1950s.

Like most who watched his series "Life Is Worth Living," my dad delighted in the archbishop's "mediagenic" presence and wit. But frequently during the broadcasts, he would interject, "Listen to the Aquinas in him! Sheen is nothing without Thomas Aquinas!" I didn't have a clue what he meant at the time, but eventually I came to appreciate why Sheen and the so much Christian world came to appreciate and even imitate the work of this great 13th century theologian.

Aquinas' personal story is that of a young revolutionary thinker who raised quite a fuss in medieval thinking and culture. Aquinas' own well-to-do family imprisoned him for two years because he wanted to go to be ordained a Dominican priest. Once he got his wish, he was labeled a radical for trying to bridge the gap between faith and reason. This was no easy task in the darkness of the Middle Ages, when those in authority tended to negate the world and its values in order to keep faith with God. Nonetheless, Aquinas took on the revered Saint Augustine along with the pagan Aristotle, and set out to reconcile the secularity of the world with the radical nature of the Gospel.

But that was after he earned a reputation as a scholar. My dad liked to tell the story about how Thomas was called the "Dumb Ox" and became the butt of his classmates' teasing. One fellow student, wanting to poke fun at Aquinas' ideas about the power of human intelligence, stood at a window crying, "Look — it's raining, it's pouring cats and dogs!" When Aquinas jumped up and raced to the window to see for himself, the students guffawed at how stupid he was. But he simply said, "Actually, I couldn't believe that anyone here would have so betrayed their intelligence by uttering something so completely absurd."

For Aquinas, the solution to intellectual darkness was to turn on the light of human intelligence, the divine spark of creativity and learning. He argued: "Both the light of reason and the light of faith come from God. Therefore, there can be no contradiction between them." Thus Aquinas became both an apostle of God and a champion of the human potential to think for oneself. He also had a good deal to say about our human capacity for the truth, goodness, and love. Dealing with problems drawn from the hearts and minds of individuals of any age, the writings of Aquinas go below the surface of our lives to uncover God's image.

Pope John Paul II's recent encyclical, "Faith and Reason," underscores the importance of Aquinas in Catholic thought: "Thomas recognized that Faith has no fear of reason, but seeks it out and has trust in it. Just as grace builds on nature and brings it to fulfillment, so faith builds upon and perfects reason."

Yet, near the end of his life, Aquinas was forced to admit, as we all are, that his accomplishments still fell short of his dream and that all he had written seemed so much straw. He realized more clearly than ever that the way to wisdom cannot be found without faith.

In this information age, any one of us could benefit by retrieving Aquinas from the bookcase and rediscovering our possibilities — when the height of human reason unites with the depth of spiritual faith.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

References to Jesus' brothers and sisters

Q: Your interesting recent column, about the Gospel references to brothers and sisters of Jesus, spoke of the ancient explanation that these persons could have been children of Joseph by a previous marriage.

There is another possibility. Some languages I am a bit familiar with — Flemish, Malay, some African — use the same word for cousin (of whatever degree) and brother or sister. Could the same be true of the language used in Jesus' time?

I have always answered questions about this with the explanation that these individuals were probably his cousins. Could that be true?

A. Yes, that is a real possibility. I'm grateful to you and the others who wrote.

As I have explained several times over the years, Hebrew, and the related system of Semitic languages called Aramaic, allow for the broader use of the word for brother and sister that you describe.

Aramaic was the common language in Palestine in New Testament times. Oral sources for the four Gospels were almost entirely in that language.

An authoritative reference for this kind of information is Jastrow's Dictionary of Rabbinic Literature. The first meaning for the Hebrew word we're speaking of, "ah," is brother in our sense of the word. But another common usage is kinsman, such as cousin.

Aramaic frequently adds an "a" to Hebrew. Thus, the Aramaic word at the source of the Gospels is "aha," but according to Jastrow its meaning is the same as Hebrew.

It should be noted that the Greek in those passages which speak of the brothers and sisters of Jesus uses the usual more explicit word for blood brothers and sisters, those coming from the same womb.

The explanation I offered in the more recent columns, that the brothers and sisters of Jesus were children by Joseph's previous marriage, is the older traditional explanation.

It is found first in the Protevangelium ("first Gospel") of James, which appeared in Christian circles around the year 150. This document, incidentally, has greatly influenced the development of theology concerning the mother of Jesus. It is the source, for example, of the long tradition that the parents of Mary were named Joachim and Anne.

St. Jerome (d.420), on the other hand, insistently claimed (he never claimed anything not insistently) that they were children of a relative of either Joseph or Mary.

The church has no official position one way or another on either of these interpretations. Both obviously are compatible with the belief that Mary had no other children before or after the birth of Christ.

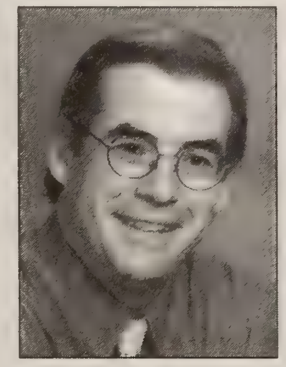
Sign of the cross

Q. As a relatively new convert to the Catholic faith, I'm still learning a lot about the actions at Mass.

Just before the Gospel, the reader touches his or her forehead, mouth and breast. The priest and most of the people around me do the same. What does that mean?

A. The priest and other people are making a small sign of the cross. Whoever reads the Gospel first traces a sign of the cross on the book itself, then on these parts of the body.

This small action is a fitting symbolic prayer that the good news (Gospel) of Jesus, which they are about to hear, may be always in their minds, on their lips and in their hearts.



Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Catching up with studies

Often the school year shows a clear pattern. In the fall, one starts out full of hope and ambition, certain that this is the year to really get those grades you've been promising your mom. You do pretty well for a while, but then there are the holidays.

You find yourself slipping around Thanksgiving, but tell yourself that "there are only three more weeks till Christmas vacation. I'll catch up as soon as we come back at the beginning of the year."

That sounds easier than it is. Every teacher on earth knows that the biggest period of "real instruction" happens between Christmas and spring break.

Experienced teachers figure — correctly — that by May 1 teens are far enough into spring fever and proms that they're essentially brain-dead the final weeks of the year.

So here it is, early February, and you're about three chapters behind in the book. What's to be done?

Take a long look at how you're studying. If you're not keeping up, it's usually because of a problem in your study habits. Maybe all you need is a bit of extra time with the books each evening. If you've been studying for an hour a night, and you're slipping slowly behind the wave, an hour and 15 minutes might be enough.

If, on the other hand, you're really in trouble — say you are 11 chapters behind in history — it's time for bigger changes.

Catching up after major slacking takes a major change in study habits. If passing these courses really matters to you, then you'll put in the effort. Here are some possible suggestions. Pick one or more, and stick with them.

— Change the place you study. Lots of teens study in bedrooms, where a radio, a telephone, the television and Nintendo all provide interesting alternatives to algebra problems or social studies essay questions. Your study may become much more efficient if you move down to the kitchen table. Just being out in the open may keep you honest.

— Turn off the television. Contrary to what parents think, many teens can study quite effectively with the radio blaring. However, contrary to what teens think, few can actually learn anything from a book while the tube is turned on.

If you're really in trouble in school, you might want to put yourself on voluntary TV time-out — no television on school nights till you get caught up. It's a great incentive, "if" you make the decision yourself.

— Get some study partners. First, it's much less boring to study with friends. Second, people have different learning styles. Lots of us learn better by hearing things out loud or speaking them out loud ourselves. If your style of learning isn't visual, sitting and reading a book won't necessarily get the facts in your head. Study partners and groups let other forms of learning happen.

If you study together, you can go into the test with more information than if each of you studies alone.

Spring is time for the big push in school. If you're falling behind, it's time to reassess your study habits. If you make some changes now, you can probably still finish the year with decent grades.

Polish Catholic editor Jerzy Turowicz dies

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Polish Catholic editor who published the first newspaper articles by the future Pope John Paul II died in Krakow at age 86. Jerzy Turowicz, who rose to prominence in Poland's pre-World War II "Odrodzenie" Catholic renewal movement, died Jan. 27 of complications from a heart attack he suffered Jan. 21. He was a leading church figure for more than six decades. Reporting his death Jan. 27, Poland's state TV said he had been one of the country's "highest moral authorities."

Parkinson's specialist calls papal hand tremor a good sign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The tremor in Pope John Paul II's left hand may be the most evident sign of his neural disorder, but it is also a good sign, said a specialist in Parkinson's disease at Georgetown University Medical Center. "The fact of the tremor is good. It signifies that only a movement disorder is involved, not a loss of intellectual capacity," said Dr. Jonathan Pincus, a neurology professor and former chairman of the neurology department at Georgetown. Pincus spoke about the pope's physical condition Jan. 25 after reviewing a series of close-up video clips of the pope at public ceremonies during his Jan. 22-26 visit to Mexico City.

Paulist Father Mulhall, Catholic broadcast leader, dead at 69

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 19 for Paulist Father John W. Mulhall, 69, founder and director for 20 years of Paulist Communications. He died in Los Angeles Jan. 12 after a long illness. The Mass was celebrated at St. Paul the Apostle Church, a Paulist-run parish in Los Angeles where he had been stationed since 1990. He was buried the next day at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City. A leading figure for a quarter-century in U.S. and Canadian religious broadcasting, Father Mulhall was a board member of the Canadian Broadcasters Association in the 1960s and served three terms as treasurer of Unda-USA, the U.S. branch of an international association of Catholic broadcasters.

CNS photo by Denise Walker

Church failing to reach black youths, theologian says

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pattie Griffin of Philadelphia makes a point during a small-group discussion at the National Black Catholic Congress' national consultation in Baltimore Jan. 21. The discussions were part of the National Black Catholic Congress Jan. 20-22 in Baltimore. The Catholic Church is failing to attract black young people "in the 'hood," as well as those who have achieved success, said Diana Hayes, associate professor of theology at Georgetown University in Washington. Speaking on "Evangelization and the African-American," Hayes said the white-dominated, Eurocentric church seems "alien to today's youths" especially in the inner cities who are seeking "a God who is personal to them." "The images of a blue-eyed, brown-haired or even blond, ethereal, effeminate Jesus simply turns them off," she said. More real to them would be the concept of "Jesus as homeboy, living in the 'hood, 24-7," she added.

San Diego Catholic high school teacher honored by NFL

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — St. Augustine High School has long been known for its winning football team. Now, the all-boys Catholic school in San Diego also is home to the 1998 NFL Teacher of the Year. The National Football League announced the honor Jan. 5 for Michele Eggleton, nominated by former student Darrell Russell, a defensive tackle for the Oakland Raiders. In an announcement of the award, Russell said, "Ms. Eggleton gave me an understanding of the importance my education would play in my development, not as an athlete, but as an individual."

Bishop Braxton offers ideas for greater black, white openness

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Edward K. Braxton of St. Louis outlined 10 specific "ways to develop greater openness to blacks by the church and to the church by blacks" in a Jan. 22 talk in Baltimore. One of 13 active black bishops in the United States, Bishop Braxton was addressing a Jan. 21-22 national consultation sponsored by the National Black Catholic Congress. The recommendations ranged from greater use of the African-American media and of the Catholic press to more controversial suggestions such as an end to use of the term "minority" to describe the black community and adaptations in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to better reflect inner-city realities.

Ogdensburg bishop named to head Diocese of Arlington, Va.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Ogdensburg, N.Y., as bishop of Arlington, Va. The appointment was announced Jan. 25 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. In Arlington, Bishop Loverde succeeds Bishop John R. Keating, who died last March.

Want to re-finance your home at a better rate?
Need help with debt management?

Jeff Branstrator
(336) 370-4100
(888) 322-9503
Parishioner of St. Pius X Church

Call today.

FIRST HORIZON HOME MORTGAGE, INC.

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

Bishop Sullivan calls remarks on Antichrist 'outrageous'

By CHARLES E. MAHON
Catholic News Service

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond says the Rev. Jerry Falwell's statements that the Antichrist has probably been born and is certain to be a Jewish man are "outrageous" and "reprehensible."

"Rev. Falwell's claims are an absolute offense to our Jewish sisters and brothers. They deserve our strictest rejection, rebuttal and condemnation," the bishop said in a letter to pastors and pastoral coordinators in the Richmond Diocese.

In a speech Jan. 14 about peoples' concerns over the new millennium, as reported by The Associated Press, Rev. Falwell told about 1,500 persons at a conference on evangelism in Kingsport, Tenn., the second coming of Christ probably will take place soon and that the Antichrist is alive today.

"Who will the Antichrist be? I don't know. Nobody else knows," said Rev. Falwell, whose Sunday services at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, in the Richmond Diocese, are carried nationwide by many television stations.

"Is he alive and here today? Probably. Because when he appears during the Tribulation period he will be a full-grown counterfeit of Christ," he said. "Of course he'll be Jewish. Of course he'll pretend to be Christ. And if in fact the Lord is coming soon, and he'll be an adult at the presentation of himself, he must be alive somewhere today."

In a letter to the Richmond Times Antichrist to be a Jewish 'counterfeit' of Christ," the Lynchburg minister "recklessly targets the Jewish people as the fountainhead of evil itself."

"Ironically, the idea of the millennium as a year of jubilee comes from the richness of Jewish tradition itself, found in the Book of Leviticus. Jubilee is a time of celebration and rejoicing, a time for atonement and reconciliation, a time when justice and righteousness rule, a time of hope and promise."

Instead, the bishop wrote, Rev. Falwell paints the arrival of the new millennium as a time of "doom and gloom."

"Adding an Antichrist to the mix makes a perfect entree to incite prejudice and hatred," Bishop Sullivan wrote. "It perverts the wonder of jubilee into one more instance of blaming the Jews for the world's troubles. It again makes the Jews the scapegoat for our fears and insecurities, opening old wounds rather than healing them."

The bishop said that in his opinion, "the Antichrist is not a person but a biblical symbol for what Pope John Paul II has called 'the culture of death.' It is a whole pattern of attitudes and lifestyles that contradict values held in common by Christians and Jews alike."

In his letter to pastors and pastoral coordinators, the bishop called on parish leaders to "appropriately counter" such views as Rev. Falwell's among their parishioners and "defend against them for our Jewish brothers and sisters."

In a statement issued after Bishop Sullivan's letters were made public, Rev. Falwell said his views were shared by "most evangelicals."

"This belief is 2,000 years old and has no anti-Semitic roots," he said. "This is simply historic and prophetic orthodox Christian doctrine that most theologians, Christian and non-Christian, have understood for two millennia."

The Catholic Church tends to view the scriptural references to the Antichrist as referring to the principle of evil, a religious deception rather than a person.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states: "The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh."

A Richmond Jewish leader also took issue with Rev. Falwell. Tommy P. Baer, former president of B'nai B'rith International, the world's largest Jewish rights organization, said religious leaders have a responsibility to promote religious harmony and Rev. Falwell "breached that responsibility."

"Falwell not only has affronted the Jewish people but maligned this country's cherished tradition of religious freedom," Baer wrote in a letter to the editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

In Washington, Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said that by "casting a cloud of suspicion over Jewish men" Rev. Falwell has "given new fodder to anti-Semites around the world."

"To promulgate such accusations today is particularly alarming," he added. "The approaching millennium can be an opportunity for religious groups to bring peoples together or to inflame ancient prejudices and tear societies apart. Sadly, Rev. Falwell seems to have weighed in on the latter side." ▼

Diocese explores options for Good Shepherd Home Health

MURPHY — Murphy Medical Center and Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency administrators announced Jan. 29 that they were exploring the benefits of combining operations. Initial letters of interest have been exchanged between the hospital and the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, owner of Good Shepherd.

"We have known for some time that by selling the Agency to the hospital we would be positioning ourselves for the future," said Thomas J. Taaffe, executive director of Good Shepherd. "More services will be made available to the community and the jobs of our staff will be more secure."

"Although we see the potential for some consolidation of job functions in the future, we are committed to protect the employment of each and every employee of Good Shepherd," stated Mike Stevenson, administrator of Murphy Medical Center. "As a matter of fact, we can see the likelihood that new jobs will open up because of the new services we will be able to provide as a single provider."

The parties have agreed that should the sale of the Agency to Murphy Medical be agreed to, all employees on the staff of the Agency would retain their jobs at the same level of compensation, except for discharge for cause, which shall include the same or equal benefits package for a period of one year from the date that the sale is completed.

"Any decision to complete the transaction will be made by the governing boards of the hospital and the agency. If things go according to schedule," said Stevenson, "we should be able to finalize the deal by May 1, 1999." ▼

Serving the investment needs of the community.

Stocks and Bonds
Mutual Funds
IRAs and Pension Plans
Money Management

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

A CONFERENCE
Understanding
God's Gift of Sexuality

A conference for Catholic Leaders
Feb. 3 & 4, Columbia, SC

Cost: $85 includes meals and materials
Please call to register.

Family Honor INC
(803) 929-0858

A Family Organization Upholding the Virtue of Chastity

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Book Review

"Jesus 2000: A Walk with Jesus in the Holy Land"

By Y. and D. Salomon, design and text, and M. Milner, photography. Kirschner Enterprises and Alfa Communications (New York, 1998). 199 pp., $49.95.

REVIEWED BY EUGENE J. FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last March, I participated in a Catholic/Jewish "bishop-rabbi pilgrimage" to Israel and Rome led by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore. Long planned and twice postponed, it turned out to be one of the most profoundly moving spiritual journeys of my life. The itinerary had been carefully and jointly planned to include equally sites of Christian and Jewish reverence and remembrance of the land both traditions call "holy." We prayed together at the tombs of prophets and rabbinical giants such as Moses Maimonides. And we had Mass at many of the most sacred sites of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. Since I was the only Catholic layperson, I and the rabbis formed a "congregation" for the concelebration of the cardinal and other bishops from across the United States. We were a rather unusual crew — so much so that the Franciscan and other caretakers of the Christian holy sites would come out to greet us and have their pictures taken with us for their archives.

Not only did we pray, but we dialogued. We celebrated Purim together in the bomb shelter of a kibbutz in northern Israel and debated the relative merits of the Greek translation of the Bible (on which the New Testament authors often rely) and the Hebrew. And we spoke of what Jews and Catholics could witness to together in the ruins of the synagogue at Capernaum, where Jesus preached to his fellow Jews. Indeed, this was undoubtedly the first true dialogue between the successors of the Apostles and the successors of the Pharisees in that spot since Jesus' time. The weight of sacred history — and its sense of infinite hope and possibility — were palpable to us at such moments of intimate spiritual sharing.

While one cannot capture such profound moments in photographic images, I must say that "Jesus 2000: A Walk With Jesus in the Holy Land" comes, for me as a Christian, remarkably close. Though it does not have the aspect of the Jewish-Christian encounter, it is thoroughly ecumenical in its true sense of fostering internal Christian unity by the images it selects and the way it presents them.

At first sight this volume of superb photographic images of the holy places of Israel strikes one as simply another — albeit very high quality — coffee-table book. But then one begins to understand the remarkable conception behind the book. These are not just pictures of the holy places. They are images of the holy sites, as the introduction states, "at the peak of their glory, on the pilgrimage days of the most important annual ceremonies." So we view not only the churches and shrines that commemorate the most important events of Jesus' life, but the faces and postures of the clergy who officiate and the pilgrims who flock to the celebration of those events at the very sites where they took place some two millennia ago.

We see not only the Catholic ceremony of foot-washing on Holy Thursday in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, but the rituals of the Greek Orthodox, Armenians, and Ethiopians as well. We see pilgrims of all branches of Christianity following in the footsteps of Christ on the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross. We see throngs of Catholic and Orthodox pilgrims in solemn procession and devout prayer, one kissing a pillar of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on which one can discern the pious graffiti of centuries of pilgrims from Eastern and Western Christianity alike. One wonders what images there would be if these pilgrims from East and West, Reformation and Roman Christianity, could come together each year in joint pilgrimage to these holiest sites of our common faith, as Jews and Catholics momentarily did on the trip I took with them.

In the meantime, the images of this volume draw one into a sense of the experience itself. This is not a book for the coffee table, but for taking on retreat, especially during Lent. Each photograph is accompanied by an appropriate New Testament text regarding the events that took place there. At the end is a concise explanation regarding every site and ceremony included. Highly recommended. ▼

Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and a consultor to the Holy See's Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews.

Word to Life

January 31. Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle A Readings:

1) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm 146:7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
3) Matthew 5:1-12a

BY SHARON K. PERKINS

I love a good bargain; it's like finding buried treasure. I guess I learned it from my mother, a very resourceful seamstress and homemaker. In my early years when money was tight, she would take me along to the fabric store where we would rummage through a bin containing smaller pieces of fabric left over from the ends of the bolts. These pieces were usually collected, discounted and set aside for sale.

In the remnant bin (usually in an out-of-the-way corner of the store) one could find all sorts of fabrics — brocades and velvets to cottons and wools, colorful prints to neutral solids — all at bargain prices, all teeming with possibility. Some remained in the bin a long time, and some were snatched up the next day.

Once purchased, a remnant could become a doll's ball gown, a cushion for a chair or a pair of shorts for me. Seldom did we leave without finding a piece that became something of value.

This week's readings all speak of the way God values his people — especially the ones who have been cast aside or discounted by the world.

To human eyes they can be as varied as fabric scraps in a bin. Nevertheless, they share in common a tenacious dependence on the Lord, who consecrates them for his special purpose.

In God's world, those who were cast aside by the culture as worthless are in effect set aside and redeemed by the One in whom they take refuge. The redemption may be slow, but as Scripture tells us, it is certain.

One need not look far to find remnants today. Every person who is marginalized, who experiences loss, betrayal, discrimination or even persecution, is a candidate for the world's remnant bin. Yet this is precisely where God's treasures are preserved.

Questions:

When have you felt cast aside, abandoned or discounted? What do today's Scripture readings say to you about your own enduring worth in God's eyes?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 1999

Sunday, Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12; **Monday**, Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday**, Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Wednesday**, Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday**, Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday**, Hebrews 13:1-8, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday**, Hebrews 13:15-17, Mark 6:30-34

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

New at the box office

"The Children of Heaven"

Charming story set in Tehran where a 9-year-old Iranian boy loses his little sister's only shoes, forcing the two to share wearing his sneakers to school until he hears of a foot race in which the third prize is a pair of new shoes. Director Majid Majidi spins from a slender narrative thread a sweetly evocative tale of genuine childhood stress made bearable by bonds of love and their generosity to an even less fortunate child. Subtitles. Depictions of poverty and brief menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Varsity Blues"

Hokey formula tale in which a high school football team (led by James Van Der Beek) gets rid of its mean, dishonest coach at halftime in the championship game. Directed by Brian Robbins, the bogus proceedings are devoted largely to the teens' activities off the field, especially their drunken escapades and quest for sex. Sexual situations, nudity, alcohol abuse, intermittent rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Virus"

Murky monster movie in which the crew (led by Jamie Lee Curtis, William Baldwin and Donald Sutherland) of a sinking tugboat seek refuge onboard a mysteriously empty Soviet vessel only to discover murderous alien life forms on board that interpret human life as a virus to be destroyed. Some gory sci-fi violence, occasional profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Week of Jan. 31

TV programs of note

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS)— Here are some television programs of note for the week of Jan. 31:

Monday, Feb. 1, 8-9 p.m. EST (A&E) "Dr. Laura Schlessinger: Tough Talker." From the "Biography" series, a profile of the controversial talk show host who promotes personal responsibility and self-motivation, and whose background includes posing for nude photos before she became an Orthodox Jew.

Monday, Feb. 1, 8-9 p.m. EST (ABC) "20/20 Monday." Premiere of the fourth edition of the newsmagazine "20/20," with Connie Chung and Charles Gibson anchoring the stories.

Monday, Feb. 1, 8-10 p.m. EST (NBC) "Vanished Without a Trace." Shelley Long stars as a wife and mother whose worst nightmare materializes when her daughter disappears but her body is eventually found, prompting the mother's personal search for the killer.

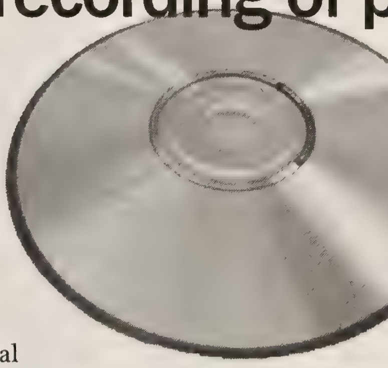
Monday, Feb. 1, 9-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "I'll Make Me a World." Showcases this century's African-American creative artists as they struggled for identity, equality and self-expression. The six-hour series continues at the same time Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 2-3.

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 8-9 p.m. EST (PBS) "CeCe Winans, Glorious Gospel." From the "In Performance at the White House" series, a salute to American gospel music, also featuring Michael Mangun with the Messiah Singers and Phil Driscoll.

Friday, Feb. 5, 8-9 p.m. EST (A&E) "Dr. Joyce Brothers." From the "Biography" series, the story of the famed psychologist and syndicated advice columnist who rose to fame as a winning contestant specializing in boxing trivia on "The $64,000 Question."

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Coming soon: CD mixing music and recording of pope



By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In this era of the multimedia pontificate, it was only a matter of time before Pope John Paul II came out with his own music compact disc.

A professionally produced CD mixing instrumental works and recordings of the pontiff singing, praying and delivering homilies was set for release shortly before Easter.

Sony Classical was to ship "Abba Pater," a joint production of Vatican Radio and the Italian religious publisher Audiovisivi San Paolo, to stores worldwide for sale starting on March 23, Sony officials said Jan. 26.

"Abba" is the Aramaic term for "father" and was one of the names Christ used to invoke God.

The CD features the pope chanting and speaking in five languages at various occasions throughout his papacy, accompanied by classical and contemporary music tracks.

The liner notes were to include the complete texts of the pope's prayers and remarks. The cover featured a black-and-white close-up of the pope's face, superimposed over lines of handwriting in gold.

Vatican Radio officials said the project was two years in the making and was timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of this pontificate and the arrival of the year 2000. Its release date just before Holy Week was intended to draw more attention to the recording, they said.

Sony officials said there were no immediate plans to release the recording in any format other than compact disc.

One of the 11 tracks, a Latin version of the Our Father, was also to be accessible for free on the Vatican's Web site and the site operated by Sony Classical.

A preview copy of the disc with five tracks was made available in late January. Among its selections were papal readings of Psalm 26 and the Beatitudes.

Sony Classical was to ship "Abba Pater," a joint production of Vatican Radio and the Italian religious publisher Audiovisivi San Paolo, to stores worldwide for sale starting on March 23, Sony officials said Jan. 26.

Profits from the sale of "Abba Pater" were to be divided between Vatican Radio, Audiovisivi San Paolo and Sony.

In August the Vatican won a court challenge against another recording company that tried without consent to market a compact disc featuring Pope John Paul's voice.

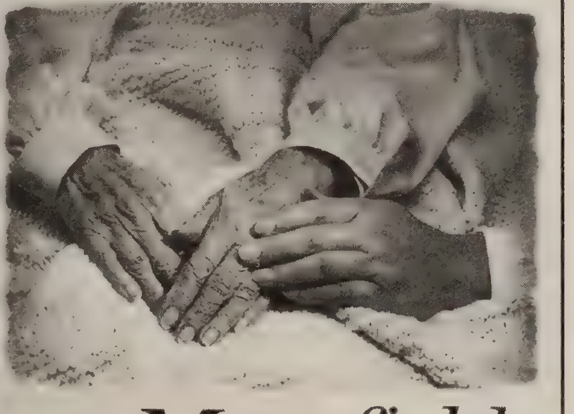
A high court in Milan ruled against the producers of "Forgive Us," which mixed rock, world music and the pope singing a Gregorian chant. The recording had already been sold in some stores when the court ordered its production and distribution stopped.

The producers were told that Vatican Radio, the legal owner of the recording and broadcast rights to the pope's voice, had decided to issue its own CD featuring him singing.

"Forgive Us" was not the first disc of its kind to be contested by church authorities. A 1993 recording called "Wojtyla Disco Dance" and a hip-hop number the same year used sampled phrases spoken by the pope, set to a pulsing pop music beat. ▼

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.



Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Enjoy Catholic programming through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus all your favorite cable channels!

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

dish NETWORK

Pope John Paul II celebrates Mass Jan. 27 in the Trans World Dome under an arch built to resemble the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

At Mass in St. Louis, pope appeals for end to death penalty

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — In a Mass celebrated in America's heartland, Pope John Paul II appealed for an end to the death penalty and said its elimination was part of the church's pro-life commitment.

The pope made the remarks at a liturgy Jan. 27 in the Trans-World Dome, during a 30-hour visit to St. Louis.

In a sermon in front of tens of thousands of people and broadcast live on television, the pope said the church's program of new evangelization in the Americas called for Christians who were "unconditionally pro-life."

"A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil," he said.

"Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform. I renew the appeal I made recently at Christmas for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary," he said.

Missouri is one of the leading states in numbers of executions. Before the papal visit, one such execution scheduled to coincide with the papal visit was temporarily postponed. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls on Jan. 26 called the postponement a "mockery" because it addressed issues of publicity and not justice.

The pope also called on the church to help put an end to every form of racism, saying U.S. bishops have identified it as one of the most persistent and destructive evils of the nation.

The pope's sermon emphasized the need to protect the family and promote the "Gospel of life" in a variety of areas. But people need various forms of church support to live up to those teachings, he added.

"As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love?" he said.

"And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?" he said.

The pope praised U.S. Catholics' tradition of generous service in charity, health care and education as expressions of the Gospel in action. Today, he said, U.S. Catholics should draw inspiration from this heritage of holiness and service for a new phase of evangelization.

The pope also reached out to fallen-away Catholics, suggesting that the coming Holy Year 2000 was the moment to return to the church. Sometimes there may be obstacles to participation in the Eucharist, and in some cases memories need to be healed, but "in all cases there is the assurance of God's love and mercy," he said. ▼

> "As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love?"

Mexico Letter:

Affection of Mexicans, and Tonatiuh, shine on pope

By JIM HODGSON
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — In this city, so steeped in its Aztec past, one could say that Tonatiuh, the Nahuatl name for the sun, was smiling on Pope John Paul II's visit.

In January, the city is normally shrouded in thermal inversion haze, but during the days that the pope was here, the sun shone in a cloudless sky and seemed to match the mood of the people.

Mexicans fell in love with Pope John Paul during his first visit in 1979 — and the pope with the people — and, even though half the population of the country was not born at the time of the first visit, the mutual affection has not diminished.

On the second of his five days in Mexico City, 3 million people lined the streets for a two- or three-second glimpse of their pope, their "jefecito," or "little chief."

They stood for hours to catch a glimpse of Pope John Paul. They passed the time chanting and singing hymns, but also interrupted the chants to boo each passing police car.

To the southeast, the city's landmark volcanoes rose into the sky. Because of the usual smog, "Popocatepetl" (The Mountain that Smokes) and "Iztacihuatl" (Sleeping Woman) are rarely visible.

Mexicans' enthusiasm and affection were enormous and occasionally seemed to overwhelm the 78-year-old pontiff. At a Jan. 24 Mass, the pope's Communion line drew spontaneous demonstrations of warmth.

A young girl dressed in a white dress broke the ice when, after receiving Communion from the pope, she simply stopped and leaned her head against him. The pope, clearly touched, bent over to kiss her head.

The next woman in line was more exuberant, throwing her arms around the pope in a big hug. The pope appeared a bit taken aback.

A third woman embraced the pope, whispered something in his ear and handed him a written message, which was quickly whisked away. Several others left small gifts.

Television commentary about the pope occasionally gushed into well-intentioned heresy: "This is God incarnate!"

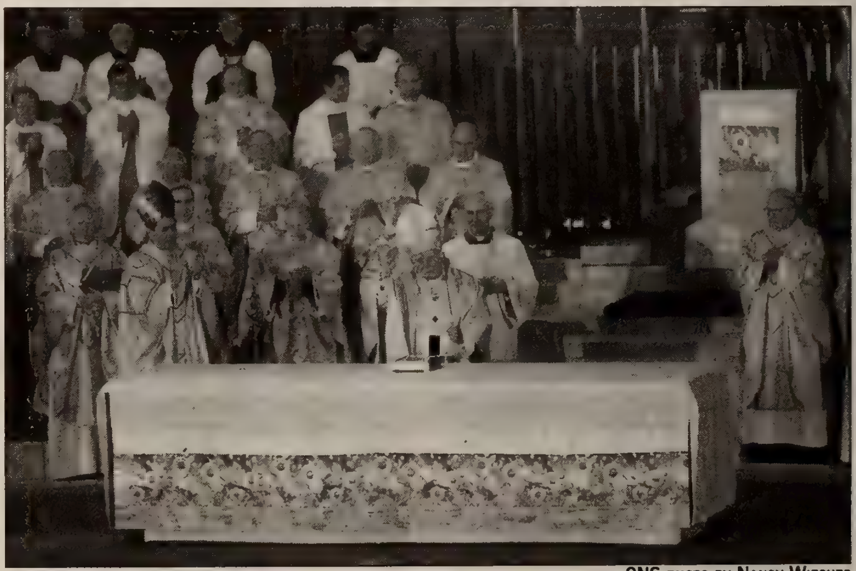
In previous trips, crowds have surrounded the residence of the papal nuncio, where the pope usually stays. This time, however, out of respect for Pope John Paul's need to rest, night-long serenades were banned and the crowds banished from the immediate vicinity of the residence. Still, knowing how much the pope enjoyed the music, planners arranged for groups to come into the grounds to serenade the pope at more reasonable hours.

Radio and television endlessly played a song written especially for this visit, "El Pescador" ("The Fisherman"). Two other papal favorites, "Cielito Lindo" ("Beautiful Little Sky") and "Amigo" ("Friend") also got a lot of play.

Pepsi Cola had billboards that said, "Mexico, always faithful." Hewlett Packard gave away postcards with images of the pope in various parts of the world or with famous people, such as Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

Puns spread as well: mostly a play on words between potato ("la papa") and pope ("el papa"), because stickers with the pope's image were distributed in potato chip bags — a subject of continued controversy. ▼

Contributing to this story was John Thavis.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Opening Mass in Mexico City

Pope John Paul II stands behind the altar at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City for Mass Jan. 23. Behind him are cardinals and bishops from the Americas.

Bring Christ to the world, pope tells youths

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged a spirited crowd of more than 20,000 youths at a prayer service in St. Louis Jan. 26 to use their energy and talent to serve the church and bring Christ's message to the world.

"Even though you are young, the time for action is now," the pope told the crowd, which frequently interrupted him with cheers and shouts of "we love you."

He told the young people who filled the Kiel Center, home to the St. Louis Blues hockey team, not to wait until they were older to live out their faith.

"You are ready for what Christ wants of you now. He wants you — all of you — to be light to the world, as only young people can be," he said.

When the pope arrived at the arena at 6:30 p.m., he was greeted with a deafening roar of cheers, waving banners, enthusiastic applause and thousands of camera flashes.

Most of the youths had already been at the arena for at least eight hours for a youth rally with Christian rock bands and speakers.

One of the young adults roaming the concourse during the musical acts dubbed the event "papal-palooza," saying it felt like he was at a big party with a lot of friends.

Many participants said just seeing other young people attending a spiritual event like this strengthened their faith.

For others, like Maggie Cella, a senior at St. Louis University, it was hearing people witness about their faith that was most impressive, especially when young men and women spoke at the rally of why they entered religious life.

"You never hear that, about normal people becoming priests and nuns, not just a select few that get divine light shone on them," she told Catholic News Service.

Cella said participants at the rally were clearly "here with friends, not with their parents. We're learning things about our faith on our own," she added.

And who better to learn from than the pope — that seemed to be the consensus.

Terry Tyrell, a recent college graduate who teaches at St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, said the pope was a good role model for young people because he is "not afraid to stand up for what he believes in."

"I like it that he doesn't compromise," chimed in his co-worker, Terry Quinn. "Even when I disagree with him, I admire him for that."

The pope lived up to his reputation of having a good rapport with youth but of also speaking frankly to them. He frequently addressed the crowd as his "young friends" and smiled at their interrupting cheers of "we love you." He took a swing with a hockey stick he was given and then swung his own cane like a hockey stick before leaving the stage.

But the Holy Father also spoke on a somber note of human suffering and the darkness that exists in the world due to euthanasia, abortion, drugs and sexual abuse.

"There is something wrong when so many young people are overcome by hopelessness to the point of taking their own lives," he said.

"God's gift of life is being rejected. Death is chosen over life, and this brings with it the darkness and despair."

The pope urged the youths not to be misled from the truth and to seek meaning and direction for their lives from Jesus.

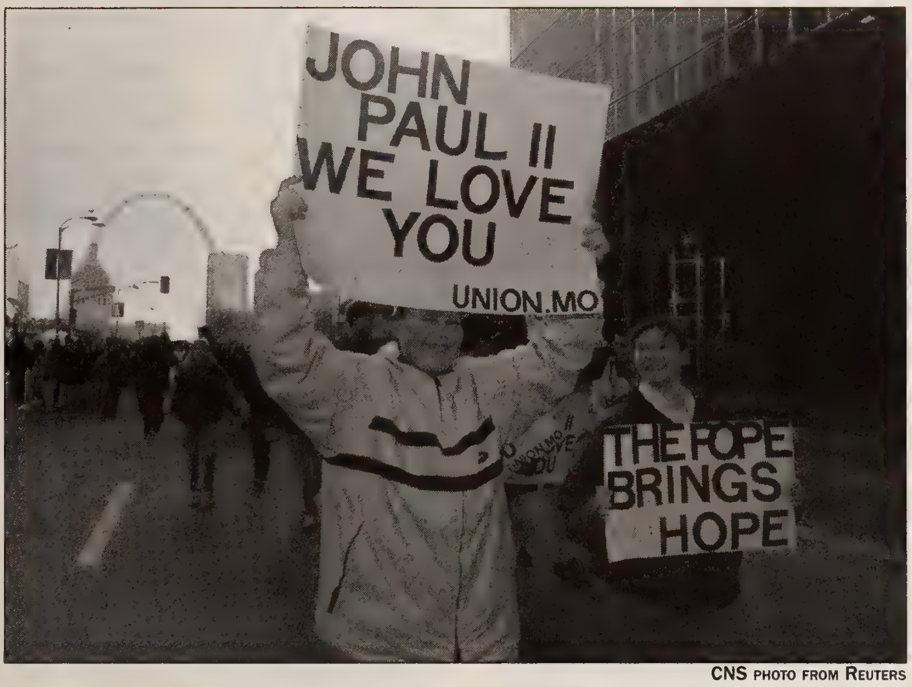
He told them to consider their evening together as part of their "training ground," for living out their faith on a daily basis, comparing it to the work of athletes like local baseball hero Mark McGwire, who briefly met Pope John Paul before the pope came into the arena.

Speaking slowly and emphatically, the pope told the young people to remember: "Christ is calling you; the church needs you; the pope believes in you and he expects great things of you."

And it's a message the youths were taking to heart as they filed out of the arena to the song "Go, Make a Difference in the World."

Rachel Frieder, a 16-year-old from Immaculate Conception Parish in Springfield, Mo., summed it up by saying she was inspired.

"My spiritual life was dry in the mud," she said. "But it's fired back up. The pope gave me a reason to pray to God." ▼



CNS photo from Reuters

Young people march toward the Kiel Center in St. Louis Jan. 26, where they would meet with Pope John Paul II.

In St. Louis, pope speaks U.S. cultural language

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — In St. Louis for a 30-hour visit to the U.S. heartland, Pope John Paul II quickly showed that he spoke the American cultural language.

After arriving Jan. 26, the pope invoked the "Spirit of St. Louis," reminded Americans of the Dred Scott case, praised the baseball heroics of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, and recalled the importance of the Louisiana Purchase.

The 78-year-old pontiff, who visited the United States on six previous occasions as pope and several times before that, learned long ago that one of the best ways to get his message across is to communicate through local symbols and traditions.

His comments on abortion were a case in point. Instead of simply condemning the practice, he went back — way back — to a page in America's civil rights history and made a comparison.

After the Dred Scott case was heard in St. Louis in the mid-1800s, the pope noted, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that nearly an entire class of people, those of African descent, had no constitutional rights. It was a case that spurred the anti-slavery movement and eventually helped reverse racial segregation, he said.

That lesson needs to be remembered today, he said, when the unborn, the terminally ill and others considered "unuseful" risk losing legal protection. The pope took his cue from pro-life activists in St. Louis, who sometimes draw the parallel with the Dred Scott case when promoting respect for the unborn.

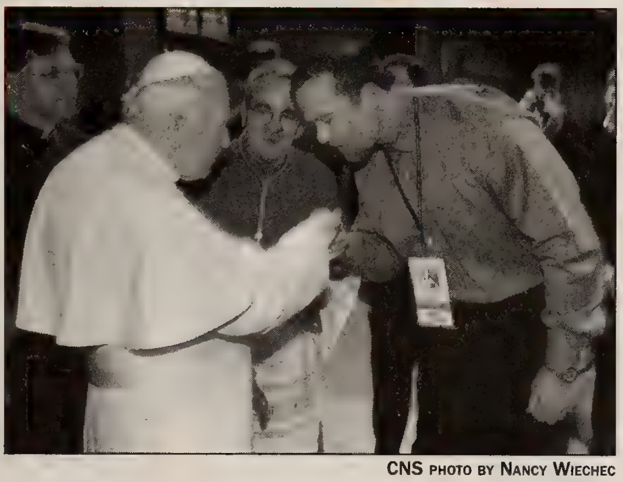
At a youth rally that night in a sports arena, the pope not only met briefly with McGwire but spoke about the excitement of McGwire's 1998 home-run race with Sosa. He immediately connected with the many St. Louis Cardinals fans in his audience, and probably with millions of other Americans as well.

The pope spoke of American heroes in baseball, basketball and soccer and then, in a spirited aside, looked up from his prepared text and remarked deadpan: "Nothing about football?" The laughter and applause were deafening.

The pope delivered his talk at the youth rally like a consummate actor reading a script, spiced with a few insider ad libs, and this, too, showed appreciation for Americans' love of spontaneity.

When his youthful hosts brought him a hockey uniform with his name on it, he flipped his cane upside down and pretended to shoot a puck. ▼

Home-run slugger Mark McGwire greets Pope John Paul II before the pope joined a rollicking youth rally at the Kiel Center in St. Louis on Jan. 26.



CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

The Pope Speaks

Excerpts of the papal homily in St. Louis

"God's love is a love that searches us out. It is a love that saves. This is the love that we find in the heart of Jesus."

"Christ is seeking you out and inviting you back to the community of faith. Is this not the moment for you to experience the joy of returning to the Father's house?"

"Our Christian life can be seen as a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father, which passes through the door that is Jesus Christ. The key to that door is repentance and conversion."

"From Old Testament times, the core of salvation history is God's unfailing love and election, and our human answer to that love. Our faith is our response to God's love and election."

Vatican publishes revised Rite of Exorcisms

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has published a revised Rite of Exorcisms, although the book urged caution in assuming that someone is possessed by the devil and needs exorcism.

"The sinister influence of the devil and his followers usually is exercised through deception, falsehood, lies and confusion," said Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

"I believe that cases of possession are not only not common but very rare," the cardinal said at a Jan. 26 press briefing on the new rite, the last of the church's ritual books to be updated following the Second Vatican Council.

The new rite, which includes 84 pages of guidelines, prayers and Scripture readings, replaces a version written in 1614, Cardinal Medina said.

Published by the Vatican only in Latin, the revision "does not involve substantial changes," he said. "It uses more sober language with fewer adjectives, but expresses the same faith of the church in God and in the power given to the church by Christ to cast out demons."

The new language, he said, generally excludes the more "imaginative" descriptions of Satan in line with the fact that the devil is "a spirit without body, without color and without odor."

The cardinal said, "Exorcism has as a point of departure the faith of the church, according to which Satan and other evil spirits exist and their activity consists in distancing men and women from the path of salvation."

The introduction to the new rite said, "The almighty and merciful Father sent his beloved son into the world to wrest men and women from the power of darkness and bring them into his kingdom."

However, the devil continues to tempt people, which is why they must be prayerful, vigilant and partake of the sacraments, particularly the sacrament of confession, it said.

Despite an assurance of an ultimate victory in Christ, the introduction said, it is possible that, at times, "there occur cases of particular oppression and obsession on the part of the devil in members of the people of God."

The guidelines in the rite restated canon law, which requires the exorcist to be a priest specifically appointed by the bishop to perform exorcisms.

The book said that some signs that a person may be possessed — when all medical explanations have been ruled out — include: "speaking in unknown languages, revealing things that are far away or hidden (or) demonstrating a physical strength not conforming to one's age or health status."

At the same time, it cautioned that "these signs are only an indication" and may not be the work of the devil.

"Other manifestations, frequently of a moral and spiritual order" are often present and may include aversion to God, to the name of Jesus, of Mary and of the saints, to the Scripture, to sacramental rites and sacred images, it said.

Before using the Rite of Exorcisms, the priest must have "moral certainty" that the person involved is truly possessed or obsessed and not suffering from a psychological or physical illness.

The rite is performed in the name of Jesus and calls on the power he gave to his disciples and their successors to cast out evil spirits.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states,

"Exorcism is directed at the expulsion of demons or to the liberation from demonic possession through the spiritual authority, which Jesus entrusted to his church."

In the ritual, the evil spirit is commanded in the name of God and of the church to depart. The ritual also includes a sprinkling with holy water, the recitation of a litany of the saints, the Lord's Prayer and a creed, a Gospel reading and the Sign of the Cross.

A simple form of exorcism, not changed by the new ritual, is part of the Catholic Church's baptism rites; in it, the church prays that the one about to be baptized will be protected from evil and from Satan's temptation.

In a series of 1986 audience talks about angels and the devil, Pope John Paul II said Satan has been defeated by Christ's death and resurrection, but he continues to try to win over people.

"It cannot be excluded that in certain cases the Evil Spirit tries to exercise his influence not only on material things, but also on the human body, for which one speaks of diabolical possession," the pope said during an audience talk.

"It is not always easy to discern that which happens preternaturally in these cases, nor does the church easily yield to or support the tendency to attribute many occurrences to the intervention of the demon," he said.

At the same time, the pope said, "one cannot deny that in his desire to harm and to lead toward evil, Satan can reach this extreme manifestation" of his power. ▼

College students invited to enter twelfth annual Christopher video contest

$6,000 in prizes and air time on television series

NEW YORK — Attention all college campuses! The Christophers have announced their Twelfth Annual Video Contest for College Students. The contest includes cash awards of $3,000, $2,000, and $1,000 for the top three entries. Winners will also have their work featured on the syndicated television program Christopher Closeup. The program reaches millions of people throughout the United States as well as 166 foreign countries via the Armed Forces Network.

To enter, students must interpret the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference." Past winners have used a variety of styles and genres that include drama, comedy, documentary, news format, music video and animation.

Father Thomas McSweeney, director of The Christophers, announced this year's competition saying, "From my many years as a college professor, I know that college is a time of idealism as well as creative vision. This competition taps into that spirit while affording us a glimpse of tomorrow's talent."

Entries may be created using film or video, but must be submitted on 3/4 inch or VHS tape only, and must be five minutes or less in length. The contest is open to all currently enrolled students, on both the undergraduate and graduate level. Students may enter more than once, but an official entry form must accompany each video. The deadline for entries is June 18, 1999.

Official entry forms are available from campus Media or Communications Departments or by writing to: College Video Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017, or by calling (212) 759-4050. They are also available on The Christophers' Web site at http://www.christophers.org.

The Christophers, a nonprofit organization founded in 1945 and based on the Judeo-Christian concept of service to God and humanity, uses print and electronic media to encourage all individuals to raise the standards of public life. The Christopher motto is: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." ▼

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Faith for a Brighter Future

Catholic Schools

Catholic Schools Week arrives Jan. 31-Feb. 6

WASHINGTON — "Catholic Schools: Faith for a Brighter Future" is the theme for the 24th annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31-Feb. 6.

The event is part of The National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools, a joint program of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference.

This year's logo features a bright starburst centered by the Bible. A cross is the nucleus of the design.

"Recent themes for the national campaign and Catholic Schools Week have focused on the Catholic foundation of our schools, from which all else flows — a curriculum infused with values, high academic standards and discipline," said Leonard DeFiore, president of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Msgr. Thomas McDade, United States Catholic Conference's secretary for education, said the "faith for a brighter future" theme has a special message for parents.

"Values are of increasing concern to parents in our media-driven, complex world," added Msgr. McDade. "A faith-filled academic environment is a gift to children which will pay dividends all their lives. It is truly their passage to a brighter future."

> **The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the more than 8,200 Catholic schools nationwide.**

The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the more than 8,200 Catholic schools nationwide. During this week, many dioceses encourage parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools. Catholic Schools Week also is an opportunity to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to local Catholic schools.

National Appreciation Day

National Appreciation Day falls on Feb. 3, the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week. This day was established to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to our country.

In Washington, a delegation of 100 Catholic school students, teachers and parents will visit Capitol Hill on Feb. 3 to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools. As part of their marathon day, they will hand-deliver letters from chief administrators of Catholic education to their representatives and provide a background package on Catholic schools to every congressional office.

Across the country, diocesan and school leaders also meet with civic officials on this day. Governors, city mayors, and town councils have joined in to proclaim "National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools" in their localities year after year.

The National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools was established by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference to promote Catholic schools year round. Now in its eighth year, the marketing effort was launched to help create awareness of the value of a Catholic education and to increase enrollment. According to the NCEA and USCC, enrollment has grown steadily in the past six school years, reaching over 2.6 million students.

"Family Circus" returns

The campaign also features an illustration from well-known "Family Circus" cartoonist Bil Keane. Fourth in a series, the design depicts Billy and Dolly studying the "Fourth R" of education.

Campaign materials provide schools with a "turn-key" package for marketing and include buttons, posters, banners and billboards. Products ranging from flags to T-shirts and sweatshirts may be personalized so that educators can customize their marketing efforts. Television commercials which promote the values of a Catholic secondary education also are available.

A campaign poster, which has been adapted for billboard and print advertisements, features a majestic seascape punctuated by breaking waves. The headline reads "If Faith Can Part the Seas, Imagine What It Can Do For Your Children's Education."

NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students of all levels of Catholic education. USCC is the national public policy organization of the bishops in the United States. ▼

Growing, growing, growing, growing

1997-98 school year marks sixth consecutive rise in enrollment

2.6 million students are enrolled in Catholic schools. Enrollment increased 3,400 in 1997-98. Total enrollment growth since 1992-93 numbers 81,000.

Source: National Catholic Educational Association 1998

Conder Flag Company
4731 Dwight Evans Road, Charlotte, NC 28217
(704) 529-1976 (800) 342-3524

For beautiful lawns, call
GEOTEC
Lawn Care Service . Small Commercial . Design & Maintenance
Rick O'Donnell
(704) 523-8291 (800) 225-0256

School Uniform Sale!

- *Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock*
- *Lower prices*
- *Free shipping on orders over $75*
- *9-month "School Year Warranty"*

***Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.**
***And order next year's uniforms before March 30th for 10% off any order over $75.**

For fast, courteous service,
call Ann Hoffman at 895-7474 or
1-888-895-0071

Keep your business in North Carolina and help support one of your local church families.
Member of St. Therese

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

The Catholic School: Locus of Faith

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Vicar for Education

I remember the event so vividly. At the time I was a ninth-grade student at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross High School in Boston. At the conclusion of a school day Sister Dionysia, my homeroom teacher, asked me to remain in the classroom. Naturally I was curious as to why I was being held hostage as my friends exited excitedly the confines of the building. Shortly thereafter, however, I understood and appreciated her request.

Sister Dionysia returned from the convent with a beautiful Boston cream pie protected by Saran Wrap as it rested on a plate. "Jimmy," she said, "take this home to your family in the housing project. You'll all enjoy it." As I reached for the prize, somehow or another, the delightful dish slipped from my grasp and plummeted to the floor.

Shocked by the stunt, I looked at Sister awkwardly thinking, "What could I do for an encore?" While slowly stooping to retrieve the pieces of my pathetic plight she stated sympathetically, "Don't worry, Jimmy, I'll get you another."

In reviewing the experience of my Catholic schooling, there is no doubt that the most impressive event etched in my memory was that truly meaningful moment with Sister Dionysia. Her care and compassion, empathy and encouragement, faithfulness and forgiveness on the occasion spoke volumes about the foundational meaning and ultimate purpose of Catholic education.

It's true. She did teach me Latin and English. There's no doubt that she assisted me to cultivate my talents and employ my skills. Without question she enabled me to assimilate and appropriate the contents of the Baltimore Catechism. Most important, however, she exemplified the veracity of the sentiment shared by Pope Paul VI: "People today don't believe teachers. They believe witnesses. If they do believe teachers it is because they are witnesses."

The story I've shared is symbolic of the enriching atmosphere within which I was enveloped as a student. Both the broader curriculum of the environment and the narrower curriculum of the course of studies were essential. Because of their interconnection I was touched and transformed by the schools' participation in the church's fourfold educational role.

Each Catholic school in every context is delegated to reveal, to affirm, to guide and to heal. First, it reveals the love of the Father; that every person is unique and valuable; that all, as children of the Father, are brother and sisters; that each is invited to be a friend, disciple and witness of Jesus Christ. Second, it affirms that each person has been and is being gifted; that one's talents and skills are to be cultivated; that all are responsible and can make a positive difference. Third, it guides in its teaching how to live and how to die; how to pray and how to play; how to relate and how to respond to the Father and to others. Fourth, it teaches what is good or bad; right or wrong; true or false.

Without doubt, children and youth who attend a Catholic school are to be assisted to cultivate effective study habits, exemplify self-discipline, manifest respect for others and do so in a safe, enabling environment. Yet, as valuable as each of these objectives is, the setting must be founded upon the person and teaching of Jesus Christ. The vision, values and virtues proclaimed and lived by them must be explained and experienced within the school. Its aim is not simply to educate but to form the participants into the likeness of the Lord. Pope John Paul II has reminded us that they must be assisted not only to know about Jesus but to become intimate with him.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week there is a timely emphasis on the gift of faith. The Catholic school must be a locus within which faith is named and nurtured, exemplified and experienced, lived and loved. The Catholic school, then, is not simply another private school. Its mission can neither be understood nor fulfilled apart from identification with Jesus within the community of the church.

During this week, we celebrate the contribution of Catholic schools to human and Christian formation; we acknowledge with gratitude the dedication of those who serve within those settings; we applaud the commitment of caring parents who sacrifice selflessly for the sake of their children; we pray for the participants being nurtured and nourished within these grace-filled missions.

Forty years have passed since my days at Cathedral High School in Boston. The Catholic schools, instruments of the teaching church, will continue to be valuable and vital agencies of education and formation. ▼

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Thomas Mullaney
88 Peachtree Memorial Dr. #4
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 351-0800

SADLIER
SADLIER-OXFORD
9 Pine Street
New York, NY
10005
(800) 221-6175

Express Press Ltd. FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS • ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) *Member St. John Neumann*

P.C. GODFREY INC.
A Complete Service in
PLUMBING — HEATING — AIR CONDITIONING — REPAIRS
REMODELING — SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING
GENERAL OFFICE 334-8604
Serving Charlotte Since 1930
Commercial, Industrial, Residential
SERVICE DEPARTMENT 334-9715

OFFICE SUPPLIES
FURNITURE
COMPUTER SUPPLIES
RUBBER STAMPS
ENGRAVED SIGNS
PAPER SHREDDERS
BUSINESS FORMS
Lynn Murphy
(704) 375-3206, ext. 20

Star Stationers
349-E West Tremont Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28203
Fax: (704) 342-1904

Best wishes to all
the students during
Catholic Schools Week!

WHELCHEL
WHELCHEL & ASSOCIATES, INC.
General Contractors
(704) 377-1334

Living the Faith

Local educator receives accolades as distinguished principal

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Long before she became an educator, Pat Murphy always liked working with children.

For this elementary school principal, "watching the children learn and grow and do things is all so exciting and energizing."

Now, Murphy, principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School, has been recognized for her work. In December, she received the 1998 National Catholic Educational Association's Distinguished Principal Award.

"Excellent choice," says Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools of the Charlotte Diocese, "in terms of what she's contributed to our diocese and Our Lady of Assumption."

Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, OLA's pastor, agrees.

"She's a very competent and professional principal and a wonderful collaborator between the parish and the school."

News of the honor surprised Murphy.

"I really couldn't believe it," she says. "You get a phone call and you think, 'I don't think I heard that.'"

Last year, the Charlotte Diocese principals' association nominated Murphy to represent them in the awards competition. She competed against principals from 11 states and took top honors in the South Atlantic region. She was among 7,100 principals across the country considered by the NCEA for 12 regional awards.

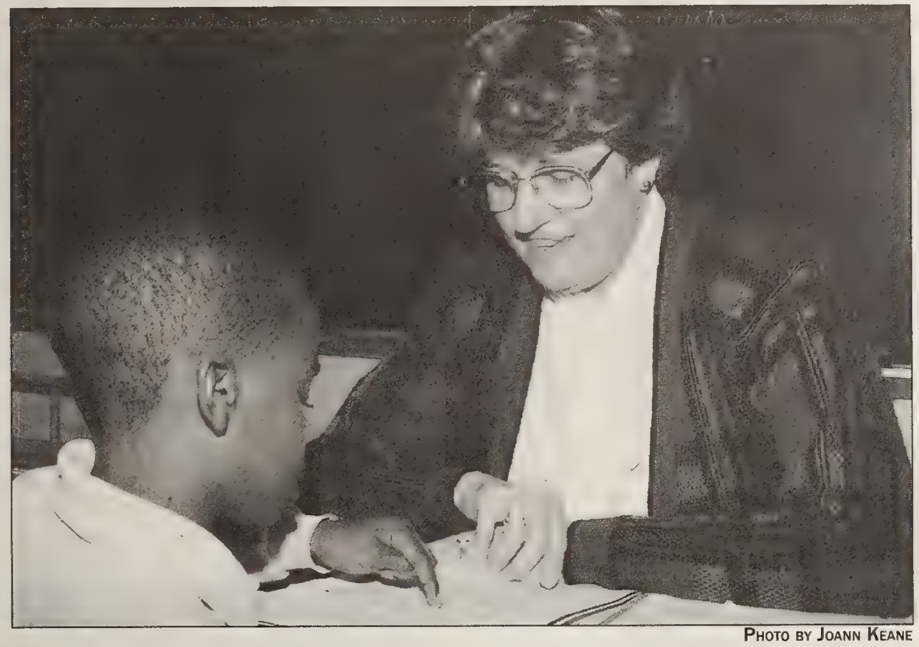


Photo by Joann Keane

Our Lady of the Assumption School principal Pat Murphy takes time to work out a class assignment with third grade student Joshua Powell.

What makes Murphy and her colleagues so special? An NCEA press release credits the winners with being leaders in their dioceses and making "a lasting imprint on their Catholic elementary school." The association's press release notes that Murphy, hired as OLA's principal in 1987, "arrived to find a school where morale was low, the building was in need of repair, bills were not being paid, and teachers were receiving an unjust wage. She began at once to rejuvenate the Spirit of Assumption . ... Under her guidance and inspiration, Assumption, which had been weeks from being closed, came to life."

Murphy, 58, embarked on her academic career by accident. As a student at the University of Central Oklahoma, she spent time with kids as a swimming instructor for the parks and recreation department. In the classroom, however, she worked toward a degree in chemistry. After she and her husband, John, moved to Charlotte from Oklahoma City in 1966, they joined OLA and later enrolled their four children at the school.

"When my children were in school, I volunteered (there). They asked if I would help in the kindergarten," she says, so she became an assistant in 1974. And once the staff learned of her chemistry degree, she was asked to teach science courses at the middle school. Murphy earned her teaching credentials at the University of Central Oklahoma and UNC Charlotte, and a master's degree at the University of Central Oklahoma. She was also principal of St. Michael School in Gastonia from 1982 to 1987.

> **"Every single morning, she meets every single car that pulls up to that school and greets all the children that get out," says Mary Pat Busker, mother of two OLA students. "That just strikes me so beautifully. ... She says hi to all the children. She knows their names."**

Scot Chase was among her first group of kindergarten students at the school's former location on Shenandoah Avenue.

"I have a lot of memories of her (as a kindergartner)," he recalls. "She always had time to spend with us. She always spent it at our level. She would always get down on one knee at eye level and have discussions with us."

Murphy later taught Chase in middle school. The 29-year-old credits her with guiding his career choice.

"Some of the lessons I learned from her (about environmental issues), I guarantee that's why I'm in the environmental consulting field now," he says.

These days, Murphy and her staff of 36 are shaping the lives of more than 300 preschool through fifth-grade students at OLA's current location on Shamrock Drive. Though the school has grown tremendously since 1988, its burgeoning enrollment and Murphy's 10-hour work days don't prevent her from greeting students every day.

"Every single morning, she meets every single car that pulls up to that school and greets all the children that get out," says Mary Pat Busker, mother of two OLA students. "That just strikes me so beautifully. ... She says hi to all the children. She knows their names."

On April 6, Murphy will receive her principal's award during the NCEA's convention in New Orleans.

"I am really grateful for the recognition," says Murphy, "and I really feel that the parents, the students, the teachers are part of that. We are all being recognized. It's a joint venture here." ▼

Discover Catholic Schools
Flynn & O'Hara
School Uniforms
Philadelphia, PA
1-800- 441-4122

✓ Signs
✓ Banners
✓ Vehicles
✓ Lettering
Signs Now
844-0552
1500 Sardis Rd. North
Charlotte
Calabria Family
St. Gabriel Parishioners

Best wishes to all the students!
All Star Vending, Inc.
For full line vending
services in Mecklenburg
and surrounding counties.
(704) 367-0907

*All kinds of mulches, dirts,
and natural stone for home
and business landscaping.*
Atlantic Landscape Supplies
(704) 391-7645 or (704) 660-9838

Assistant superintendent says Catholic schools cultivate faith for the future

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For 13 years, Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert has served as assistant superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. The experience, she says, reveals in great detail how faith and education encourage the full potential of young people across western North Carolina.

Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert

"The mission of the church is to develop people in holiness, and Catholic schools educate people for that mission," says Sister Mona. She adds that Catholic Schools Week, celebrated Jan. 31-Feb. 6, is a perfect time to reflect on that goal.

The 17 Catholic schools — 14 elementary, one middle and two high schools — in the diocese are planning a variety of activities to commemorate this year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Faith for a Brighter Future." Masses, school spirit days, and service programs highlight the week, which celebrates education that prepares students for a Christian life.

"Having this theme, 'Faith for a Brighter Future,' makes us look at what our faith does for us," says Sister Mona. "Although we stress faith throughout the school year, especially in our religion classes, this week we can take the time to think about what our purpose really is for being here."

"People who don't have hope are the ones who are discouraged and despondent," she adds. "If we really believe, faith does make our future brighter."

As one of the leading administrators of Catholic schools in the diocese, Sister Mona devotes many hours to directing curriculum, testing and teacher certification. She leads in-service sessions with educators to outline new state policies. With Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent, she meets regularly with principals to address issues on a localized level.

Through all she does, Sister Mona focuses on educating the "whole child."

"When we think of the whole child, we think spiritually, academically, morally, physically and emotionally," she says. "Catholic schools stress the spiritual dimension to the others."

Sister Mona says an important amenity Catholic school families enjoy is the passing on of values in the classroom. "I know that some parents come to our schools because of the discipline and the academic ratings," she explains. "But I think the basic reason is, and should be, values."

There are currently 5,883 students in the diocese's 15 elementary schools, most of which are based in the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade model. That figure includes Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte, the state's only Catholic school for sixth- , seventh- and eighth-graders.

A total of 1,185 students compose the student bodies of the diocese's two high schools, Charlotte Catholic High School and Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem.

From the mountains to the Triad, Catholic schools assume the responsibility for nurturing these thousands of students in the Christian example, says Sister Mona.

"Academically, our schools are doing very well," she adds, giving as an example the diocesan results of this year's Iowa Test of Basic Skills for grades 3 through 8, which were 30 percentage points higher than the national average.

Specialized education — music, art, computer training, foreign language, physical education — has become a more common element in diocesan schools. Libraries are being automated, and teacher certification is becoming more rigorous.

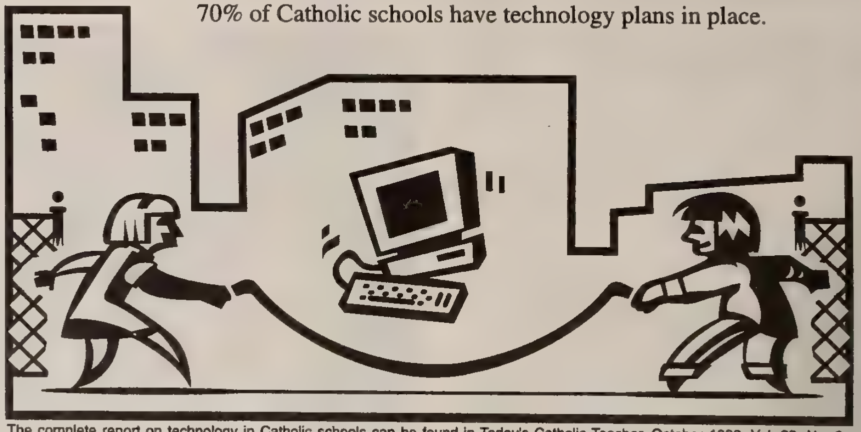
"Along with that, then, we try to see that we don't forget the religious dimension," Sister Mona says.

In addition to weekly or monthly school Masses, schools regularly partake in outreach and service programs in the community. Families are encouraged to participate in many student activities. The result of such communal interaction, Sister Mona hopes, is a heightened sense of spirituality.

The school community extends far beyond facility walls, she says, and its success depends on the contributions of many: from the principals, "who really set the tone in the schools," to the parents, who are invited to share in their children's learning process. ▼

Research on Technology in Catholic Schools

70% of Catholic schools have technology plans in place.



The complete report on technology in Catholic schools can be found in Today's Catholic Teacher, October 1998, Vol. 32, No. 2.

For all your school and business needs, call...
Accurate Engraving & Awards, Inc.
Plaques ✦ Trophies ✦ Engraving
(704) 332-2081
Burt & Patsy Skinner
Visit our new, expanded location conveniently located at
3915 E. Independence Blvd., Amity Gardens Shopping Center

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary!
Our modern 50,000 square foot facility allows us to offer you complete, state-of-the-art mailing services — with our emphasis on service!
On Time — Every Time.
United Mailing Service, Inc.
UMS
(704) 392-2805
(704) 392-2807, fax

COMMUNITY...
At Domino's Pizza of Charlotte we strive for just a little more than the perfect pizza.
We like to have a perfect relationship with our community.
Domino's is happy to partner and support the Catholic schools of Charlotte!
Proud to be a Partner with Charlotte Catholic Schools!
Domino's Pizza
Charlotte's Pizza Delivery Experts!

Rebels in Sierra Leone kill nun, injure missionary

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — A nun held hostage by rebels in Sierra Leone was killed, and at least one other kidnapped missionary was injured, according to reports from an Italian Catholic missionary news agency.

Sister Aloysius Maria, a member of the Missionaries of Charity order founded by Mother Teresa, was shot to death, the MISNA news service reported Jan. 23.

The nun was kidnapped with five other members of her order Jan. 14 from the Xaverian community in Kissy, east of the Sierra Leonese capital of Freetown.

Xaverian Father Girolamo Pistoni, 43, taken from the same community Jan. 12, was reportedly hospitalized but out of danger in Freetown with a gunshot wound to the chest.

MISNA reported that the nun had been executed, and the priest apparently was injured in a botched execution attempt.

"According to Father Pistoni's descriptions of events on arrival at the hospital, the rebels were abandoning their provisional headquarters in the area of the capital in a disorderly manner," the agency said. "They decided to 'get rid' of some of the prisoners, shooting them in cold blood."

> **"According to Father Pistoni's descriptions of events on arrival at the hospital, the rebels were abandoning their provisional headquarters in the area of the capital in a disorderly manner," the agency said. "They decided to 'get rid' of some of the prisoners, shooting them in cold blood."**

A young Indian boy among the hostages was shot in the mouth and left for dead, but was reported to be recovering.

The whereabouts of the rebels, the five remaining captive nuns and a Xaverian missionary, Brother Guglielmo Zambiasi, remained unknown.

Pope John Paul II decried the shootings Jan. 24 after Sunday noon prayers during his pastoral visit to Mexico City.

He called the nun's killing a "barbarous murder" and said "no motive can justify such carnage against persons and institutions that for many years have worked for the good of all."

An archbishop and four Xaverian priests escaped the same rebel kidnappers unharmed.

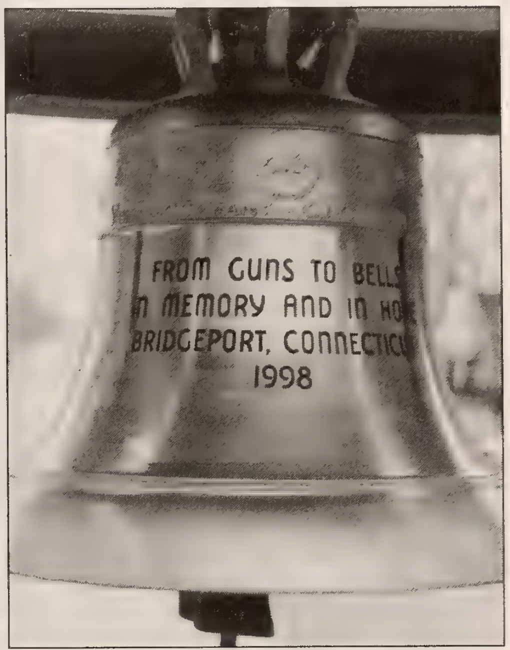
MISNA reported that the four priests and Archbishop Joseph Ganda of Freetown and Bo fled Jan. 20 and were found by Nigerian-led peacekeeping forces two days later.

Bishop George Biguzzi of Makeni, Sierra Leone, told MISNA that the escapees were in "satisfactory" health. "They were not mistreated," he added, "though they were not able to wash for two weeks."

The agency said the four escaped captives found their getaway opportunity in the confusion caused by the rebels' sudden relocation to avoid the peacekeeping troops. ▼

Guns melted down to cast interfaith church bell

By DEE MAGGIORI
Catholic News Service



CNS photo by John Glover, Fairfield County Catholic

A bell cast from the metal of guns surrendered to the Bridgeport, Conn., Police Department was delivered to Blessed Sacrament Parish in December. The two-foot-high bell was made from 35 guns that were melted down. An anonymous donor paid to have the bell cast.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (CNS) — Catholic and other faith communities in Bridgeport are celebrating the result of an experimental "Guns for Bells" program.

In December, a bronze and nickel bell and clapper cast from 34 guns surrendered to the Bridgeport Police Department and other metal traveled around to various faith communities for use in their religious services, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Feast of the Three Kings and Ramadan.

And the police department announced it was conducting a second "Guns for Bells" program to collect guns through the end of January.

"We didn't really have enough metal to make the whole bell from the recovered guns," said Father Paul F. Merry, pastor of Blessed Sacrament in Bridgeport. "But the clapper, which makes the noise, is made entirely from the guns we recovered during our concentrated drive."

An anonymous donor provided $26,000 to pay casting expenses. The bell is 24 inches in diameter and two feet high, approximately the size of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

"The design of the bell is interesting," Father Merry added in an interview for the January issue of the Fairfield County Catholic, monthly newspaper of the Bridgeport Diocese.

"It is covered with something that looks like a little steeple, and it has a kind of prayer well surrounding it," he said. "It is completely portable, and we are happy that congregations of all faiths will be able to use it to promote an awareness of gun violence in the Greater Bridgeport area."

When the second gun drive was announced, the prosecutor's office said it agreed not to charge anyone who surrenders a gun with possession if the donor puts it in a secure container and is on the way to turn it in at police headquarters. Donors were being awarded a voucher for up to $200 that can be used for clothing, food or electronic equipment.

The impetus for the "Guns for Bells" program came from Father Merry, who brought the idea to Bridgeport after he had attended the Eighth Annual Black Conference in Baltimore in 1997, where the concept was introduced.

With donations from friends, community groups, Catholic parishes and others, the priest organized a steering committee that included the police department, the Bridgeport Council of Churches, an area interfaith committee and an interfaith ministerial alliance.

"There was great cooperation among people of many faiths who worked hard to make the bell a reality and a symbol of peace," Father Merry said, adding that he hoped the new year rung in by the bell would "lead us to God's peace in the new millennium." ▼

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

19th Cardinal Newman Lecture
Saturday, March 6
9:30am — 4:00pm
Father Jim Bacik
"Spirituality in Transition"
"Spirituality in Action"

Father Bacik is a theologian, author and campus minister presently serving as campus pastor for the University parish at the University of Toledo. He is a regular columnist in the Catholic press and lectures internationally.

No charge No pre-registration needed

Books & Gift Items
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Annual march seen as sign of people's love for human life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — John Romanoski, a sophomore at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, called the annual March for Life Jan. 22 in Washington "inspiring."

"This shows me the love that is innate to our humanity for human life," he said.

A contingent of about 70 students from the Steubenville school and about 30 from Franciscan-run Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., carried the lead banner in the march from the pro-life rally at the Ellipse up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. Their yellow ponchos provided a sharp contrast to the gray skies overhead.

Tens of thousands of people gathered for the event that marked the 26th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions, which legalized abortion in the United States. No estimate of crowd size was given by march officials, and neither Washington Metropolitan police nor U.S. Park Police give crowd estimates.

Among the slogans on the placards and banners many carried were: "Support the Life Principles"; "No More Children Die — No More Women Cry"; "It's Not the Baby's Choice"; and "The Natural Choice is Life."

Marchers of all faiths walked together and rosaries could be heard alongside traditional Christian hymns. Rev. Jim Lamb, executive director of Lutherans for Life, a national and international organization promoting the sanctity of life, attended this year's event.

"We feel that life issues presents a tremendous opportunity for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Lamb said. "We desire to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the word of God."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Students from Belmont Abbey College join thousands in Washington, D.C., for the 26th annual March for Life. "It is an amazing sight to see thousands of people converge in one area, all joined together to support such an important cause," said Belmont Abbey Student Patrick Toole.

As they geared up to walk the route, the marchers — a great number of whom were college-age or younger — seemed hopeful about their cause. Many wished this would be the last year they had to march to end abortion.

Gloria Zibilich of Smethport, Pa., said, "There is a great sense of community and unity to be with so many who have the same pro-life views." Martin Guldener, a senior at Florida State University, came 16 hours by bus with about 40 classmates. "We want to change the country's mind about abortion," he said.

Dominican Sister Jeanne Monahan from Long Island in N.Y, said she wanted to lend a presence to the march because "the cause of life is the biggest issue in our times."

This was the first march for Patrick Toole, a student from Belmont Abbey College. He was part of the contingency of more than 50 students from the Belmont, N.C., Benedictine college. "As I watched people singing and praying together, I realized how important life must be for all people."

Toole was particularly impressed by the sheer number of marchers. "The March for Life is an amazing event and it shows how strong people can be when they are unified under one cause."

For Darlene and Thomas Michalik, two parishioners from Holy Cross Parish in Garrett Park, Md., a Washington suburb, the March for Life not only marks the anniversary of Roe but a happier occasion for the couple as well: The couple was celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary.

"We've been here every year — we believe in life," Darlene Michalik said. Her husband, who was holding a banner for the parish, said the couple began participating in the event in 1974 after moving to the area. They have made a ritual of attending the march, returning home and going out for their anniversary in the evening.

"I think it is terrible they are killing all these babies," said Darlene, a mother nine times over and grandmother to 12 with another grandchild expected soon.

John K. O'Keefe, a Catholic from Manassas, Va., said he came to the march to remind others that the pro-life movement's causes keep expanding with the latest scientific breakthroughs.

"Pro-lifers and others need to be made more keenly aware of human cloning with human embryos," said O'Keefe "This is something that should matter greatly to many people who believe that embryonic human beings are still our brothers and sisters, regardless of their size."

Students from The Catholic University of America hosted youth groups from across the country for an all-night prayer vigil Jan. 21, followed the next day with the march.

The director of the Office of Campus Ministry, Franciscan Father Bob Schlageter, said 1,360 high school students and their chaperones attended the vigil and march in addition to 150 students from Catholic University. Another 90 students from the university volunteered to assist with the high school visitors in various ways.

"I came because people should be more aware of what's going on," said William Lucina, a freshman from Chicago. "Abortion is not right," he added.

Freshman Alyson Hansell, from Philadelphia, also stressed another aspect of supporting the dignity of life. "Pro-life means you are against the death penalty," Hansell said. ▼

Contributing to this story were Joann Keane, Maureen Leonard, Lynnea Pruzinsky Mumola and Lou Panarale.

God calls us in many ways.

Is God calling you?

If you are thinking of the priesthood, please write or call to find out more about serving in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Director of Vocations
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3353

"I was accepted at four colleges and universities, but once I saw all Belmont Abbey College had to offer, there was really no comparison. The Abbey was the right decision."

PATRICK CAHILL, CLASS OF 2002

Charlotte, NC

Charlotte Catholic High School

Major: Undecided

Patrick Cahill — who excelled in high school sports and musical productions, and served as president of his student body — says Belmont Abbey College is the perfect fit for him, for many reasons.

"The Abbey has so much to offer. The campus is beautiful and the environment is warm and welcoming. When I visited, I just knew I would fit in here."

Patrick claims it is "the right people in the right positions" that has made his Abbey experience so unforgettable.

"The hearts of the people are genuine and caring; that's one of the things I love about this place. I receive personal attention from people who really know what they're talking about. All five of my current instructors have their doctorate degrees. My classes range from just 15 to 30 students — which is really ideal ... I've been so impressed."

Patrick is leaning toward a major in philosophy or history and plans to try out for the baseball team. He will also continue the work he began in high school helping underprivileged children in downtown Charlotte with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

"You can't ask for a stronger Catholic identity than here at Belmont Abbey College, yet our Benedictine instructors don't really care what denomination you're from; they just want the opportunity to teach you. In fact, a fair percentage of our students are not Catholic, and all are welcome with open arms."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

BELMONT, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • TOLL-FREE 888.BAC.0110

U.S. bishops' pro-life statement promoted at March for Life

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the rally kicking off the 26th annual March for Life Jan. 22 in Washington, March founder Nellie Gray and Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law urged marchers to read the U.S. Catholic bishops' latest pro-life statement.

The ongoing impeachment trial of President Clinton took a toll on speaker turnout, as only five members of Congress — far fewer than in recent years — addressed the noontime gathering on the Ellipse near the White House.

The rally and march to the U.S. Supreme Court marked the anniversary of the court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions, which legalized abortion in the United States.

This year's theme was: "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Near the end of the 80-minute rally, Gray told tens of thousands of marchers gathered under cloudy skies that the bishops' statement was printed in the march program.

Titled "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics," it was approved by the bishops last November at their general meeting in Washington.

"We are moving in the right direction with this statement," Gray said, adding that she intends to work with the bishops in a united effort.

But, she said the statement had been "reported with various spins," and she encouraged marchers to "read that statement totally."

Gray then introduced Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, former chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The cardinal said he was proud of the body of U.S. bishops, also represented at the rally by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York and 15 other archbishops and bishops.

"There is no body in the United States that has been more consistently and effectively pro-life through the years than has the National Conference of Catholic Bishops," he said.

"It's very important that in the pro-life movement we understand who is with us and who is against us, and that we stand united for life," he said.

After introducing the bishops present, Cardinal Law also urged marchers, "Read the bishops' statement."

In this nation, he said, "we are becoming desensitized to the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, the weak." The "chickens of abortion" had come home to roost in changes in welfare law, in debates on capital punishment and "in the callousness with which we ignore genocide in the Sudan," he said.

"We need to make a change," he continued. "And don't think that the change is going to be excommunicating this one or that one. That's not going to do it.

"The change is going to be with every Catholic citizen assuming his or her responsibility to vote for life across the board," he said. "That's what's going to make the difference."

No estimate of crowd size was given by march officials, though Gray promised even more would come in 2000. Neither Washington Metropolitan police nor U.S. Park Police give crowd estimates.

According to Gray, many pro-life members of Congress were unable to attend the rally because of the impeachment trial. "They have to deal with an issue they should not have to deal with," she said.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic and chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, asked the crowd to pray for the Clintons and the Gores, "that they would cease their unseemly and aggressive persecution of children here in America and abroad."

"The scandals that have rocked the White House pale to near insignificance when compared to the anti-child policies so methodically pursued by our abortion president and his administration," said Smith.

Other members of Congress addressing the rally were Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Reps. Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-Md., Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., and Joseph R. Pitts, R-Pa.

As a result of the debates over partial-birth abortion, Bartlett said, 80 percent of Americans "do not support abortion for birth control."

Pitts said the truth that abortion is violence — "a horrible, horrific form of death" — is winning Americans back to the pro-life side.

Brownback thanked marchers for raising the consciousness of their fellow citizens. "You are the heroes in a great battle," he said, "fighting for the future and the soul of this great nation."

Gray, also president of the March for Life Fund, stressed several times that the goal of the March for Life is legislation that protects "personhood, with no exceptions, no compromises."

Also during the rally, representatives of more than two dozen pro-life organizations and religious bodies around the United States introduced themselves. And march officials recognized winners in the student contest for essays and poetry. ▼

KEEP ABORTION LEGAL
KEEP ABORTION LEGAL
Is this a Choice?
Or a Child?

CNS photo by Marty Lueders

Posters supporting legal abortion and supporting pro-life positions express the sentiments of both sides of a crowd at the Supreme Court Jan. 22 during the annual March for Life.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Opening a 2nd location mid-February...
72 Long Shoals Road • Arden, NC
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• DEBT CONSOLIDATION
• LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
• CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Guest Services Assistant: The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory has part-time and full-time positions open serving others. Please send resume to: Guest Services Position, Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602. No phone calls please.

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to 770-516-4664.

Assistant Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Assistant Teacher positions. Please contact the school principal, Mrs. Janice Ritter, at (704)333-3174 for an interview. Positions available immediately.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 600 families near Raleigh, North Carolina in process of building new church desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have B.A. in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time; salary of 30K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by March 15 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Director of Pastoral Care: St. Joseph of the Pines has an opening for a Director of Pastoral Care to work at the Southern Pines Health Center location. Provides counsel, guidance and support to residents, patients, employees, and families. Must have CPE certification, a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry, Psychology, or Theology. Three to five years' experience as a Chaplain a plus! Send resume to St. Joseph of the Pines, Administration, Attn: Lorena Moree, 95 Aviemore Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374. EOE. JOBLINE: 1-800-436-7791

Youth Ministry: St. Gabriel Parish is seeking creative, well-organized youth minister for large parish of 3900+ families. This full-time position has responsibility for grades seven through twelve. Applicant must be practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in related field and experience working with youth preferred. Send resume, salary requirements and references to Youth Ministry Search, c/o Susan Krasniewski, DRE, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Youth Minister: Growing parish of 1900 families has immediate opening for full-time Youth Minister for established Total Youth Ministry program, youth grades 6-12. Candidate must be faithfilled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Successful candidate will have work experience and BA in Theology or related field. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume and statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Youth Minister Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410, or FAX (366)294-6149.

Colombian bishop, pope urge solidarity with earthquake victims

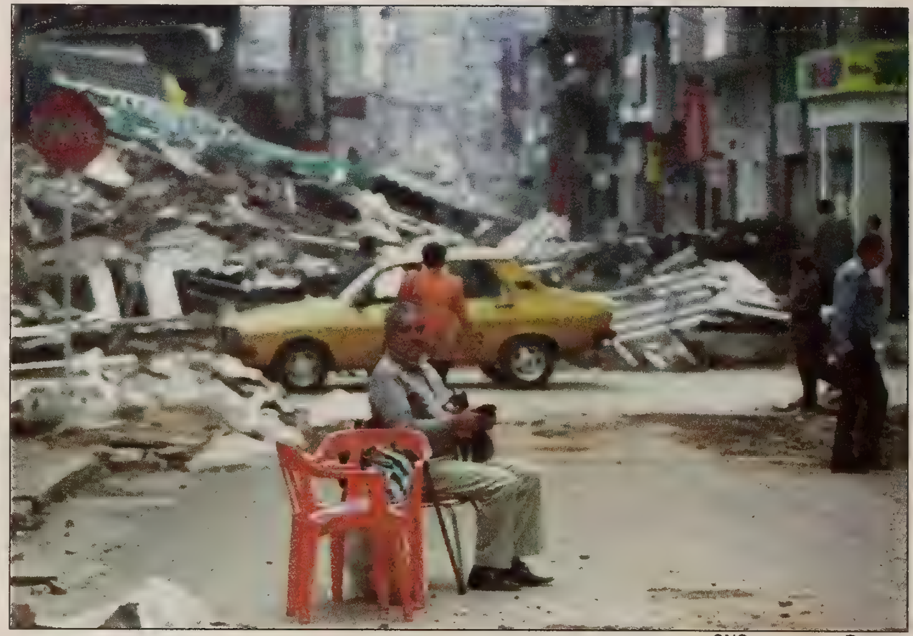
BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — The president of the Colombian bishops' conference and Pope John Paul II called for solidarity with victims of an earthquake that destroyed cities in the country's western coffee-growing region.

"In this year devoted to God the Father and focused on the virtue of charity, the painful tragedy of our brothers and sisters in the coffee region is a test of our Christian fraternity," said Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo of Medellin.

"Once again, the pain of those who have lost their loved ones and are now homeless is knocking at the doors of our hearts," he said, referring to the earthquakes that hit Colombia in 1995, 1994 and 1992.

The earthquake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0, struck Jan. 25, devastating 20 towns and villages in five provinces. Armenia, the capital city of Quindio province, experienced the worst damage, authorities said.

Colombian officials said Jan. 26 that more than 500 people were dead and nearly 2,000 were injured, with the tolls expected to rise.



CNS photo from Reuters

Entire neighborhoods in Armenia, Columbia, were flattened by a Jan. 25 earthquake, measured at a preliminary magnitude of 6.0. Early estimates were that at least 500 were killed and 2,000 injured.

Archbishop Giraldo established a special collection for the victims, saying money would be collected in parishes Jan. 31 and in other Catholic institutions, such as schools, colleges and hospitals, Feb. 1.

"The help will be sent immediately to our fellow bishops of Armenia and Pereira, as a sign of ecclesial communion," Archbishop Giraldo said.

Speaking in Mexico City Jan. 25 near the end of a five-day visit, Pope John Paul expressed his sadness for the victims of the earthquake.

"We show our love, being in solidarity with our brothers who are suffering at this time," he said.

According to official reports, half of the city of Armenia was destroyed.

"It's a complete catastrophe, and we will take years to rebuild the city. We're finding more bodies every minute," said state Gov. Henry Gomez.

Armenia's mayor, Alvaro Patino, called the earthquake a "horrific tragedy."

"There's no way to measure this crisis. ... We need everything ... medicine, clothes ... electronic generators," he said, encouraging Colombians in the United States to send aid.

Archbishop Paolo Romeo, the Vatican nuncio to Colombia, said that according to initial assessments the seminary in Armenia and 15 parish churches were "seriously damaged" by the quake and as of Jan. 26, the cathedral in Armenia was inaccessible.

In a telephone interview with the Italian Catholic newspaper Avvenire, Archbishop Romeo said, "We were worried about 40 priests who began a retreat on the outskirts of Armenia Monday," the day the quake struck.

"Fortunately the earthquake was weaker there, and all are well," he said.

While the archbishop praised the quick action of the government, he said rescue efforts in Armenia were hampered by the fact that a main fire station was among the most severely damaged buildings.

"The emergency vehicles and equipment are buried under the rubble," he said. ▼

Catholic Relief Services pledges to assist Colombian earthquake victims

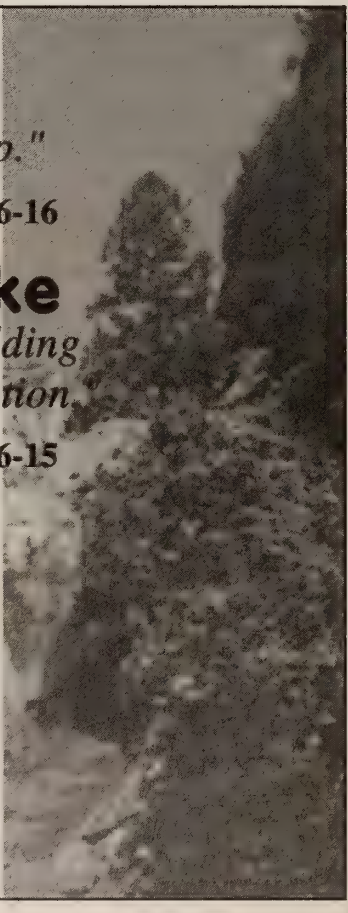
BALTIMORE — Catholic Relief Services said this week that it is moving forward immediately to provide support to the victims of the Jan. 25 earthquake in Colombia. The earthquake affected the western portion of the country in the Quindio and Risaralda regions, the major coffee producing areas of the country. Early reports indicate that the death toll will surpass 1,000 and could climb to 2,000.

"Catholic Relief Services has been working in Colombia for the past several years working on local human rights programs and developing ties with the local Catholic dioceses. Based on this relationship, Catholic Relief Services is uniquely qualified to assist our brothers and sisters who have been victimized by the earthquake," said Kenneth Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services.

In Armenia, the capital city of the Quindio region — the epicenter of the earthquake — over 180,000 of the 220,000 residents have been left homeless. Initial reports indicate that 60 percent of the buildings were destroyed. Armenia and other nearby cities are without electricity and potable water and hospitals are overflowing with the wounded.

According to Hackett, the agency is working with local counterparts in the region to determine the magnitude of Catholic Relief Services assistance. "We are prepared," he declared, "to provide the local communities with the resources needed to begin to recover from this tragedy."

Catholic Relief Services is the official overseas development and relief agency of the U.S. catholic community. Founded in 1943, the agency provides assistance to families and communities in over 80 countries on the basis of need, not race, creed, or nationality. ▼



Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16
Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766

Listening Sessions
Housing Needs of Catholic Elders in the Charlotte area
The Elder Ministry Program of the Diocese of Charlotte will be holding one hour listening sessions to hear your views on the needs of affordable housing for Catholic Seniors.

Friday, January 22, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Matthew
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

Wednesday, January 27, 1999
10am — 11am
St. Thomas Aquinas
1400 Suther Road

Saturday, January 30, 1999
11am — 12 noon
St. Gabriel
3016 Providence Road

Wednesday, February 3, 1999
10am — 11am
Our Lady of Consolation
2301 Statesville Avenue

Friday, February 5, 1999
12 noon — 1pm
Our Lady of the Assumption
4207 Shamrock Drive

Co-sponsored by:
Elder Ministry of Catholic Social Services and Charlotte Mecklenberg Area Task Force

For information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220

***************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S299 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 5, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 22

Inside

From the Bishop
DSA '99: Let your light shine
...PAGE 5

Permanent Diaconate
Husband, father, grandpa, deacon: Ordained to serve
...PAGE 3

Catholic schools: Plans for schools in the Triad
...PAGE 3

Local News

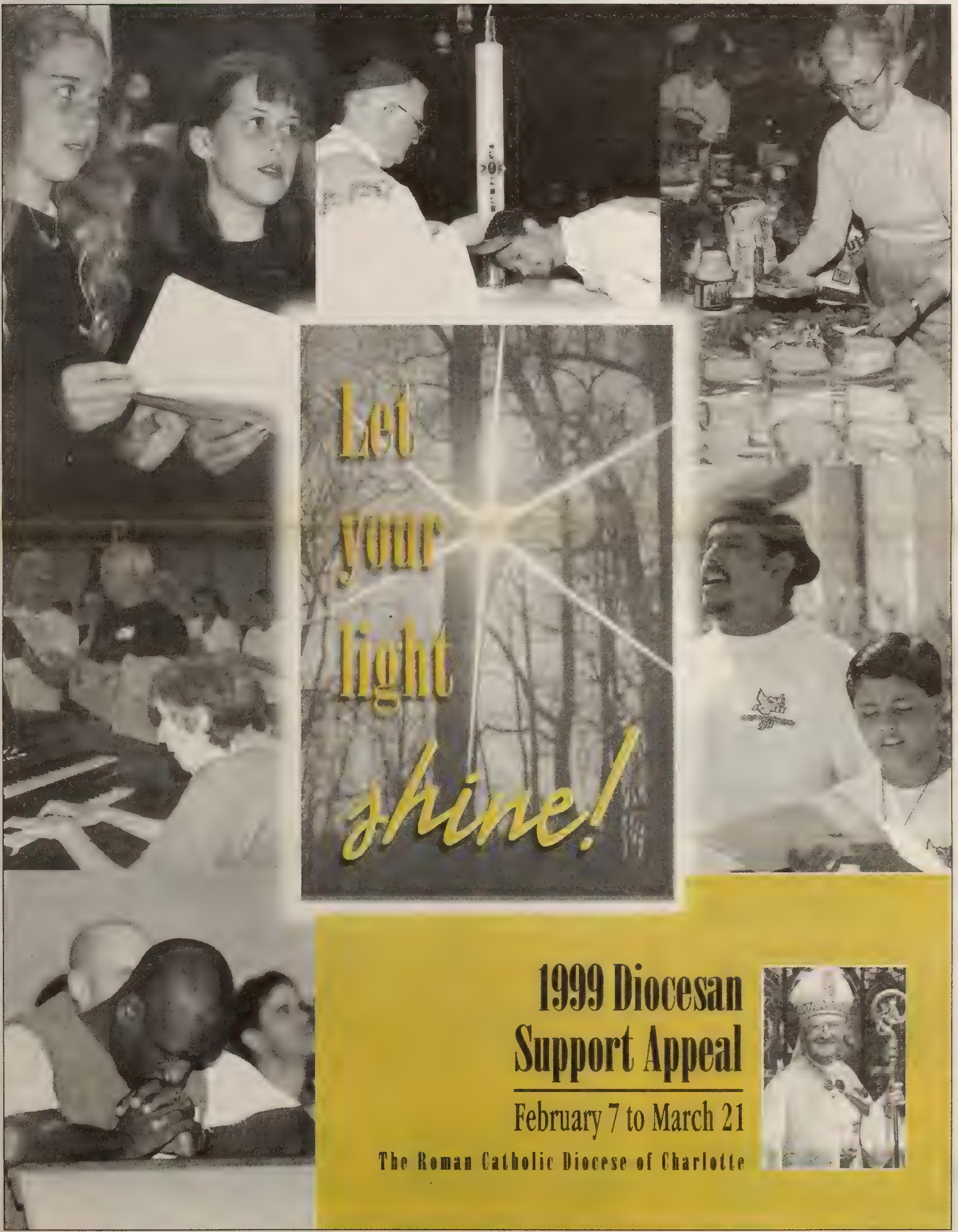
Campus Ministry
Greensboro campus minister reaches out with a mother's love
...PAGE 7

CSS brings hope to client
...PAGE 6

Every Week

The World in Brief
...PAGE 2

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5



1999 Diocesan Support Appeal

February 7 to March 21

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

This week: Diocesan ministries touch many lives in western North Carolina

The World in Brief

Hong Kong learns of abuse of underground Catholics in China

HONG KONG (CNS) — Reports of violence and harassment against underground Catholic peasants in Baoding Diocese around Christmas time were received in Hong Kong. In mid-January, Catholic sources told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that Father Peter Hu Duo of the Diocese of Baoding had been arrested and seriously beaten by officials Dec. 20 in his sister's home in Xushui County, near Baoding city. The officials reportedly said that Father Hu's legs were broken due to the beating, and his whereabouts were unknown, the sources said.

At Vatican, scientists discuss improving food for Third World

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A lack of water, education and technology, rapid population growth, pollution, war and selfishness contribute to the malnutrition and starvation of millions of people, a scientist told a Vatican meeting. "Global food production remains more than sufficient to provide everyone with the required minimum number of calories if the available food were distributed according to needs," said Per Pinstrup-Andersen, director-general of the International Food Policy Research Institute. "Hunger persists not because of inadequate food availability, but because poor people cannot afford to buy all the food they need and do not have access to the resources to produce it for themselves," he told a Vatican meeting.

Friends pay warm tributes to Cardinal Hume in new book

LONDON (CNS) — Friends and colleagues paid warm tributes to Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster in a book published to mark his 50 years as a Benedictine monk. The book is "Basil Hume: By his Friends." It contains tributes and reminiscences by people who have known the cardinal during his 23 years at Westminster. In the book, the Anglican former archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, said he was consulted by the apostolic delegate in London, Archbishop Bruno Heim, before Cardinal Hume's appointment to Westminster.

CNS photo from Reuters

Mass in Colombia

Residents attend an open-air Mass outside St. Alphonsus Church in Armenia, Colombia, Jan. 31. An earthquake in the region killed more than 900 people and left a quarter of a million homeless.

Philippine police arrest suspect in 1997 murder of bishop

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Police in the southern Philippines arrested a suspect in the 1997 killing of Bishop Benjamin de Jesus of Jolo. Chief Superintendent Lucas Managuelod, director of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Mubin Mandangan was apprehended Jan. 27 at a police checkpoint in Tagbak, in Sulu province, 580 miles south of Manila. The arrest was reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Mandangan, who was once a security officer at the office of the governor of Sulu, was identified by a witness as one of two men who shot Bishop de Jesus six times in front of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Jolo, the provincial capital, Feb. 4, 1997. Mandangan was detained at the Sulu provincial jail.

Bishops of Croatia, Bosnia urge refugees' safe return

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Bishops of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina said refugees from the war in Bosnia should be allowed to return to their homes safely. The presidents of the two bishops' conferences issued a joint statement after the conferences met in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, the Croatian Catholic news agency IKA reported Jan. 28. "Instead of the anticipated process of the return of refugees and displaced persons to their native dioceses," the bishops wrote, "due to political, economic and security reasons, many Catholic faithful who have endured all the horrors of the war are now being systematically forced to emigrate."

S. African church leaders fear increase in political violence

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Church leaders said they feared an increase in violence in Kwazulu-Natal province after the assassination of a warlord and reprisal killings. Politically motivated violence has left about 100,000 people homeless in the province, said Paddy Kearney, head of the Durban-based ecumenical group Diakonia. "This makes Kwazulu-Natal particularly volatile and unstable. It's easy for those involved in the violence to recruit destitute, unemployed people, especially youths," Kearney said in a Jan. 27 telephone interview from Durban. "Hungry people are attracted far more readily into jobs in the violence," he added.

Lech Walesa gets warm welcome from Polish-Americans

TOLEDO, Ohio (CNS) — When the visitor from Poland stood before parishioners and well-wishers at St. Adalbert Church, there was a good deal of applause and a few tears to go with it. For many Poles in the congregation, Lech Walesa was the personification of years of Polish struggles against Soviet oppression and a key figure in the eventual victory over communism. Walesa, the electrician who worked in a shipyard and became a labor leader and winner of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, met leaders of Toledo's Polish-American community on his two-day visit to the city in mid-January.

East Timor independence considered, says Indonesian official

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — The Indonesian government is considering independence for East Timor if a proposal for broad-based special autonomy is rejected by the local people and the international community, the country's foreign minister said. Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas announced Jan. 27 that the government will propose its new option for the solution to the East Timor issue to the People's Consultative Assembly at its general assembly near the end of 1999.

The Weekly Scripture can
be found on page 4.
Next week it will return to its
normal Readings page.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

February 5, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 22
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Award Winner Catholic Press Association cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 6
Confirmation for
Hispanic community,
Hispanic Cultural Center, Charlotte

February 9
Friends of Seminarians dinner,
Winston-Salem

February 10 — 7:30 pm
Soup and Substance
St. Barnabas, Arden

Bishop Curlin's
DSA column
Page 5

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace offers free Operation Rice Bowl workshops to parish leaders and faith formation teachers. Operation Rice Bowl is a Lenten program incorporating prayer, fasting, learning and giving. Catholic Relief Services provides all program materials at no cost. Funds donated through the program provide resources to Catholic Relief Services to help people become self-reliant and self-sufficient. To schedule a workshop or for more information, call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3231 or send faxes to (704) 370-3377.

February

9 CHARLOTTE — Molly Kelly, an author, lecturer, and widowed mother of eight, discusses chastity in a speaking presentation at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., at 7:30 p.m. The presentation is open to the public. For details, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

10 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church gathers for its monthly meeting today at 11 a.m. Sandwiches, coffee and dessert are provided, and entertainment will be featured. For details, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

13 ASHEVILLE — The Order of Secular Franciscans meets today to share in the apostolic life of the Gospel, in the St. Justin Center of St. Lawrence Basilica, 97 Haywood St. For details, call Helen Turek at (828) 684-1533.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelists Scott and Kimberly Hahn speak at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. They will discuss the following topics: "A Father who keeps his

Office of the Bishop

February 1, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ,

Catholic school education in the Triad has been a topic of discussion for a number of years. It has been a long and sometimes emotional process. I thank you for your patience and prayers.

Today I am pleased to share with you my decision regarding Catholic school education in the Triad. With this, we will begin a new era for education as we enter the millennium.

This decision affects our children today, and will impact the spiritual and educational formation of future generations. A young, vibrant diocese like ours must respond to many needs and sacred responsibilities related to growth. Formative Catholic education is crucial for the future of our diocese. While formation is offered through various means, within this context we address the need for Catholic schools. To better understand the hopes and desires of parents and other parishioners in the Triad, I commissioned a study, completed last spring.

Two surveys were conducted: One for parents of students and a second for other parishioners. While they had a commonality, specific information gleaned from each gave direction to the monumental task of determining a specific plan for this critical educational decision. Results of the surveys were encouraging, with a high return rate underscoring the strong interest of our Triad residents in the education of our young.

Planning and research specialists from North Carolina State University analyzed the data.

In June, the Triad Schools Committee was appointed. Membership consisted of three pastors, two principals, three school board members and five diocesan representatives. Throughout the summer and fall, they met on a biweekly basis to review the results of the survey, consider the comments shared in the public meetings and be attentive to additional issues related to the construction of schools in the Triad.

The charge of this committee was to prepare a report with recommendations for my consideration after having completed their study. It was stressed, however, that four considerations were imperative as these representatives formulated their recommendations. They are as follows:

- The schools must offer a quality Catholic education
- There must be a viable student population
- The schools must be located within reasonable commuting time from the communities they serve
- The costs to families must be as manageable as possible

The cohesive bond of these elements provides the foundation of a five-point plan for Catholic School Education in the Triad:

1. Schools will be constructed in the Triad region:
   - A new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School to be centrally located
   - Following the construction of the high school, elementary schools will be built in western Guilford and western Forsyth counties.
2. All elementary schools now in existence and those to be built within this plan will remain kindergarten through eighth grade facilities.
3. A capital campaign will be conducted to raise construction funds from throughout the Triad community. The remaining costs related to construction of the three new schools will be financed by a capital fee paid by all families whose children attend Catholic schools in the Triad.
4. Parishes that currently sponsor an elementary school will receive a 'credit' annually equal to a portion of the capital fee paid by families identified with the school. This rebate will be used by the parish to pay for education-related capital projects.
5. A transportation system will be available for students attending the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School.

You and I can appreciate the challenges related to the construction of Catholic schools, yet, it is abundantly clear that they contribute uniquely to the educational mission of the Church. It is apparent to me that so many parents, eager to enroll their children in a Catholic school, identify with that conviction.

I express heartfelt gratitude to the parents, other parishioners, principals and pastors within the Triad. Everyone exemplified a spirit of generosity and patience that is truly inspiring. I also thank the members of the Triad Schools Committee for their tireless dedication to ensure the completion of their task in a competent, responsible and timely manner.

Prayerfully yours in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

DSA: Permanent Diaconate

Husband, father, grandpa, deacon: Ordained to serve

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

FOREST CITY — When Andy Cilone arrived in North Carolina 23 years ago, he was surprised to encounter people who challenged his faith. Cilone's upbringing in the close-knit Catholic community in Follansbee, W.Va., sheltered him from others' questioning of his religion — that is, until he moved to this state.

"I had never been questioned in my faith before," says Cilone, who's long been active in the church. "I was snowballed. I felt ineffective because I was giving the answers, but I wasn't convincing anybody."

By the early '80s, Cilone stumbled upon an opportunity to deepen his relationship with the church and spread a more articulate message about Catholicism to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. That's when he discovered the ministry of permanent deacons, or the diaconate. Deacons, like priests and bishops, receive the sacrament of holy orders. They are ordained men living in the lifestyle of the laity.

"I had no concept of what the diaconate was all about," says Rev. Mr. Cilone, but he figured the experience would enhance his knowledge of Catholicism. So "I filled out an application," he says, and underwent an interview.

"And lo and behold," he says, "I was one of the chosen ones."

During his three-year formation period, Cilone and his fellow diaconate candidates attended classes every other weekend at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont from September to June. Whenever possible, Cilone's wife, JoAnn, also attended the classes. At the time, the Cilones had five chil-

DSA: DIACONATE, PAGE 9

promises," "Mary, Mary quite contrary," "Mass and the Book of Revelation," and "Rome, sweet home," Kimberly's conversion story. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. For more information, call (704) 364-5431. This event is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE — Wilderness themes are explored in a "Journey into Lent" presentation today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The event includes discussion on the pain, anguish and humor of the wilderness as found in Scripture. Cost is $20. R.S.V.P. to Caryn Cusick, (704) 362-5047, ext. 276.

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m. For further information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Mass in Vietnamese is celebrated at 2 p.m. today in St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane. Call (704) 867-6212 for details.

16 GREENSBORO — Rev. Mr. Paul Teich discusses the call to holy orders today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details, call (336) 274-0415.

18 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For details, call (336) 886-2444.

19 SYLVA — A support group for persons who are widowed, separated, divorced, and with new or unresolved grief meets today at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. For details, call the parish office at (828) 586-9496.

20 WINSTON-SALEM — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Dr. Cost is $4 for adults, $10 for families. Space is limited. For details, call (336) 724-7071.

21 STATESVILLE — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 7 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr. Cost is $3. For details, call (704) 872-2579.

26 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

"Sought Through Prayer and Meditation"

8:00 pm Friday, March 26 to
12 noon Sunday, March 28

Sr. Cathy Cahill, OSF

Using the 12 Steps as a way to grow in spiritual awareness, the retreat will provide you with the time and atmosphere to slow down a bit to reflect on what is important in your life.

Sister Cathy is an experienced leader of retreats for people in 12 Step programs. This retreat is for women involved in any 12 Step program.

Cost: $110
$55 commuters

Pre-registration by March 12

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Church and media can bring hope, says pope in annual message

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church and the mass media have expertise and gifts which, if shared, can help the world's people make sense of events and face the future with hope, Pope John Paul II said.

"Every form of cooperation will be for the good of everyone," the pope said in his message for World Communications Day 1999, to be marked May 16 in most dioceses.

"Mass media: A friendly companion for those in search of the Father" is the theme for the 1999 celebration.

"To be human is to go in search," the pope said in the text released Jan. 29 at the Vatican. Ultimately, to search is to look for meaning which is found most fully in God, he said.

With its huge influence, he said, the media have a special responsibility to all who are searching: "to witness to the truth about life, about human dignity, about the true meaning of our freedom and mutual independence."

The Catholic Church can help the media reach the heights of its potential, he said, but the church also can learn from the media and benefit from its proper use.

"The church's culture of remembrance can save the media culture of transitory 'news' from becoming a forgetfulness which corrodes hope; and the media can help the church to proclaim the Gospel in all its enduring freshness in the everyday reality of people's lives," the pope said.

The church's "culture of wisdom" can help the media's "culture of information" ensure that it is not simply presenting meaningless facts, he said. And the media can help the church keep abreast of new discoveries and knowledge.

"The church's culture of joy can save the media culture of entertainment from becoming a soulless flight from truth and responsibility; and the media can help the church to understand better how to communicate with people in a way that appeals and even delights," he said.

The church and the media, Pope John Paul said, must cooperate to ensure that the media bring people together, that it not be "a force which destroys, but a love which creates," a love which reflects the love of God the Father.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of
Feb. 7 - Feb. 13, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 58:7-10, Psalm 112:4-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16; **Monday**, Genesis 1:1-19, Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday**, Genesis 1:20-2:4, Psalm 8:4-9, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday**, Genesis 2:4-9, Psalm 104:1-2, 27-30, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday**, Genesis 2:18-25, Psalm 128:1-5, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday**, Genesis 3:1-8, Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday**, Genesis 3:9-24, Psalm 90:2-6, 12-13, Mark 8:1-10

Guest Column

BARBARA ROHRMAN
Associate Director
of Development

DSA '99: Sharing in the light of Christ

In my former life, before becoming Associate Director of Development, I gave to the Diocesan Support Appeal out of a sense of responsibility and obligation to my parish. I was active in my parish, and I knew that the parish was assessed a certain amount of money to help with the diocesan ministries. Furthermore, I knew that if we didn't make that amount, the parish would have to pay anyway. I felt a sense of loyalty to the parish and actually had pangs of guilt if I did not contribute something.

Then there was the video shown in the parish. Through the power of modern technology, the bishop "visited" my parish to share his thoughts on the DSA. I was able to see the needs of many people throughout the diocese. Their stories made a convincing case to give: the children in faith formation classes, the foster families, the grief-stricken family of a murdered child, the unwed mother who gave her child up for adoption, and countless other stories of people in need moved me and prompted me to give to the DSA.

In the past five years I have had the privilege of coordinating the various elements of the Diocesan Support Appeal. During those years, I experienced a real deepening of my own reasons for giving to the appeal. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of the agency and ministry leaders and learn about the wonderful things happening in the diocese as a result of DSA funded ministries.

I met people who credit Catholic Social Services with changing their lives through counseling, adoption programs, and grief support groups. I spoke with young people who were on fire with a love of Jesus and desire to serve others, all because of the Youth Ministry program. I met wonderful and holy seminarians who will bring the light of Christ to countless souls throughout this diocese. I cried with those who are struggling and suffering; I laughed and rejoiced with those who were celebrating.

But more than that, I realized that in each and every case, I was in the presence of Jesus. My gift to the DSA was going to help Jesus, and suddenly I was overwhelmed with gratitude. I was grateful for the opportunity to serve Jesus, ever present in our midst.

I wish everyone in the diocese could meet the people I met and hear the stories of how the DSA impacted their lives. That would not be possible or practical. The next best thing is the DSA video, shown in the parishes this past weekend, and this issue of The Catholic News & Herald. Also look for stories of how the DSA has changed lives in the next six issues of the paper.

I encourage every parishioner to open his or her heart to these people and to their stories, and then to "let your light shine so that all may see the goodness in your deeds."

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

How to make money work for community

After my mother died, I got a life insurance check for $1,000. On the same day in the mail I opened a solicitation from the Calvert Foundation offering me an opportunity to invest in a community fund. Calvert loans money to community groups in poor rural and urban areas that provide affordable housing or start-up capital for small businesses. The prospectus read that the investor could chose an interest rate from 0 percent to 4 percent for one to five years. The solicitation required a minimum of $1,000. I stood by my desk with the solicitation in one hand and the insurance check in the other. I thought what a heavenly marriage made for community!

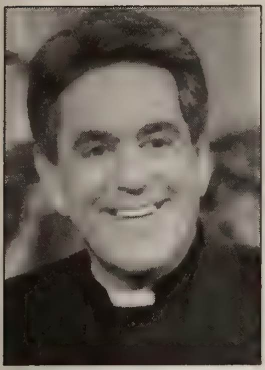
For over three decades investors have seen the potential power of their money promote community and discourage greed. Socially responsible investing (SRI) uses screened mutual funds, shareholder activism and community investing to reward good corporate citizenship and challenge bad. It also channels investment dollars to community opportunities that the market ignores.

More than 140 socially responsible mutual funds screen $529 billion or 5 percent of all money invested in the United States. Frequently portfolio managers first review stocks financially looking for above-average earnings and potential stability for growth. Next the stocks get screened by positive and negative social criteria. The Domini Social Equity Fund, for example, excludes companies that derive revenue from nuclear power, alcohol, tobacco, gaming and substantial military weapons manufacturing. Some of the positive social screens of Domini evaluate a company's community relations, diversity in employment, employee relations, the environment and quality of product. Because screened mutuals like Domini incorporate both financial and social objectives, studies show on balance that screening neither limits nor enhances investment return.

The Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), (475 Riverside Dr., Rm 550, New York, NY 10115, 212-870-2295) a coalition of 275 religious investors, represents $90 billion that can influence proxy fights at stockholders' meetings. In 1997 ICCR sponsored 159 shareholder resolutions involving 116 companies. Forty resolutions were either received positively or entered a stage of dialogue with management. ICCR cites Sara Lee and Coca-Cola among its tangible successes. The former divested its tobacco business and the latter endorsed the CERES Principles, a corporate pledge to respect specific environmental practices.

SRI exists because there are limits to the marketplace. The market can offer a price, but not assure justice. Marketplace logic shows that pollution shifts private production costs to the public. Additionally, paying poor wages might increase profits, but it diminishes family options. John Paul II in Centesimus Annus warns that the market "ignores the existence of goods which by their nature are not and cannot be mere commodities." He is referring to a whole bundle of social protections for the environment, the family and individuals.

Enlightened business people recognize values beyond the bottom line. A 1996 Cornell University survey showed that 58 percent of executives at major U.S. corporations agreed that companies must consider social issues. SRI offers a moral compass to an economic system preoccupied with quarterly profits.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

So what about those New Year's resolutions?

A month ago, on New Year's Day, they seemed like such good ideas: Drop a few pounds, exercise more, become a little kinder and gentler. Whatever way you picked to come up with a new, improved version of yourself ... are you still working at it?

If you are, congratulations.

If, on the other hand, you are like most of us, you have already had several setbacks and probably just let things slide. Why is it so hard to keep a resolution? Maybe we try too much or come up with so many goals that we lose heart when we fail, which we do.

I started wondering about the reason we make resolutions in the first place. It strikes me that we are all highly imperfect beings and we know it. Dissatisfaction is part of the human condition. As long as we don't drive ourselves crazy and do keep a sense of proportion, then dissatisfaction can be useful. It can give us the impetus to change bad habits and to develop good ones. I think that resolutions area response to that voice within us — or maybe standing next to us — that says, "You'll never change." Or: "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

People can and do change. That, too, is part of the human condition. If you smoke and want to stop, remember that it was a habit you chose and a routine you learned before it became an addiction. Breaking any habit — and far more so, confronting any kind of addiction — is tough going. But the first step is still making your decision. Whatever you have in mind is not just a matter of stopping something "bad," but of starting something that really is good for you.

Here are some steps that can help turn your resolutions into reality. Every resolution begins with a plan. Write down the steps you need to take. You might need to make some alterations around you, like getting rid of your favorite tempting snacks and finding some healthy replacements. Learn to think of yourself differently, such as a person capable of controlling your temper or making more time for your family. Ready a setback strategy. Realize you will probably relapse and get discouraged. That's okay. Just because you occasionally give in is no reason to give up. Ask for support. Get one or two people close to you on your side, willing to lend their encouragement when you need it. And if you do have a serious problem or addiction, get professional help. Pray. It will mean more than you can imagine.

In "Addictions and Grace," Dr. Gerald May wrote, "Although God calls us all toward a more perfect life, we cannot personally achieve the state of perfection. We can and should do our very best to move in that direction, struggling with every resource we have, but we must also accept the reality of our incompleteness. ... Our incompleteness is the empty side of our longing for God and for love. It is what draws us toward God and one another."

If you do decide to start again, you don't have to wait. Chinese New Year begins February 16. Happy New Year! Happy New You!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Calling God and priests "father"

Q. I am an art therapist major, working on my dissertation exploring the relationship of God the Father as reparative, or compensating, physically or emotionally, for an absent earthly father.

Several helpful insights have come from some Scripture texts about fatherhood, and the fatherhood of God. One important area in which I've not found much information is the background of the religious use of the title "father," especially, of course, in the Catholic Church.

When did this tradition begin? What does it mean? Why do we address the priest as father if Jesus said to call no man on earth your father because we have one Father, who is in heaven? Can you give any information about this or guidance where to find more?

A. You've certainly chosen an intriguing and difficult topic.

The use of the title "father" goes back to early Christian centuries, when it was applied primarily to bishops as teachers and to those monks who served as spiritual directors or guides, generally to people in the local community.

Later it referred also to mendicant friars, members of religious orders (Franciscans, Dominicans and others) who depended solely on God's providence and the gifts of people for their necessities.

In more modern times, the usage spread from Ireland to England, particularly with the strong urging of Cardinal H. Manning about 120 years ago, and then to the United States and some other countries.

Today, the custom of calling all priests father is by no means universal. It is limited almost exclusively to English-speaking nations.

When the title "father" is applied to priests, the reasons are simple and rather obvious. They are the usual ministers of those sacraments that, in the name of Christ and his church, give us the new birth and life of grace.

They have the responsibility, by their continuing care and support, to nurture the life of God which we share as Christians in a manner similar to the nurturing role of our natural fathers.

For this reason, St. Paul, for example, does not hesitate to call himself the father of his Christian converts. "Even if you should have countless guides to Christ," he tells them, "yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (1 Cor 4:15).

He also twice calls Timothy his son, because he had brought Timothy's family to the faith of Christ (Phil 2:22 and 1 Tim 1:2).

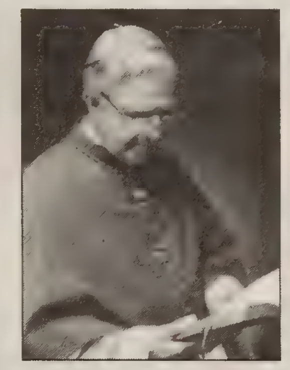
Understood literally, the polemical language of the passage in Matthew to which you refer (Chapter 23) would forbid calling our natural fathers by that name or referring to our instructors as teachers.

The whole context makes clear that Matthew's Jesus was not hung up on the words "father" and "teacher," but that he condemned the practice of some Jewish leaders of the day heaping titles on themselves out of pride and self-importance.

As one of the most respected Protestant Scripture commentaries notes, "If one takes this command literally, the titles 'doctor' and 'professor' as well as 'rabbi' and 'father' are forbidden to Christians in addressing their leaders" (Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 7, on the Gospel according to Matthew).

You will find much additional information on this topic in any good encyclopedia, including the New Catholic Encyclopedia. The New Jerome Biblical Commentary contains much explanation of the biblical references to God and others as Father.

From the Bishop



BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

DSA '99: "Let Your Light Shine"

During his visit to St. Louis, Pope John Paul II spoke of the major evils that confront us during the closing months of this century. He boldly challenged us to overcome these evils with faith in Jesus. He quoted Jesus: "You are the light of the world." As the light from the Paschal candle is passed through the church during the Easter Vigil to banish the darkness, Jesus calls us to spread his light through the world to overcome the darkness of evil. The Holy Father assured us that Jesus is with all who follow Him with an undivided heart.

As we begin the 1999 Diocesan Support Appeal, my thoughts and prayers turn to this year's theme of "Let Your Light Shine!" The ministries funded by the DSA provide a tremendous opportunity to be the light of Christ for someone else, and your contribution to the appeal makes you an instrument of God in helping to bring others from darkness into light.

As your bishop, I have had opportunities to share firsthand the many joys and sorrows of our diocesan faithful. When I meet people who are trying to cope with the death of a loved one or a broken marriage, I am grateful for the counselors at Catholic Social Services who are helping to bring the light of hope back into their lives. I have celebrated with our Hispanic and Vietnamese brothers and sisters, whose growing populations have special needs that only our multicultural ministries can fill. There are thousands of children, youth and young adults in the diocese looking for guidance and someone to share the light of faith with them. Our educational ministries funded by the DSA provide workshops for the catechists who will return to their parishes and enlighten others. Just as Mother Teresa took me onto the streets of Calcutta and pointed to the bodies of the sick and dying and said, "Look, there is Jesus," I go into the parishes and missions of our diocese and say, "Yes, Jesus is here." I see good and faithful people who are feeding the poor, visiting the sick and prisoners, lifting up the fallen, and giving hope to those in despair.

On the day of our baptism we received the light of Christ, and were challenged to "walk always as children of the light." The DSA gives us a way to live out that challenge in our lives. It is a way to be Jesus for others and to see and help Jesus in our midst. As your shepherd, I cannot be everywhere nor do everything that needs to be addressed within this diocese. The DSA makes it possible for others to join with me in reaching out to make Christ present in a world where his presence is so sorely needed

I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that, when we reach the gates of heaven, we will be greeted there by countless souls who will say, "Thank you, for I was mourning and you comforted me; I was in prison and you visited me; I was hungry and you fed me." We will then be reminded that our gifts to the DSA made a difference in the lives of thousands of needy people.

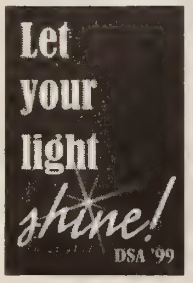
DSA: Catholic Social Services

CSS program brings hope to client

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — For now, Maria can rest easy.

Last month, the U.S. government canceled its efforts to deport the 42-year-old from El Salvador and her oldest son. Maria (not her real name) fled to the United States in December 1989 to escape the civil war that was raging in her country. Her husband was killed during the unrest. Two years later, the U.S. government permitted her to stay in this country temporarily, and she moved to Charlotte in 1992.



"When that (temporary status) ended, she applied for political asylum in the United States — which was ultimately unsuccessful," says David Davis, a caseworker with Programa Esperanza, part of Catholic Social Services in the Charlotte Diocese. "Hardly any asylum application for Central America is ever successful. It was at this time that INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) initiated deportation proceedings against her," and Maria turned to CSS for help.

Hispanics in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the area, with an estimated population of 50,000 to 60,000. Members of this burgeoning group often face the challenge of learning a new language and understanding a new culture. Many are unfamiliar with the government and the health-care and educational systems. Among other things, Programa Esperanza helps Hispanics enroll in English classes and gain access to health care, employment and immigration services. It also provides interpreters for other agencies.

By the time deportation proceedings began last April against Maria, she had given birth to two more sons. While pregnant with her second child, she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a potentially fatal form of cancer. Not long afterward, the father of her two youngest sons deserted her.

Last October, CSS attorney Richard Feerick applied to cancel the government's removal proceedings. Feerick intended to prove that Maria's medical condition constituted an "extreme hardship," a key consideration in deportation proceedings. He used a law passed last year called the Nicaraguan and Cuban Adjustment Relief Act, which helps Central Americans facing deportation, as the basis for Maria's defense.

Although Maria's cancer went into remission, says Davis, "it hasn't been long enough to say that she has been cured. ... So we considered it important that she stay in the United States close to her doctor...."

On Jan. 7, Maria, her oldest son, Davis and Feerick went to the Executive Office of Immigration Review in Atlanta for what Davis calls "the big hearing." During a pretrial conference, Feerick persuaded the government "to conditionally decide in her favor," says Davis. Still, Maria and her 17-year-old son had to take the stand.

Programa Esperanza helps Hispanics enroll in English classes and gain access to health care, employment and immigration services. It also provides interpreters for other agencies.

"They still had to testify that everything Mr. Feerick had told them (the government) was true," says Davis. "... The judge asked the boy what he knew about his mother's medical condition. He became very emotional and broke down crying."

Later, says Feerick, the judge "canceled their removal and allowed them to stay."

"I love it," says Maria, a restaurant worker, who is now free to focus on her health and raising her sons. ▼

In the news

Cokie Roberts to host Christopher Awards presentation

NEW YORK (CNS) — Television journalist Cokie Roberts, host of ABC-TV's "This Week," will host the 50th anniversary presentation of the Christopher Awards Feb. 25 at the St. Regis Hotel in New York.

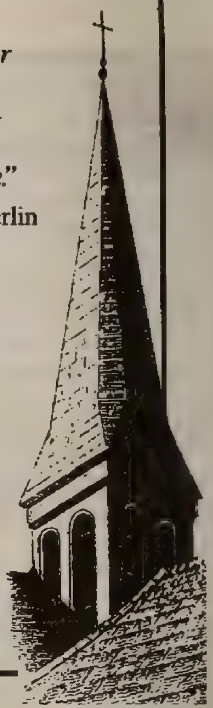
"The awards presentation this year represents a milestone," said Father Thomas J. McSweeney, director of The Christophers. "Since 1949, The Christophers have given recognition to creative works that go beyond entertainment.

"Unlike other major awards, there are no entry forms and no nomination fees," he added. "All works are judged on their affirmation of the highest values of the human spirit, supported by artistic proficiency."

Presenters at this year's ceremony include newscasters Hugh Downs, Charles Osgood and Mary Alice Williams, as well as actress Polly Holliday and Broadway producer Alexander H. Cohen. ▼

Books & Gift Items
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
· Debt Consolidation
· Lower Monthly Payments
· Cash Out
(828) 253-8705 · (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish



Remember His Will In Yours.
"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin
You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

What's so special about the Catholic Conference Center?
We'll let our guests answer that one!...
"Better than good! I haven't relaxed like that since I don't know when!"
"Planning our event was a breeze. The Center staff was so flexible."
"My diet is restricted so the chef prepared something especially for me."
"The staff gives exemplary customer service."
Come join us and find out for yourself!
Visit our website or call today.
The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org 1551 Trinity Lane Hickory, NC 28602 (888) 536-7441

Love is, therefore, the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.
— Pope John Paul II
Respect Life
Happy Valentine's Day!
A ministry of Catholic Social Services

DSA: Campus Ministry

Greensboro campus minister reaches out with a mother's love

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BURNSVILLE — She is "Mama" to them, and they are her children.

Let your light shine!
DSA '99

"My babies keep in touch," Alberta Hairston said. "They call; they write."

Her "babies" are the students she has met and helped since she became a campus minister at North Carolina A & T in 1994. Hairston recalls an incident involving two brothers during A & T registration that illustrates what campus ministry is all about.

"I had met the mother at Our Lady of Consolation (Church in Charlotte), and she told me she had two kids at A & T," Hairston said. "She came in (to registration) really frantic. They had nowhere to go. I made some calls, and we were able to find housing for both boys in the same dorm.

"We look at human needs. I told the mother, 'I will not sleep tonight until your boys have a place to stay.' I'm responsible for my brother. That's campus ministry. These are my children."

The Diocese of Charlotte's campus ministry program, which has a $350,000 budget, is supported mainly through the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Campus ministers serve at Appalachian State University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Mars Hill College, UNC-Asheville, Western Carolina University, Brevard College, Davidson College, UNC-Charlotte, and Wingate University. Hairston is campus minister for North Carolina A & T and Bennett College in Greensboro. She gets volunteer assistance from her daughter, Susan, 31.

One campus minister and an intern serve Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University, Salem College and the North Carolina School of the Arts. UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro College and Guilford College share a campus minister and a chaplain.

Campus ministers provide a Catholic presence on campus, reaching out to welcome students, assisting them with faith development, connecting them with parishes in the community, and working with other offices on campus.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Abe Weaver of Western Carolina University molds a mask of Ed Alton's face. Alton is from Appalachian State. The masks are made from strips of plaster-coated material, such as are used to make casts to set broken bones. When the mold is completed the plastic wrap is removed.

Campus ministers range in age from people of or near retirement age, like Hairston, who is 61, to people in their 20s. All are paid and hold at least master's degrees or are working toward those degrees. They provide a Catholic presence on campus, reaching out to welcome students, assisting them with faith development, connecting them with parishes in the community, and working with other offices on campus, such as student life and the dean of students.

They also make sure that ethics and issues impacting the Catholic faith are part of the higher-education discussion. For instance, in April, Wingate College will hold a Baptist/Catholic dialogue on faith and justice.

Interns earn room and board and a $400-a-month stipend. They also receive their books and tuition to earn their master's degrees through the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program (LIMEX).

The campus ministry program has been in place since about 1968. Colleen McDermott, its current director, remembers anti-Catholic feeling in western North Carolina when she lived here in the 1980s. She moved to San Francisco for a while and returned a year and a half ago to assume the director position.

She found that sentiments had changed and campuses are actually seeking Catholic campus ministers.

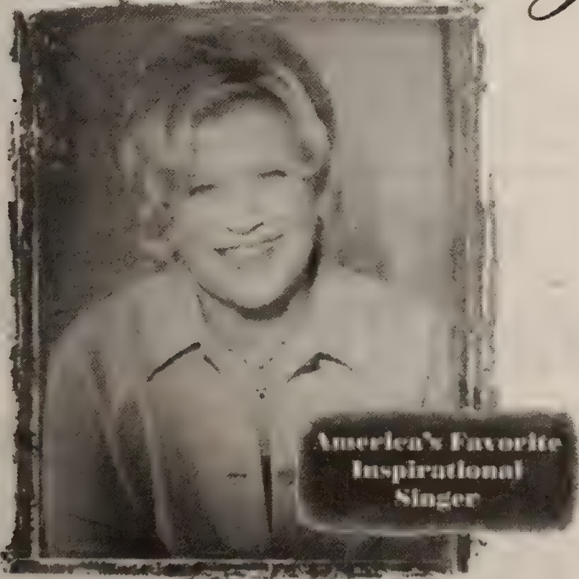
"There is a huge need," McDermott said. "The person at Wingate who is a Baptist chaplain called me up and said, 'We have 200 Catholics here. What do we do? How do we help them?'"

Campus ministers and interns learn more about helping through such functions as the annual Covenant Retreat, held Jan. 29-31 this year at High Pastures Retreat Center in Burnsville. A number of students also attended. ▼

Campus Ministry is one of 35 diocesan ministries receiving DSA funds.

North Carolina
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

Sandi Patty



Five time Grammy Award winner Sandi Patty combines big band tunes, torch songs, Disney favorites, movie themes and more. Perfect for the whole family!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 7:30PM
BELK THEATER
Tickets Available at the Performing Arts Center Box Office
or charge by phone 372-1000

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

Camp Kahdalea
For Girls

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

Camp Chosatonga
For Boys

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

1999 DSA Ministries Budget

Catholic Social Services: Diocesan Ministries		
Special Ministries	$	167,915
Natural Family Planning - Respect Life - Prison Ministry- Elder Pastoral Services (CRISM) - Elder Social Services - Widowed/Separated/Divorced - Family Life - Retrouvaille - Engaged Encounter		
Office of Justice and Peace	$	83,480
Campaign for Human Development - Catholic Relief Services - Parish Social Ministry - Voices for Justice - Legislative Network		
Refugee Resettlement Program	$	15,779
Catholic Social Service Administration	$	117,769
Regional Services		
Western Regional Office — Asheville	$	168,873
Hispanic Services - Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support		
Charlotte Regional Office	$	228,845
Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support - Programa Esperanza		
Piedmont Triad Office - Winston-Salem	$	208,120
Casa Guadalupe - Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support		
Multicultural Ministries		
African American	$	6,200
Hispanic Ministry	$	203,416
Vietnamese Ministry	$	9,000
Hmong Ministry	$	40,219
Educational Ministries		
Faith Formation	$	318,978
Catholic Schools	$	229,676
Campus Ministry	$	363,642
Evangelization	$	25,000
Lay Ministry Training	$	37,488
Media Resources	$	63,104
Vicar's Office	$	63,983
Youth Ministry	$	110,953
Vocations		
Permanent Diaconate	$	94,447
Seminarian Education	$	261,031
Campaign Expenses	$	122,082
Total	**$**	**2,940,000**

DSA Supported Agencies and Ministries

Social Services Ministries	**704-370-3262**
Diocesan Ministries	**704-370-3228**
Elder Social Services - Elder Pastoral Services (CRISM)	704-370-3220
Engaged Encounter - Retrouvaille - Prison Ministry	704-370-3228
Family Life - Natural Family Planning	704-370-3250
Respect Life	704-370-3229
Widowed, Separated, Divorced Services	704-370-3328
Office of Justice and Peace	**704-370-3225**
Campaign for Human Development	704-370-3234
Catholic Relief Services	704-370-3231
Education - Issue Response	704-370-3225
Social Services — Western Regional Office	**704-255-0146**
Hispanic Social Services - Adoption - Counseling Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Social Services — Charlotte Regional Office	**704-370-3232**
Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention Foster Care - Pregnancy Support - Programa Esperanza	
Social Services — Piedmont-Triad Regional Office	**336-727-0705**
Casa Guadalupe - Adoption - Counseling Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Multicultural Ministries	**704-370-6299**
African American Ministry	704-370-3399
Hispanic Ministry	704-335-1281
Hmong Ministry	704-327-2341
Vietnamese Ministry	704-504-0907
Educational Ministries	**704-370-3210**
Campus Ministry	704-370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3271
Faith Formation	704-370-3246
Evangelization	704-370-3214
Liturgy and Worship	704-437-3108
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3213
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3246
Youth Ministry	704-370-3211
Young Adult Ministry	704-370-3212
Vocations	**704-370-6299**
Permanent Diaconate	704-370-3344
Seminarian Education	704-926-0106

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

CHRISTOPHER HEADLEY
Catholic Funeral Director — Serving Catholic Families in Charlotte and Surrounding Communities
With *affordable*
Traditional Catholic Funerals, Graveside Services, Worldwide Shipping and Cremation
SK. Chris Headley, PGK — Member of L.C. Newman Assembly, Knights of Columbus Council 10615, and Holy Cross-Notre Dame Alumni Association
HERITAGE FUNERAL HOME
In your hour of need, call Heritage for Catholic Funeral arrangements.
4431 Old Monroe, Matthews, NC 28105 (704) 821-2960

The Camaldolese Oblate Monks of
New Creation Monastery
Are praying for you and for our Church and world.
Join us to pray each Tuesday in Charlotte at Hermitage in Sharon Lake Condos off South Boulevard. (704) 552-9118
"All that matters is that each of us becomes a NEW CREATION in Christ."
— Galatians 6:15
New Creation Monastery
Fr. John Vianney Hoover, Prior
1433 Richmond Hill Rd., Boonville, NC 27001
(336) 699-4005

Stations of the Cross
FOR SALE
Stations of the Cross, traditional style. 19" wide x 36" tall, painted plaster moulds. In excellent refurbished condition: $5000. Available from St. Stan's Church, Castle Hayne, NC
(910) 675-2336

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

DSA: Finance

Let your light shine for those in need

By JOANN KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — It's easy to see rays of light shine across the 46 counties of the Diocese of Charlotte. Works of charity — like points of light — radiate throughout the diocese, as ever-increasing needs of the diocesan population warm in the glow of services provided through the generosity of Diocesan Support Appeal donations.

Let your light shine!
DSA '99

This year's DSA will fund the work of 35 agencies and ministries, in a fiscal year that crosses the threshold into the new millennium. As in years past, the focus of the annual appeal are Catholic Social Services, Multicultural Ministries, Educational Ministries, and the Vocation program of this growing diocese.

What are not visible are many of the behind-the-scenes efforts that make these life-sustaining ministries possible. Program goals and budgets are established by ministry and agency directors, as these individuals are the eyes of those in need. The planning and budgeting process takes an intrinsic savvy and a keen sense of accountability. And under the watchful eye of diocesan chief financial officer Bill Weldon, works of the church continue to illuminate back with successful results.

"We are accountable to the people of this diocese for the prudent use of their gifts to the DSA," says Weldon. Establishing the current goal of $2,940,000 involves account-by-account budgets for each agency and program funded by the DSA. "This, coupled with monthly monitoring of each program's financial performance, is paramount for the most responsible use of DSA funds."

As the diocese grows, so do its needs. Funding must parallel this growth to support an expansion of services necessary to fulfill the ministries of the diocese. This year, the 6.5 percent increase to the annual appeal will help further these many life sustaining ministries.

"Catholic Social Services will benefit from increased funding for expansion of the Elder Ministry, an outreach program for seniors throughout the diocese," says Weldon. Another recipient, cites Weldon, is the diocesan-based Hispanic Evangelization program, which will receive additional funding to expand outreach programs.

Last year, more than 30,800 people received assistance through many of the benevolent works that define the diocese. "We take very seriously our responsibility to use DSA funds as prudently as possible to achieve the goals of the various agencies and ministries," says Weldon. "Every dollar counts." ▾

Ordained to serve, from page 3

dren ranging in age from 5 to 15. The church encourages candidates' wives to participate in the formation period.

"We really can't be effective unless our wives are behind us," Rev. Mr. Cilone says.

For JoAnn, Andy's formation period was both gratifying and a little unsettling. Her main concern, says Rev. Mr. Cilone, was that he "would grow spiritually and leave her behind."

So when JoAnn was unable to attend his classes, Andy "would come home and tell me everything that went on," she said, and that eased her fears.

On April 29, 1983, Rev. Mr. Cilone and 18 other men were ordained at Charlotte's Ovens Auditorium. Since then, he has been the only deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City. Among other things, he directs the religious education program, teaches confirmation classes and adult education, preaches every other Sunday at three Masses and visits nursing-home residents. Deacons cannot consecrate the Eucharist, hear confessions or anoint the sick. Rev. Mr. Cilone devotes about 25 hours per week to his ministry; he's also a plant manager at Metrolina Plastics in Shelby.

"It (the ministry) does take a lot of his time, which I guess would be the drawback," says JoAnn, "but ... he loves what he does. You can just see that in him."

Rev. Mr. Cilone, 51, represents "the ideal deacon": husband, father and a member of the community at large, says the Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, director of the office of the permanent diaconate.

Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone

"He is an excellent deacon who readily shares his gifts," says Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor.

Rev. Mr. Cilone has officiated at the weddings of three of his children and baptized numerous other relatives. His ministry has strengthened the family bond.

"He married all my sons and he baptized the grandchildren," says JoAnn Cilone.

When eldest daughter Andrea was married in June 1997, Rev. Mr. Cilone "walked her down the aisle and he sang and he gave the homily. It was just really personal," says JoAnn. ... "We are richly blessed." ▾

The permanent diaconate is one of the 35 ministries receiving DSA funds.

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

NINE CHOIRS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
MWF: 1-5pm — SAT: 9-12pm

A Truly Wonderful New Book!
"Did Adam and Eve Have
Belly Buttons?"
(and 199 other questions and
answers for Catholic teens)

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor
• Retirement Planning
• College Savings Plans
• Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds

(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1998 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
➤ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
➤ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
*And order next year's uniforms before March 30th for 10% off any order over $75.
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

DSA: Hispanic Ministry

Biscoe church promotes faith-filled cultural exchange

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BISCOE — As the multicultural population in the western half of North Carolina continues to grow, the Diocese of Charlotte strives to minister to the men, women and children who have settled here in search of a brighter future.

Let your light shine! DSA '99

Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe was established with that goal in mind.

Founded in 1989, Our Lady of the Americas Church — the only Catholic church in Montgomery County — serves the spiritual needs of the predominantly Hispanic population in the eastern reaches of the diocese.

A decade ago, a number of Hispanic immigrants were already living in the rural Biscoe area. And that number has grown significantly through the '90s. With the desire for a promising tomorrow, many also bring with them a deep commitment to faith.

Enter Our Lady of the Americas, a mission dedicated by then Bishop John F. Donoghue in February 1990. Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Gerard Clarke, designated its first administrator, saw the Hispanic community flourish in the area.

"They're spilling out of the church," says Father Mark Lawlor, who has served as administrator since August 1997. More than 600 people attend two Spanish Masses each Sunday. An additional Mass serves about 120 English-speaking parishioners.

Father Lawlor says the parish's sustained existence is due in large part to financial and spiritual support from the Diocese of Charlotte.

Our Lady of the Americas Church reflects the cultural and religious identity so vital in the lives of Hispanic people, Father Lawlor says. In addition to Masses, the parish hosts catechetical and language classes, as well as a variety of spiritual and social gatherings on a regular basis. In 1998, there were 100 baptisms at the church.

An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe — patroness of the Americas — adorns the church wall, and other Hispanic symbols are used in a variety of liturgical and community events.

Given the ethnic variety of the local population, opportunities for cultural exchange are offered, too. A parish assembly last August was not only marked by a pastoral visit from Bishop William G. Curlin; parishioners of both Hispanic and Anglo origin joined as extended family.

Other parish efforts throughout the year promote a cooperative zeal for spirituality.

"We came here from a very large parish up north," says Ann Peña, who hails from New York. "This small, intimate community is just beautiful, and I like seeing the Hispanic community growing. They want to be part of the parish and help to build it."

Photo courtesy of Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe

Bishop William G. Curlin addresses the congregation of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe during a parish assembly last August.

She and her husband, Peter, have been parishioners of the Biscoe church for five years.

The son of a Cuban father and Puerto Rican mother, Peter Peña appreciates what the parish offers to his brothers and sisters in faith. His New York parish included a multitude of ethnic groups, he says, and the relationship between the Hispanic and Anglo communities in Biscoe leads to unique chances for ministry, too.

"There's a lot of need for the (Hispanic) community here, and we are able to help them in ways that I've never had the opportunity to do in other parishes," he explains. He cites communication and cultural perspectives as two of the most prevalent ways Hispanic and Anglo parishioners learn from one another.

Our Lady of the Americas is not only a house of worship, the Peñas say. It's a place of fellowship. "It really is something to see," Peter says with a chuckle.

When it comes to parish life, he recognizes Hispanic parishioners' sense of belonging here, much like a sense that existed in his New York neighborhoods of yesterday. "They use the church as it was used many years ago, as a center of community," he says. "Years ago, in the city, when you'd ask someone where they came from or where they live, they'd speak about a parish.

"I've watched that here over the years. The people are very much active." ▾

Hispanic Ministry is one of the 35 ministries sponsored with funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

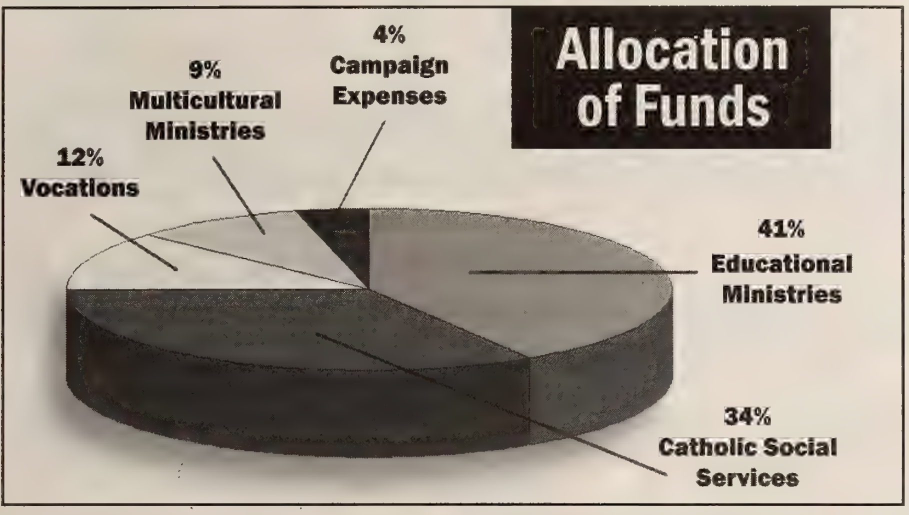
Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16
Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766

DSA targets and goals



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Charlotte, $38,477
St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte, $76,401
Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Charlotte, $31,067
St. Ann Parish, Charlotte, $57,336
St. Gabriel Parish, Charlotte, $280,025
St. Patrick Cathedral Parish, Charlotte, $65,007
St. Peter Parish, Charlotte, $72,108
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Charlotte, $82,807
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charlotte, $102,835
St. Luke Parish, Charlotte, $39,540
St. Mark Parish, Huntersville, $58,373
St. Matthew Parish, Charlotte, $161,655
Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Albemarle, $17,251
St. James Parish, Hamlet, $9,332
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Monroe, $27,889
Sacred Heart Mission, Wadesboro, $2,202
Our Lady of the Americas Parish, Biscoe, $8,594
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Mars Hill, $5,865
St. Barnabas Parish, Arden, $43,499
St. Eugene Parish, Asheville, $61,615
St. Joan of Arc Parish, Asheville, $19,539
Basilica of St. Lawrence Parish, Asheville, $48,230
Sacred Heart Parish, Brevard, $34,020
Immaculate Conception Parish, Hendersonville, $72,482
St. Jude Mission, Sapphire Valley, $9,466
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Swannanoa, $20,147
St. John the Baptist Parish, Tryon, $19,872
Sacred Heart Mission, Burnsville, $3,469
St. Elizabeth Parish, Boone, $33,243
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Jefferson, $5,421
St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, North Wilkesboro, $8,044

St. Frances of Rome Mission, Sparta, $4,118
St. Lucien Parish, Spruce Pine, $7,852
St. Stephen Mission, Elkin, $5,998
St. Bernadette Mission, Linville, $12,265
Queen of the Apostles Parish, Belmont, $27,614
Immaculate Conception Parish, Forest City, $10,715
St. Michael Parish, Gastonia, $69,295
Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain, $4,295
St. Dorothy Parish, Lincolnton, $12,480
St. Mary Parish, Shelby, $18,080
St Helen Mission, Spencer Mountain, $2,701
Holy Spirit Parish, Denver, $18,516
St. Joseph Parish, Asheboro, $24,037

St. Joseph of the Hills Parish, Eden, $9,825
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensboro, $100,880
St. Benedict Parish, Greensboro, $15,897
St. Mary Parish, Greensboro, $23,413
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greensboro, $117,688
St. Pius Tenth Parish, Greensboro, $61,056
Christ the King Parish, High Point, $10,531
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, High Point, $59,353
Holy Infant Parish, Reidsville, $10,195
Our Lady of the Highways Parish, Thomasville, $11,378
Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Marion, $5,816
St. Aloysius Parish, Hickory, $66,370
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Lenoir, $14,513

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Morganton, $24,217
St. Joseph Parish, Newton, $22,183
Holy Trinity Parish, Taylorsville, $5,774
Holy Redeemer Parish, Andrews, $3,129
St. Joseph Parish, Bryson City, $5,343
Immaculate Conception Mission, Canton, $2,557
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Cherokee, $2,184
Prince of Peace Mission, Robbinsville, $1,513
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Franklin, $17,904
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, Hayesville, $12,276
Our Lady of the Mountains Mission, Highlands, $8,951
St. Margaret Parish, Maggie Valley, $13,110
St. John the Evangelist Parish, Waynesville, $12,943
St. Mary Parish, Sylva, $9,267
St. William Parish, Murphy, $11,663
Holy Cross Parish, Kernersville, $41,962
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Lexington, $11,798
Holy Angels Parish, Mount Airy, $11,178
Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Winston-Salem, $50,341
St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Winston-Salem, $9,343
St. Leo Parish, Winston-Salem, $114,054
Holy Family Parish, Clemmons, $74,186
Good Shepherd Mission, King, $8,806
Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Winston-Salem, $16,678
St. James Parish, Concord, $46,963
St. Joseph Mission, Kannapolis, $12,205
Sacred Heart Parish, Salisbury, $45,857
St. Therese Parish, Mooresville, $58,042
St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Statesville, $37,781
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mocksville, $7,099

Enjoy Catholic programming through EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus all your favorite cable channels!
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area
dish NETWORK

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Guest Services Assistant: The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory has part-time and full-time positions open serving others. Please send resume to: Guest Services Position, Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602. No phone calls please.

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to 770-516-4664.

Assistant Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Assistant Teacher positions. Please contact the school principal, Mrs. Janice Ritter, at (704)333-3174 for an interview. Positions available immediately.

Youth Ministry: St. Gabriel Parish is seeking creative, well-organized youth minister for large parish of 3900+ families. This full-time position has responsibility for grades seven through twelve. Applicant must be practicing Catholic. Bachelor's degree in related field and experience working with youth preferred. Send resume, salary requirements and references to Youth Ministry Search, c/o Susan Krasniewski, DRE, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.

Church must complement, criticize government welfare efforts

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

CHEVY CHASE, Md. (CNS) — Churches and faith-based organizations must complement and at the same time have the capacity to be critical of government efforts at cutting welfare, said ethicist Father J. Bryan Hehir.

"We are called to be especially different" because of "the vision we have," but churches cannot "stand apart from the society and merely be a critic," Father Hehir said.

He made his comments Jan. 31 during the opening session of the National Summit on the Churches and Welfare Reform at the National 4-H Center in the Washington suburb of Chevy Chase.

The Jan. 31-Feb. 3 welfare policy conference, which drew 500 people, was convened by Call to Renewal, an ecumenical organization with participants from Catholic as well as mainline and evangelical Protestant churches.

Father Hehir, a professor of religion and society at the Harvard Divinity School in Boston, said churches' vision gives Christians "a distinctive comparative advantage" when it is "articulated through a rational framework of understanding."

The creation story in Genesis brings home the point of stewardship and "what it means to care for the sacredness of every human being," he added.

Structure is another important component in how faith communities will fare in American society. "Where you stand with God is greatly dependent on how we stand with each other," Father Hehir said, noting the biblical injunctions to care for widows, orphans and strangers.

But "the Congressional Budget Office tells us women and children are the most vulnerable in our society. If you're an alien in our land," Father Hehir said, "you're not comfortable with the most recent legislation."

> The separation of church and state in the United States "is not a burden, it is a benefit in our society," Father Hehir said. "Where it gets to be a problem is when we're drawing silly lines," rather than "sensible" ones, between church and state.

He urged conference participants to think "strategically" on church-state questions.

The separation of church and state in the United States "is not a burden, it is a benefit in our society," Father Hehir said. "Where it gets to be a problem is when we're drawing silly lines," rather than "sensible" ones, between church and state.

The Rev. Eugene Rivers III, whose work with youths in inner-city Boston once landed him on the cover of Newsweek magazine, said American welfare policy differs from that of western Europe because of race and "the role the South played in shaping the evolution of domestic policy in the United States."

While Western Europe's societies were largely homogenous, America's racial history had a hand in how congressmen from "the apartheid South" exercised their power on congressional committees from the administration of Franklin Roosevelt until civil rights bills were passed under President Lyndon Johnson, Rev. Rivers said.

It is that racial history that "we as a nation, and as a church, have yet to engage," he added.

Welfare policy was dramatically altered "by what the poor did for themselves," Rev. Rivers said. "The welfare rolls expanded in direct correlation to their initiatives. ... Ultimately, it will not be our noblesse oblige" that brings about future changes in policy.

Mary Nelson, the founding president of Bethel New Life, a church-based community development corporation in Chicago, noted the decline in people collecting welfare since the 1996 law was passed.

"It's not how many people are off the welfare rolls. It's about how many people are out of poverty," she said, and "into the fullness of life God has for each and every one of us." ▼

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

The Franciscan Center

Catholic Gift & Book Store

Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

An Invitation to Hear U. S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia

Speaking at the Law and Society Lecture
Wednesday, March 17, 12 noon

Hilton Hotel, Charlotte, NC

Bishop William G. Curlin will give the Invocation

Sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Bar Foundation

Tickets: $20.00 including luncheon

For reservations call:
Martha Hinnant
(704) 375-8624

"We feel extremely fortunate to have Justice Scalia speak to us. He is widely recognized as a brilliant jurist and superb speaker. And, as far as we know, this is the first sitting Supreme Court Justice to address a Charlotte gathering."

— John Burtis, Co-chair of the Luncheon

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S298 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 12, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 23

Inside

Catholic leaders remember King Hussein ...PAGE 16

JUBILEE
2000

Witnessing to the Gospel at work ...PAGE 7

Flight attendant on cloud nine after papal flight ...PAGE 12

Local News

Catechists commit to ongoing formation ...PAGE 15

Cardinal Arinze to visit N.C. in '99 ...PAGE 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

Lent is time for sharing God's gifts, says pope; projects announced

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Responding to the love of God the Father and his abundant gifts, Christians should make Lent a time of sharing those gifts with others, Pope John Paul II said.

"If we live Lent with our eyes fixed on the Father, it becomes a unique time of charity, manifested in our works of spiritual and corporal mercy," the pope said in his annual message for Lent.

The theme of the pope's 1999 message for Lent, which begins Feb. 17 for Latin-rite Catholics, is "The Lord Will Prepare a Banquet for All Peoples."

Releasing the message Jan. 19 at the Vatican, the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" announced it had collected $2.8 million from some 200 dioceses in North America, Europe and Oceania to fund "100 Projects of the Holy Father" during 1999. The projects range from literacy programs to housing for the elderly.

In addition, Catholic charity and development agencies have joined the program with projects and financing worth $17.6 million.

The agency-related projects include two worth $4 million each: construction of a seminary in Albania and construction of housing for displaced people in areas of the former Yugoslavia.

Although originally conceived as a program with 100 specific projects, requests and offers for funding expanded the program to 223 projects, said Msgr. Frank Dewane, an official at "Cor Unum."

Participating agencies include the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program; Catholic Relief Services, their international relief and development agency; and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Canadian bishops' development agency, Msgr. Dewane said.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia joined the agency side of the program with proposals and funding for a parish nurse project and for a home for women with HIV/AIDS.

During Lent, Pope John Paul said in his message, "Our thoughts go especially to those excluded from the banquet of everyday consumerism."

"If we live Lent
with our eyes fixed
on the Father,
it becomes a unique
time of charity
manifested in our
spiritual and
corporal works
of mercy."
— Pope John Paul II

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Individual and communal acts of charity and organized efforts on a social and political level are needed to help "all those who have no share in the material benefits which progress has brought," the pope said.

"There are situations of persistent misery which cannot but impinge upon the conscience of Christians, reminding them of their duty to address these situations both as individuals and as a community," he said.

Pope John Paul also called on international institutions and national governments to "undertake brave plans and projects to ensure a more just sharing of the goods of the earth."

The Lord's promise to prepare a banquet for all peoples is ultimately a promise of union in heaven with God the Father and with all peoples, the pope said.

In addition to sharing material blessings, he said, Christians must share the hope they draw from God's promise.

"Those who are lonely, those on the margins of society, the hungry, the victims of violence, those who have no hope must be able to experience, in the church's loving care, the tenderness of

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS, PAGE 3

Black Catholics urged to celebrate their heritage, faith

NEW YORK (CNS) — Father Giles A. Conwill called on participants in a Mass commemorating February as Black History Month to celebrate their black heritage and their Catholic faith. "The first thing I'm going to do when I get to heaven is thank God for making me black and for making me Catholic," he said. Father Conwill, a priest of the Diocese of San Diego who teaches history at Morehouse College in Atlanta, was the homilist Feb. 7 for the annual Mass commemorating the month at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The event also marked the 10th annual National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family.

New nuncio to Canada has experience in trouble spots

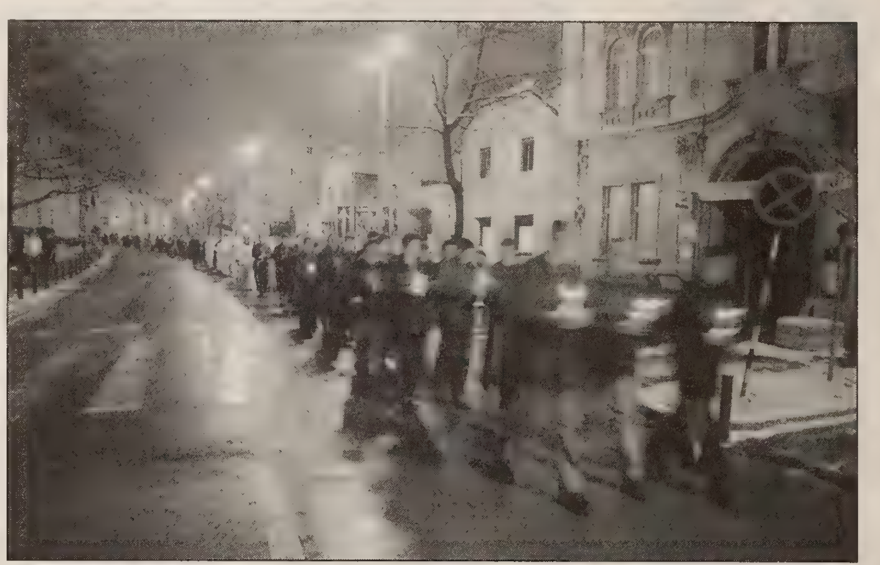
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appointed a diplomat with experience in troubled countries such as Haiti and Colombia, along with parts of Europe, Africa and Asia, to be his representative in Canada. Italian Archbishop Paolo Romeo, 60, was named nuncio to Canada Feb. 5. He had been serving as nuncio to Colombia since 1990. After studying canon law, he entered the diplomatic service in 1967 and worked in the Philippines, Belgium, Venezuela and Rwanda and in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Vatican to launch Web site dedicated to jubilee year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pilgrims planning a trip to Rome for the jubilee year can pay a virtual visit first, and even make arrangements for their stay, with a new Vatican Internet site dedicated to the year 2000. The site, which goes on line Feb. 22 at www.Jubil2000.org, offers plenty of practical information, such as how to get from the airport to St. Peter's Square, as well as city maps, descriptions of special events and the opening hours of the major basilicas. It also is full of facts on liturgy, history and practices related to the Holy Year.

Bishops discuss S. African seminaries

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South African seminaries will maintain connections and "support each other," the region's bishops said after Cape Town's archbishop decided to create a local seminary. Bishops' conference representatives met staff of South Africa's three seminaries Jan. 27 to "find a way forward," said a Jan. 29 statement from the conference. At St. John Vianney Seminary in Pretoria, former seminarians who asked not to be named have made allegations of excessive drinking, womanizing and racism. "Allegations by former seminarians of misbehavior at our seminaries formed part of the discussion," the bishops said in their statement.



CNS PHOTO BY JOSIP STILINOVIC

Croatian march

Croatian religious march in candlelit procession from the Franciscan church to the cathedral of Zagreb Feb. 2 to mark the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Church closing 'loophole' allowing capital punishment, nun says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The "loophole" in Catholic teaching that still permits capital punishment is slowly closing, according to Sister Helen Prejean, who wrote the book "Dead Man Walking." In a Feb. 2 address in the crypt level of the U.S. Capitol, Sister Prejean said that "people had loopholes a mile wide if they wanted to quote Catholic teaching on the death penalty" — from district attorneys to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, whom she mentioned by name. But the tide started turning, she said, with the effort in 1996 to commute the death sentence of Joseph O'Dell III of Virginia, whose cause was taken up by Italian citizens and politicians.

Professor suggests policy shift from welfare to working poor

CHEVY CHASE, Md. (CNS) — If changes in federal and state rules are getting people off welfare, then the public policy debate should shift to the working poor, a Harvard University professor suggested Feb. 1 at a welfare policy conference. Mary Jo Bane, a professor of public policy and management at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, noted that welfare rolls have dropped by 43 percent according to some estimates since the new federal welfare law took effect in 1996, but the poverty rate for female-headed households with children dropped only three percentage points in the past two years. "These workers are very vulnerable ... at the next recession," Bane said, "and they're still poor. We have turned the welfare poor into the working poor."

Indian prime minister fasts, appeals for harmony and tolerance

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee fasted on the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death to appeal for communal harmony and tolerance. However, the parliamentary affairs minister, Madan Lal Khurana, resigned the same day to protest radical Hindu groups' recent attacks on Christians, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In a nationwide broadcast, Vajpayee decried "terrorism that continues to claim innocent lives" and condemned attacks on nuns, the burning of churches and the recent killing of an Australian missionary and his two sons.

U.S. parish helps Haitian village get water pipeline

WEBSTER, Mass.(CNS) — Parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church are hoping that their outpouring of support in Webster will translate into an outpouring of clean water in Haiti. About $5,000 is needed to build a pipeline to get clean water from the mountains in Haiti to the village of Bosquette. According to Sister Theresita Donach, Sacred Heart's pastoral director, the amount collected as of Feb. 2 was $6,110. Since 1995, Sacred Heart has been twinned with St. Anne's Parish in Chardionnier in the Haitian Diocese of Les Cayes, said Sister Donach, a member of the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth.

Italian Elvis Presley fan promotes rocker's beatification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For at least one Elvis Presley fan, the late rocker deserves a better title than "The King." How about "Blessed"? Carlo Carletti, 48, has launched a campaign to have the man who sang "Burning Love" and "Devil in Disguise" beatified, with an eye toward eventual sainthood. But a Vatican official said the fact that Presley was not Catholic makes beatification impossible.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

February 12, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 23
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 14 — 9:00 am
Confirmation
St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill

11:30 am Mass
St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill

February 18
Diocesan Foundation Board meeting

February 20 — 3:30 pm
Rite of Election
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

February 21 — 11 am
Mass, First Sunday of Lent
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m. For further information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

MORGANTON — A "Valentine tea for chocolate lovers," featuring a variety of catered desserts, is today from 2-4 p.m. in Murray Hall of St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 W. Union St., Cost is $10 per person. For details, call (828) 437-3108.

GASTONIA — A Mass in Vietnamese is celebrated at 2 p.m. today in St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane. Call (704) 867-6212 for details.

18 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For details, call (336) 886-2444.

19 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets today for a Lenten potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. in Laurentine Hall of the Basilica of St. Lawrence. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990, or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

20 WINSTON-SALEM — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Dr. Cost is $4 for adults, $10 for families. Space is limited. For details, call (336) 724-7071.

21 STATESVILLE — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 7 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr. Cost is $3. For details, call (704) 872-2579.

22 CHARLOTTE — Changes, an Alzheimer's support group, meets today at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 5, 1999

Mr. Kenneth Hackett, Exec. Dir.
Catholic Relief Services
209 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Hackett:

Please find enclosed our check in the amount of $155,000.00 for the Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund, representing additional contributions received from parishioners of the Diocese of Charlotte, together with a donation from our diocesan relief fund.

May God bless you and your staff for the good work that you do. We will continue to keep you in our prayers as you strive to help the people of Honduras and Nicaragua during these heart-rending days in their homeland.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, announces the following changes in clergy assignment in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective January 25, 1999
Rev. Christopher W. Nowak, O.S.A., Parochial Vicar at St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte, NC

Effective January 27, 1999
Rev. Bernard Backiel, M.I.C., In Residence at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro, NC

Rev. Daniel Papineau, M.I.C., Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro, NC

Cardinal Arinze to deliver Wake Forest's 1999 commencement

WINSTON-SALEM — Cardinal Francis Arinze, one of the Roman Catholic Church's most renowned leaders, will deliver Wake Forest University's 1999 commencement address on May 17.

Cardinal Arinze, an international figure who was made cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 1985, is frequently mentioned as a possible successor to the pope. He is president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Vatican's office for promoting mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between Catholics and followers of other religions.

"His work as president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue brings ideal conclusion to this Year of Globalization and Diversity," said Wake Forest President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. "The Wake Forest community is fortunate and grateful to have Cardinal Arinze as our honored guest."

Hearn, along with his wife, Laura, extended Cardinal Arinze an invitation to speak at commencement during a personal audience in Rome. "We left with a sense of his deep piety, keen intellect and warm, engaging personality," Hearn said of the visit.

A 1998 Wall Street Journal article placed Cardinal Arinze "near the top of the list" among papacy candidates. If elected, he would be the first black pope since the reign of St. Gelasius I ended in 496. The article also described the cardinal as "theologically conservative, with a charismatic personality."

Born in Nigeria, Cardinal Arinze became an ordained priest in 1958, bishop in 1965 and an archbishop two years later. His work for the Roman Catholic Church has included a variety of major international positions.

In Africa, he served as the regional Catholic education secretary for eastern Nigeria, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, and vice president for Africa of the United Bible Societies.

In 1985, Cardinal Arinze was appointed president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which was later renamed the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. In addition to the council, Arinze serves on several

CARDINAL ARINZE, PAGE 15

Sharing God's gifts, from page 1

the heavenly Father," the pope said.

"Many of our brothers and sisters can bear their situation of misery, discomfort and sickness only because they are certain that one day they will be called to the eternal banquet of heaven," Pope John Paul said.

Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, president of "Cor Unum," said charity is a necessary witness to the goodness of God in a world which sees poverty and suffering and is tempted to believe God does not exist or does not love his creatures.

The archbishop announced that Pope John Paul would celebrate a Mass May 16 at the Vatican with representatives of Catholic charity and development organizations and with Catholics involved in volunteer work, to underscore the importance of their activities.

He also said the council's "Pane Caritatis" project, which involves Italian bakers donating a portion of special bread sales, had raised more than $300,000 in its first three months.

"Cor Unum" has sent $100,000 to the Archdiocese of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build bread ovens for the poor. Another $50,000 was sent to the Diocese of Hoima, Uganda, for the care of refugees from Sudan, the archbishop said. The council is examining proposals for projects in Burundi and Rwanda. ▼

---

24 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, and remarried outside the church meets today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call Cindy Shortall at (704) 529-5080.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women hosts its annual Lenten mini-retreat today at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee and refreshments. Others gatherings are March 3, 10 and 17, concluding March 24 with Mass and a covered dish luncheon. All are welcome. For details, call Lillian Leonard at (336) 299-0736.

25 ASHEVILLE — The Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., hosts a healing Mass celebrated by Father John Pagel at 7 p.m. in the church hall for everyone in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing. Refreshments will follow. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

26 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

CHARLOTTE — The AIDS Memorial Quilt is on display today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m., and Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Belk Gymnasium at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The opening ceremony is Feb. 26 at 6 p.m., and the closing ceremony is Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The display is co-sponsored by UNC-Charlotte and the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. For details, call Shane Windmeyer, (704) 547-2521. Special transportation needs and bus or van parking can be arranged by Feb. 23.

27 CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School hosts "Swing with Us!", its annual gala and auction benefiting the school, today from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Swing 1000 Club on Central Avenue. Tickets are $75 each, which includes dinner, valet parking, and entertainment. The CCHS Foundation is also selling tickets at $5 each or 6 for $25 for chances at winning a cruise for two on the Mississippi River. All tickets can be purchased by sending a check payable to CCHS Foundation to 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28226. For details, call (704) 543-9118.

28 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, hosts a "moms' evening" today at 7 p.m. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990, or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

March

2 GREENSBORO — Marian Father Waldek Ziolkowski discusses how to develop Christian character today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details on this and other adult religious education sessions, call (336) 274-0415.

5 HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated today at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30, and Benediction with adoration follows the Mass. for details, call (336) 884-0244.

6 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey Basilica today, starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m., continuing with the rosary at 9:30, and concluding with the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:30. For details, call Terri or Phil DeLuca, (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. at Appalachian State University's Catholic campus ministry facility, 232 Faculty St. A covered dish dinner preceded the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Flu-ridden pope speaks briefly from window in lieu of audience

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, ill with the flu, spoke briefly from his window instead of holding his weekly general audience Feb. 3.

The pope explained to several hundred pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square that he had "an illness of the season" and was therefore obligated to suspend his activities in recent days.

"Today, however, I cannot miss directing my words to you who have come for the customary Wednesday appointment," he said.

Pope John Paul had canceled the previous two days' appointments, including a homily and a blessing at a Feb. 2 Mass for the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

His spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, issued a statement Feb. 1 saying the pope had "an influenza syndrome."

On Feb. 3, wearing a heavy cloak and standing in the relative protection of the curtained window of his study, Pope John Paul spent six minutes exposed to a winter morning particularly brisk by local standards, in order to deliver his message.

Referring to the previous day's feast, he said God "shines in the life of every person and fills everyone with his joy and his peace."

Pope John Paul offered a special greeting to "those who are suffering most from the cold, above all the homeless, those who have suffered earthquakes, the sick, the aged and small children."

"May there be the necessary assistance for each of them," he added.

The pope then invoked a Roman proverb that calls for improved weather for the rest of the season. He finished by switching from Italian to French, English and Spanish to greet different pilgrim groups, as he customarily does in a more expanded form during his general audiences.

To the English-speaking pilgrims he said, "I greet the pilgrims from the United States, as well as all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors from other countries. Upon you and your families I invoke the abundant blessings of almighty God."

Pope sends Cardinal Silvestrini to Jordan for king's funeral

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, who had met King Hussein of Jordan four times, sent Cardinal Achille Silvestrini to the king's funeral in Amman as his personal representative. King Hussein, who ruled Jordan for more than 45 years, was 63 years old when he died Feb. 7 of cancer. "The Holy See expresses its participation in the suffering of this noble nation, recalling the numerous contacts King Hussein had with the Holy Father," said a Feb. 7 statement from Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Lent is a thoughtful time

I used to have a hard time with Ash Wednesday. It had such a dreariness about it. "Dust we are, and to dust we shall return" seemed to defy the idea of resurrection and eternal life. It didn't seem hopeful or life affirming.

But I've come to see there is a reason behind this idea of dust and ashes. It is to tell us we must face our earthly mortality, our vulnerability to weakness, our moral failures. That's our human condition. That's reality.

Some Christian writers have said we are chronically ill and that Lent forces us to see how we must repent so as to heal and seek again what is ultimately important.

Lent, the dry time in the desert for 40 days, has a happy ending. Lent invites us again to meet the person who knows us and can give us life. In fact, he revives us by breathing new life into us, a life that will never die. The Easter story is an astounding love story about life and covenant. Christ brings us out of Lent and to eternal life because he is a lover.

Before we get to this understanding, we may wonder about the emphasis on dust and ashes — especially when we have to explain this to children! Well, it comes from the Bible, from Genesis 2:7: "Then the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being."

I wonder if we ever think about that line, really. God could have made us from starlight or sun rays, from clouds or wind. But he made humans from dust.

I think God made us from the earth so we'd always know we are one with all nature. Maybe God made us from earth so that we could really believe him when he showed us through the resurrection of his Son that we were made for eternal life. Being made from earth, we can identify with how nature hangs onto life and so be able to believe scientifically as well as theologically that to be reborn after dying is our destiny, too.

I studied a lot of science. I learned that nothing in nature dies. Everything lives again in one form or another. Resurrection is the great theme of nature. How great a God it is who made his creation for eternal life!

One day I walked near a swamp where people had thrown litter. On top of discarded plastic bags, I found little sprouts in decaying leaves. I was awed at how truly nature persists to nurture life. I was struck by the realization that we breathe because God put his breath in us, as he put breath in all of nature.

Yet, enter sin, and the emphasis is on darkness, mortality and ashes. And so we need Ash Wednesday and Lent to jolt us to "repent" and focus again on our great origins and our destiny of eternal life, designed by the Father, guaranteed by the Son and continually energized by the Spirit.

Lent is only the prelude. God made us for the prize — Easter.

Guest Column

REV. JAMES WISEMAN, O.S.B.
Guest Columnist

Martyrdom, love mark St. Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, is noted on almost every calendar in our country and is a day that brings great profit to the manufacturers of greeting cards and chocolates. It is quite likely, however, that few persons who receive cards asking them to be the sender's Valentine know the origin of this custom. What connection could this have with the saint who is honored on this day?

Of St. Valentine himself we know relatively little. The Roman Martyrology for this date mentions two saints of the same name, both martyrs in the third century. Whether there were two is a matter of debate, but there is no doubt that a Roman priest named Valentine was martyred, probably on Feb. 14, in the persecution of the emperor Claudius the Goth around the year 270. A church was soon erected at the site along the Porta Del Populo was known as the Gate of St. Valentine. Although this saint is not longer listed in the Church's liturgical calendar, he still ranks among those heroic men and women of all ages who were willing to suffer death rather than disown their Lord.

How, then, did the custom of sending Valentine's Day greetings arise? In medieval times, it was commonly held that birds chose their mates on this date, halfway through the month of February. Geoffrey Chaucer, in his poem "The Parliament of Fowls," writes that it is "on Seynt Valentyne's day/When every fowl cometh ther to choose his mate." Less than a century later, a matchmaking mother in England wrote to her daughter's suitor, reminding him that St. Valentine's Day was drawing near and urging him to come visit for a few days to speak to her husband. She ended with the words, "I shall pray that we may bring the matter to a conclusion."

The daughter, perhaps not altogether confident in the persuasive powers of her parents alone, wrote to the man herself, assuring him that if he could be content with her small dowry "and my poor person, I would be the merriest maiden on ground, a good, true, and loving Valentine."

Similar hopes have been in the minds and on the lips of countless lovers during the five centuries since then. It is fondly to be wished that at least some of them might also be mindful of the heroic saint whose name graces this popular day.

The Rev. James Wiseman, O.S.B., is an associate professor of theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

We welcome your letters!

Send your Letters to the Editor to:

Joann Keane, Editor
The Catholic News & Herald
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203

or e-mail to
jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

God's love and a thousand hearts

I am constantly amazed by the Bible.

If you are one of the millions of people who turn to the Scriptures, day in and day out for inspiration, hope and comfort, you know exactly what I mean. Just when you are ready to congratulate yourself on having pretty fair knowledge of the stories and people and language, something surprises you. You are caught by the reality of God's holiness, his loving closeness, his intimate desire for your good.

My most recent discovery came because of St. Valentine's Day, more specifically, because of my plan to write this column. I ran through a bunch of possibilities, but nothing clicked. That's when I thought that a suitable Scripture quote might be a good place to start. So I took down one of the biblical concordances on my bookshelf and looked up "heart."

Do you know that "heart" or "hearts" shows up just about one thousand times in the Bible? It wasn't something I had ever thought about, but now I was fascinated by the number of references.

The first time the word appears is in Genesis (6:5-6) in the story of Noah: "The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved Him to his heart." So our first image is that of God's people being "hard-hearted," if you will. And God's response? Grief.

After that follows the epochal story of the great flood that destroyed the unfaithful people of the earth and all living creatures — except for the righteous Noah and his family and the animals that he saved "two and two, male and female." Finally the waters subsided and Noah built an altar and made a burnt offering: "The Lord said in His heart, I will never again curse the ground because of humankind.... As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." (Gn 8:21, 22)

Does it seem hard to reconcile this God of judgment and wrath from the first book of the Bible with the God of love? God has not changed. God's heart is capable of just anger and of even greater mercy. That is the real essence of Noah's story. We humans are flawed and fallible and still God never stops loving us. But what about our human hearts? If God's constant, compassionate heart has not changed, have ours? Have our hearts become more like His?

Today, just as with Noah, there are good people, people who seek God's will and return His love. Yet most of us seem to get so caught up in the importance of our own life and times that we only turn our hearts to 'God in fits and starts. We mean to do better. To pray with more heartfelt devotion. To love our neighbors, as we love ourselves, more wholeheartedly. Overwhelmed by our problems and our fears, it is too easy to forget Jesus' comforting promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (Jn 14:27)

So, St. Valentine's Day is an opportunity to remember Him whose generous heart will never cease to beat or to welcome His beloved children home.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Are statues still covered during Lent?

Q. Our parish liturgy committee is now preparing some details for Holy Week, with our pastor.

For many years we have not covered the statues in church during the last two weeks of Lent. I remember when that was done regularly, but liturgy documents we have read and studied suggest this should not be done, for reasons which seem to us very sound, in light of what Holy Week is supposed to mean and how it is observed.

One of our newer members, however, says she was in a church last year when all the statues were covered, not only during Holy Week but all during Lent.

Has there been a change in the rules? Or are we correct in continuing what we have been doing?

A. I, too, have seen statues covered in some places in recent years, but there is no foundation today for this practice in the church's liturgical instructions or policies.

Before the revised edition of the Sacramentary (Roman Missal) in 1970, statues in churches were typically covered with purple cloths during what was then called Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent.

This revised missal notes, just before the text of the fifth Sunday of Lent, "The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed, if the episcopal conference decides. The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday. The images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

The most significant part of that rubric is that the practice may be continued if the episcopal conference so decides. That same condition was repeated in 1988 in a "Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts," from the Congregation for Divine Worship (No. 26).

The usual procedure in liturgical law requires bishops to vote to abolish a practice or make it optional. The bishops voted some years ago, for example, to make the anointing with the oil of catechumens optional at the baptism of infants.

As the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy explains, however, in this case the bishops must vote to continue the practice. Otherwise it ceases.

"The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has never voted to continue the practice of covering crosses and images, and so the practice, in accord with the rubric of the Sacramentary, has not been permissible for the past 25 years. Individual parishes are not free to reinstate the practice on their own."

Interfaith sharing in weddings

Q. In your book "Catholic Life in a New Century," you state that Catholics may be married before a minister or justice of the peace if a dispensation for such a marriage is obtained from the bishop.

Would the church allow such a marriage if the officiating person is a woman? Would the church allow a female minister to participate in a marriage ceremony performed by a priest in a Catholic church?

A. If a dispensation from the form has been granted, the marriage may be performed before any legally qualified person, male or female.

Catholic guidelines for interfaith sharing in weddings provide for certain ways non-Catholic clergy might participate when a priest is the officiating minister. Possibilities vary depending, for example, on whether the ceremony is or is not within the celebration of the Eucharist.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER PETER JUGIS
JUDICIAL VICAR

Let Christ shine through this season

Last weekend, Bishop Curlin called on all of us to let the Light of Christ shine in our lives.

The video message from our bishop marked the beginning of the Diocesan Support Appeal for 1999. The call to let the Light of Christ shine in our lives is a call that also applies to Lent, the season of repentance and conversion. By turning again to the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can let the Light of Christ shine with greater brilliance in our lives.

On Ash Wednesday, the Lord calls us to return to him: "Return to Me with your whole heart," he tells us through the prophet Joel. Our life was first turned over to the Lord on the day of our baptism, when we left behind the old order of sin and death and started a new life of grace in Christ. At our baptism we first received the Light of Christ, symbolized by the baptismal candle. We began to walk as children of the Light, living the life of faith.

No doubt, the Light of Christ is shining even now in our lives, and yet the Lord still calls us to return to him. Even as children of the Light, we know that we all have some returning to the Lord to do. We return to the Lord over and over again through a lifetime process of conversion.

When Pope John Paul II came to Mexico and St. Louis last month he brought with him a new Apostolic Exhortation addressed to all the people of the Americas. In that exhortation, the Holy Father reminded us that conversion takes place when we have had a true encounter with Jesus Christ. When we encounter Christ, we cannot come away from that encounter unchanged. The Lord changes us. We turn away from sin and return to him, and also become more loving toward our neighbor. During Lent, the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are designed to help us encounter the Lord, day after day, so that we can indeed return to him.

Christ is our light to guide us in this season of repentance and conversion. On the second Sunday of Lent, we will encounter Christ whose face was dazzling as the sun and whose clothes were as radiant as the light in the glory of the Transfiguration. On the fourth Sunday of Lent, we will encounter Christ who tells us that he is the Light of the world, and St. Paul will exhort us to live as children of the Light. At the Easter Vigil, the priest will pray that the Light of Christ, rising in glory, will dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.

During this season of grace, let us return to the Light with all our heart and let the Light of Christ shine with greater brilliance in our lives.

More Mitch survivors fleeing to U.S., say church workers

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Increasing numbers of survivors of Hurricane Mitch are fleeing Central America in search of work in the United States, said church and governmental agencies. "We've noted a huge increase. From last Nov. 15 onward, the flow of migrants has increased greatly," said Mario Morales, deputy coordinator at a church-supported refuge for illegal immigrants on the Guatemalan-Mexican border. He said that in December, more than 800 people had passed through the Migrant's Shelter, a project supported by Scalabrinian missionaries in the border town of Tecun Uman, Guatemala. The normal monthly average was 300-400 migrants.

Teacher finds opportunity to grow wherever she's taught

MIDLAND, Mich. (CNS) — Kathie Grzesiak, a 28-year veteran of teaching, says every school where she has taught has allowed her to improve as a teacher. Grzesiak, a Catholic, was Michigan's 1997-98 Teacher of the Year and she is one of four Michigan educators to be honored this year with the Milken National Educator Award. "Everywhere I've been, I've had the opportunity to grow," said Grzesiak, who teaches fifth grade at Eastlawn Elementary School in Midland. "So every time I get a chance to grow, I take it — to hone this craft of teaching."

Bishop Belo urges prudence as East Timorese consider independence

LOS PALOS, East Timor (CNS) — East Timorese must be prudent in considering the Indonesian government's new proposal for their independence, said Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. "I call on all East Timor people to be calm, not panicked or euphoric. You should continue with your work to build family life as normal," Bishop Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili, told community leaders in Los Palos, 125 miles east of Dili. The bishop spoke after Mass Jan. 31 on the government's Jan. 27 proposal that it was considering granting independence to East Timor if its proposal for autonomy is rejected by the local people and the international community.

Maryknoll Father Bourgeois receives Hecker justice award

BOSTON (CNS) — "This is what really God calls us to be: peacemakers, healers, women and men who hunger and struggle for justice," said Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois on receiving the 1999 Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice. The priest was honored for his ongoing efforts to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas, a training school for Latin American military officers at Fort Benning, Ga. Since 1946, the school has graduated more than 60,000 officers, but a number of them have been implicated in assassinations and human rights abuses in their own nations.

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of a child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. *You can literally change a life!*

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."

Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
414

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ______________ Exp. Date ______
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

CNH2/99

Name ______________
(please print)
Address ______________
City/State/Zip ______________
Phone (____) ______________

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Witnessing to the Gospel at work

By PATRICIA KASTEN

Photo by Tom Moloney, The Long Island Catholic

Rodger DeMott, Maria Perdomo, Paul Tully and Hugh Jordan discuss their faith in the workplace.

Quick: When did you last talk about your faith at work? Maybe you mentioned going to Sunday Mass, or even something about the homily.

Yet, if you're like most Catholics, you cringed at that question. Catholics don't talk about faith at work.

"What Catholics don't like is wearing our faith on our sleeves," says Gregory Pierce, past president of the National Center for the Laity in Chicago. "We don't like grabbing people and trying to convert them."

Pierce, who writes a weekly e-mail message on faith and work, doesn't think that reluctance is necessarily bad — as long as we act on our faith.

"We're not talking about trying to convert people or to act pious," he says, "as much as we're talking about connecting our faith with what we do every day."

Connecting faith with daily life is what the Second Vatican Council called the vocation of the laity: "(I)t belongs to the laity to seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, that is, they are engaged in each and every work and business of the earth" (Lumen Gentium, no. 31).

But what does a vocation of the workplace mean?

A monthly breakfast sponsored by the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., and St. Norbert College in De Pere, addresses that question. At the Claude Allouez Forum's inaugural in 1994, Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, noted how easily people lose sight of their vocation of work when facing the daily problems of just plain working.

"So when you get up in the morning and look at yourself in the mirror," the archbishop said, "the first thing you want to do is remember that God created you for a purpose."

Seeing that purpose can be hard, just as hard as envisioning a completed jigsaw puzzle from just one piece. Yet the puzzle isn't complete without that piece.

"Every one of us, ... created by God as a part of that jigsaw puzzle, has to be busy about our relationship with God," Archbishop Weakland said.

We can do this many ways: prayer — even an Our Father in the shower — reading Scripture, or placing a sacred picture where we can see it when tough decisions arise at work.

"I don't think you can grapple with those questions, and know that you aren't creating your own illusions, without being grounded in a spiritual life," says Daughter of Charity Sister Renae Rose, CEO for Horizon Healthcare, a Milwaukee, Wis., HMO. Otherwise, she sees people believing the end justifies any abuse. As grounding in faith increases, so does the awareness that other people are also part of the Kingdom's puzzle. That's when living our faith becomes a conscious act.

Paulist Father John Hurley, associate director for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization and Missions in Washington, says conscious evangelizing can mean a simple "Hi" to people in the halls, or showing a new co-worker around the cafeteria.

"It's being ssensitive to the environment," Father Hurley says. "It's a ministry of presence. Things happen in people's lives — deaths, hospital stays — that are opportunities to do what Jesus did.... A lot of it is kicking ourselves and doing what comes naturally."

Rev. Mr. Tim Reilly, president for North American Commercial Business for Ft. James Corporation, a Chicago-based paper company, finds that practicing business ethics, avoiding profanity and "not judging people as anything other than a child of God" bring opportunities to evangelize. At a recent dinner, a client mentioned the struggles of her aging parents. Rev. Mr. Reilly commented on how comforting the promise of eternal life must be, and the woman confessed to not believing in eternity — or God.

"Bingo!" Rev. Mr. Reilly said. "I'd stimulated a discussion. It wasn't a deep, theological discussion, but it did something."

Doing something, no matter how small, isn't beyond anyone. ▾

Serving the investment needs of the community.

Stocks and Bonds
Mutual Funds
IRAs and Pension Plans
Money Management

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

YES, IT WORKS!

The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...

"The Catholic News & Herald not only reaches my target market, but I was amazed at how quickly ModularCorp actually had responses. Within the first month we had four responses! It has been a great investment."

— Daniel Murray, President, ModularCorp

Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...
For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Stations of the Cross

FOR SALE

Stations of the Cross, traditional style.
19" wide x 36" tall, painted plaster moulds.
In excellent refurbished condition: $5000.
Available from St. Stan's Church,
Castle Hayne, NC
(910) 675-2336

Why is love the central virtue?

By FATHER JOHN W. CROSSIN, OSFS
Catholic News Service

Without love, there are no Christian virtues. Without love there is no Christianity!

Jesus showed us how to love. Love is central to Jesus' teaching. Jesus linked love of God and love of our neighbor.

I'll always remember my first visit years ago to our local Catholic infant home, St. Ann's. The little children there — only a few years old — came up and grabbed all the visitors around the legs! We were startled and immobilized for a moment.

The children were looking for a human touch. They had been deprived of love at home and were looking for signs of love from the staff and even from visitors. A human being's natural desire for love is hard to suppress. These children showed it spontaneously.

Love often expresses itself in touch. Babies need to be held. Children need to be hugged. In fact, no matter what our age, we all need a hug once in a while — though a daily hug or two is preferable.

We never cease needing love. Most of us appreciate a little loving attention. This is evident when we are incapacitated or isolated — in the hospital or far away on a business trip or in a nursing home. A visit, telephone call, note or e-mail message all express tangibly the loving friendship that makes and keeps us human.

> "Love often expresses itself in touch," says Oblate Father John W. Crossin. "Babies need to be held. Children need to be hugged.... No matter what our age, we all need a hug once in a while."

In all stages of the life cycle, we need love.

We not only need love from others, but we can give it. Love is the most precious thing we have to give.

My parents, now grandparents for many years, give love to my nieces and nephews regularly through things such as gifts, overnight visits, birthday meals and attendance at school events.

Recently, two of my young nieces reciprocated by taking their grandparents out to lunch! I understand it was a wonderful meal. In such everyday acts, love is sustained and developed. I am especially happy that this loving spirit is so evident in our family's next generation.

Love makes us a family.

Love can grow throughout life. My own observation and that of many others is that having children influences a couple's growth in love. This is an exhausting experience, especially right after birth! Yet it changes life's focus.

Loving parents naturally focus on their new child and lessen their focus on themselves. Their perception of the world changes as well. Relatives, friends, baby sitters, neighborhoods and schools become much more important.

Love widens our circle of concern.

After childbirth, a couple's perception of faith and the church community often changes as well. Love makes us want to share the most important things in life with our children.

I've noticed how love's spiritual or supernatural dimension comes to the fore when the sacrament of baptism is celebrated.

Recently, within a 10-day period, I performed three baptisms for children of couples whose wedding Masses I had celebrated in previous years.

— Each baptism assembled a different set of relatives and friends.

— Each baptism was a festive, loving event — recorded for posterity with videos and pictures.

— Each baptism brought together several generations to share love with each other as God shared love with them.

— Each baptism was a transformative moment. The Holy Spirit transformed each child interiorly — bringing the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love.

— And each child is now a Christian. The Spirit of love, the Holy Spirit, has begun the inner transformation that will continue through a lifetime.

The Holy Spirit not only transformed these children, but the family and friends who gathered together too. These baptisms were occasions when friends and family affirmed their faith and their own dedication to Christian love.

We are made in God's image; thus we are made to love. And the grace of the Holy Spirit enables us to love most fully.

What is love?

— Love is a feeling. Joy, humor and warm family feeling filled the baptismal celebrations I mentioned. In one instance, my tiny cousin decided to move her head at the very moment of baptism. Water went everywhere. The family was concerned, then amused. She cried her disapproval!

— Love is a commitment. We give our children and ourselves to God. The Holy Spirit touches the deepest part of the soul.

CNS photo by Lisa Kessler

CNS photo by Cleo Photography

— Love grows. As we go through adulthood, we can become more loving. The grace of the Spirit can redirect our lives. The Spirit helps us to "let go" of what is unnecessary, such as excessive concern for material goods, and to grasp and prioritize what is essential, such as time for family outings and events.

— Love is a virtue. Like all virtues, it integrates and transforms our thinking, our knowing and our feeling.

Love is the central virtue.

Our love forms our lives. Our love touches others. Our love reflects God's love. Our love lasts eternally. ▼

Oblate Father Crossin is the executive director of the Washington Theological Consortium. His new book is "Walking in Virtue: Moral Decisions and Spiritual Growth in Daily Life," Paulist Press.

In a nutshell

We need love from others. We also can give love. The hardest time to love is when we feel unlovable. But even then it is our most precious gift.

"Love" has some superficial meanings. In entertainment it seems that whenever two people feel the slightest attraction they call it love.

We are made in God's image; we are made to love. Love is the central virtue.

When it is hardest to love

By SISTER THERESA SANDERS, RSCJ
Catholic News Service

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

These words from John's Gospel can seem puzzling. Why would anyone have to be commanded to love? Doesn't love come naturally?

Most of us learn to love even before we learn to talk. But this doesn't mean love comes naturally. Learning to love and persevering in love are often hard work.

When is it hardest to love? Sometimes loving is hard simply because we become so wrapped up in our own lives and worries. We hurry past lonely people on the street. We are too busy to donate blood. Weeks or months go by before we remember to take the hands of the ones we care about and tell them that they matter in our lives.

And sometimes loving is hard precisely because we do take time to show people that we care, and they do not or cannot respond as we think they ought to.

The sick person we visit may be angry and ungrateful. The children we cook for may refuse to eat what we've prepared.

But the hardest time of all to love is when we feel we are unlovable. People think that they are unlovable for many different reasons:

— Sometimes it's because they have hurt someone close to them or have failed to live up to another's expectations.

— Sometimes people have been given negative messages about themselves all their lives and find it hard to believe anyone could really care about them.

When we feel unlovable, we feel that no one wants to be near us and that we have nothing to offer anyway. Love becomes nearly impossible.

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

Nearly, but not entirely.

This is when Jesus' command to love becomes not a burden but a glimmer of hope. After all, God would not command something we were incapable of doing.

It is when we feel most isolated and worthless that God invites us to offer love to others.

The astonishing thing is that when we try to help and heal others, we help and heal ourselves.

God doesn't love us because we are worthy of love or because we are good, kind or even prayerful. "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us," writes John.

John continues, "If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (I John 4:10-11).

God loves us even when we can't love ourselves. And God invites us to draw on that love to love the others in our lives, most especially when that seems impossible to do. ▼

Sister Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, teaches theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

"Sometimes loving is hard simply because we become so wrapped up in our own lives and worries," explains Sister Theresa Sanders, a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

Why it's difficult to put love into words

By FATHER ROBERT L. KINAST
Catholic News Service

"Don't you think it is unusual," my friend asked, "that my mother always signs her cards and letters with the word 'love,' but has never actually told me, 'I love you'"?

It was not an idle question. My friend was preparing to travel several hundred miles to be with her mother, who faced serious surgery. It was also not the time for an abstract discussion about love. But even though I did not know her mother, I could imagine why it might have been difficult for her to speak the words "I love you."

First of all, "love" has many meanings, some of them superficial. My friend herself can become quite dramatic when describing how much she "loves" chocolate.

Others lavish all the affection associated with love on pets, automobiles, homes or other material possessions. In popular entertainment it seems that any time two people feel the slightest attraction to each other, they call it love.

Given the range of meanings associated with the word "love," some people prefer not to use it at all or to reserve it for a setting where its meaning is clearer — such as a birthday or anniversary card.

Second, when it is serious and sincere, the word "love" almost always implies intimacy, closeness. People who are uncomfortable with these feelings or who were raised to keep their feelings to themselves can have a hard time expressing a sentiment as personal as love. My friend's mother was raised in a family that did not show much outward affection to one another.

A hesitancy to express love can be compounded when people associate love only with romantic or sexual feelings. Then love becomes a dangerous word, implying a type of experience the person does not intend.

It may seem strange that parents would not verbalize their love to children for this reason. But if in someone's marriage love only means sex, for example, that person may, as a parent, find it easiest to refrain from speaking of love altogether.

Third, love implies a degree of self-revelation. To love another is to entrust oneself to that person, to allow one's shortcomings, foibles and sheer humanity to be known up close.

Suppose that my friend's mother did not experience a loving, affirming relationship with her parents or husband. Then she may not have wanted to risk repeating the same disappointment with her children. Rather than share herself with them, she could have withdrawn into fulfilling her obligations - trusting that they would "see" her love this way.

There is a fourth reason it is hard for some people to put love into words. Love implies a commitment. It is more than a casual acquaintance or superficial attraction. When one person loves another, a bond is established.

This bond may not be the full-scale commitment of marriage, but a loving relationship means a person is available to another whether it is convenient or not.

Some people are not willing to make such a commitment and therefore hold back from even verbalizing their love.

The beauty of love is that it can overcome obstacles like these, and it is never too late to begin.

When my friend was with her mother, she took the initiative to tell her that she truly loved her. This enabled her mother to say the same thing in reply.

It was the first time they had spoken so candidly, but its effect will last the rest of their lives. ▼

Father Kinast is director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.

Food for Thought

I don't think love is the frosting on the cake of life for the people of God. Love isn't an extra something special in Christian life.

Love — the virtue of charity — is basic for Jesus' followers. When Pope John Paul II first asked the church's people to make 1999 a year to reflect on charity, he said that "in its twofold reality as love of God and neighbor, (charity) is the summing up of the moral life of the believer."

Here's how the catechism puts it. As one of the three theological virtues — with faith and hope — charity is the "foundation of Christian moral activity," it says. The theological virtues "animate" the moral life and "give it its special character," the catechism adds (No. 1813).

So love is basic. You can't take the love out of Christianity and still have Christianity, you might say.

As a virtue, charity calls us "to love as (Christ) does," says the catechism (No. 1825). It sounds like a high and demanding vocation.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

Bestsellers

Catholic Bestsellers

Here is the Catholic Bestsellers List for February 1999, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. "Seeking Peace." Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough)
2. "Bread for the Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (HarperSanFrancisco)
3. "Maurice and Therese." Patrick Ahern. (Doubleday)
4. "Reluctant Dissenter." James Shannon (Crossroad)
5. "Sister Wendy's Nativity." Sister Wendy (Loyola)
6. "Sabbatical Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
7. "Sister Wendy's Book of Saints," Sister Wendy (Loyola)
8. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
9. "Stations of the Cross." Thomas Haney (Crossroad)
10. "Journey to the Center." Thomas Keating (Crossroad)

Paperback

1. "Workbook for Lectors & Gospel Readers." Lawrence E. Mick (Liturgy Training)
2. "At Home With the Word '99." Brey & Ward (Liturgy Training)
3. "All Saints." Robert Ellsberg (Crossroad)
4. "In the Name of Jesus." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
5. "God the Father of Mercy." (Crossroad)
6. "Path of Freedom." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
7. "Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons '99." Peter J. Scagnelli (Liturgy Training)
8. "The Rule of St. Benedict." (Liturgical Press)
9. "Father Who Keeps His Promise." Scott Hahn (Servant)
10. "An Empty Cradle, A Full Heart." Christine O'Keefe (Loyola)

Children and Young People

1. "My First Prayer Book." (Regina Press)
2. "Can You Find Jesus?" Gallery & Harlow (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
3. "Going to Mass." D. Brumi (Regina Press)
4. "Winter Saints." Melissa Musick Nussbaum (Liturgy Training)
5. "St. Francis Celebrates Christmas." Mary Caswell Walsh (Loyola)
6. "Precious Moments Prayers for Boys and Girls." (Regina Press)
7. "Christmas Traditions for Children." Victor Hoagland (Regina Press)
8. "Do the Angels Watch Close By?" Mary Joslin (Loyola)
9. "Catholic Children's Bible." Sister Theola (Regina Press)
10. "Can You Find Bible Heroes?" Gallery & Harlow (St. Anthony Messenger Press)

Spanish-language

1. "Manual Para Proclamadores de la Palabra '99." Marina A. Herrera (Liturgy Training)
2. "Miracle Hour." Linda Schubert (Resurrection Press)
3. "Palabra de Dios '99." Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
4. "Fides et Ratio" ("Fey Razon"). John Paul II (Pauline)
5. "Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica." (Doubleday)
6. "Lecciones Biblicas." J. Miranda (Pauline)
7. "Dies Domini." John Paul II (Pauline)
8. "Los Ministros de la Comunion." Office of Divine Worship/Chicago (Liturgy Training)
9. "Oracional Bilingue Para Ninos." Jorge Peralas (Liturgical Press)
10. "Don y Promesa." (Oregon Catholic Press)

Word to Life

February 14. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
2) 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
3) Matthew 5:17-37

By **BOZENA CLOUTIER**

"Where can I leave you and the children? I want you in a place where you'll be safe."

That was my husband's big concern as orders came for a second tour of duty in Vietnam, and we had to leave the Army post where we'd been living.

It was the late '60s; the Vietnam War was at its height, and great civil unrest was sweeping America.

We thought, talked, and prayed, and eventually decided that the best place for me and our young sons would be housing on a military base. There we would have extra security and live in a protected environment.

So we began our search. Every weekend we'd all pile into our station wagon and drive somewhere along the Eastern seaboard checking out one or more military bases looking for a temporary home. It was a discouraging effort. There was plenty of empty housing on those bases, but it was not being made available to dependents of those serving in Vietnam. My husband and I persisted, feeling sure that if only we tried hard enough we'd find something.

But, we didn't. There was nothing for us.

It was at the time of our deepest discouragement that a new and radical thought entered our minds: Maybe the children and I could spend the next year in England where I had some family?

The idea seemed preposterous. What about the cost of the trans-Atlantic travel, let alone the constraints of our budget? How would we find a home, what about medical care? The questions kept coming. Tentatively at first and then with growing resolve, we pursued the possibility, and, to our amazement and joy, things fell into place, and the boys and I went to live in England.

It all worked out better than we had dreamed possible, and at the end of the year we were again reunited as a family.

We knew at the time that God had graced us with wisdom to make that decision, and gratefully we thanked him. What we did not realize then, but what emerged slowly and often dimly in later years as we talked about this chapter of our lives, was that this experience offered us hope and encouragement for current life situations where we faced difficult decisions.

We had glimpsed how immense, how "mysterious and hidden" is the wisdom of God, and how, at times, it seems to be quite preposterous if judged by the wisdom of the world. In just a small way, we had grown in trust and in our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

In what circumstances have you experienced the mysterious power of God's wisdom? When do you pray for wisdom — is it only when you are up against a wall?

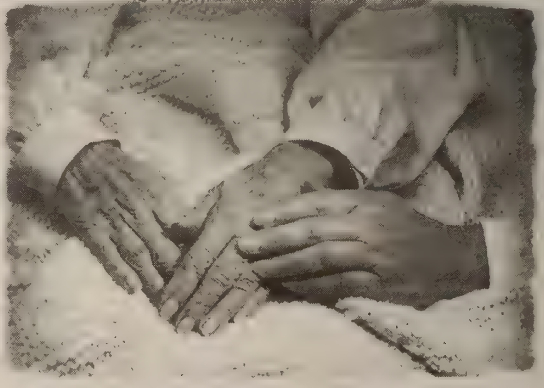
Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 14 - Feb. 20

Sunday, Sirach 15:15-20, Psalm 119: 1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34, 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10, Matthew 5: 17-37; **Monday**, Genesis 4: 1-15, 25, Psalm 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday**, Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10, Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10, Mark 8:14-21; **Ash Wednesday**, Joel 2:12-18, Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1:1-4, 6, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Psalm 51:3-6, 18-19, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Psalm 86:1-6, Luke 5:27-32

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
· DEBT CONSOLIDATION
· LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
· CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097
19th Cardinal
Newman Lecture
Saturday, March 6
9:30am — 4:00pm
Father Jim Bacik
"Spirituality in Transition"
"Spirituality in Action"
Father Bacik is a theologian, author and campus minister presently serving as campus pastor for the University parish at the University of Toledo. He is a regular columnist in the Catholic press and lectures internationally.
No charge No pre-registration needed

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Movie Review

"She's All That" familiar story to the point of stale

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Dumped by his glamorous girlfriend, a high school senior bets he can transform the class geek into the prom queen in the lame teen comedy, "She's All That" (Miramax).

Smart, handsome athlete Zach (Freddie Prinze Jr.) can't believe his dishy steady Taylor (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe) cut him loose for an egotistical jerk (Matthew Lillard) — and just weeks before the senior prom when Zach and Taylor were sure to be elected prom king and queen.

Goaded on by his buddy Dean (Paul Walker), Zach sets out on a bet to woo and win over hostile Laney (Rachael Leigh Cook) so that she will end up with the coveted crown alongside him on prom night.

Laney, still angry over the death of her mom 10 years earlier, simply ignores her classmates and paints morbid canvasses, hoping for an art scholarship. Zach's amazed when she puts down his flattery, which has the effect of intriguing him to get to know her as a person.

The rest is fairly obvious: Zach and Laney do become friendly, fall for each other, then she finds out about the bet. Zach's got some major explaining to do or his buddy Dean will lure Laney away, especially now that she's coiffed, made up and dressed to kill for the prom.

As directed by Robert Iscove, the situations are familiar to the point of stale, despite try-hard performances by Prinze and Cook to make this into a Pygmalion-meets-Cinderella scenario.

Slight satiric humor is to be found in the rarefied atmosphere of the snooty Los Angeles high school where virtually everyone takes their parents' wealth as much for granted as their cell phones.

Prom night features the students suddenly breaking into a professional-looking, highly choreographed line dance, a most unlikely happening.

There are also some earnest heart-to-heart talks between Laney, Zach and their respective dads, but an atmosphere of teen promiscuity is also apparent that makes the movie inappropriate for its target audience.

Zach's depicted as becoming sensitive and serious, but then this is undone for a cheap laugh when it's suggested he march up for his diploma at graduation minus his robe — or any other apparel.

Ultimately, adjectives like derivative and dull come to mind much quicker than fresh or funny.

Due to an implied affair, some sexual references, brief alcohol abuse and a few instances of profanity and of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

"Simply Irresistible"

Sarah Michelle Gellar and Sean Patrick Flanery star in the romantic comedy, "Simply Irresistible." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults, and the Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

TV programs of note

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Feb. 14:

Sunday, Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m. EST (ABC) **"Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella."** Rebroadcast of a musical version of the beloved fairy tale, starring Whitney Houston, Brandy and Whoopi Goldberg.

Sunday, Feb. 14, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) **"Deep in My Heart."** Fact-based drama about a young black woman who was born to a white woman and given up for adoption and how 34 years later she tracked down her birth mother.

Sunday, Feb. 14, 9-11:30 p.m. EST (TBS) **"Champions on Ice."** Special features international and Olympic World Champion skaters such as Dorothy Hamill, Katarina Witt, Oksana Baiul, Brian Boitano, Lloyd Eisler and Michelle Kwan.

Sunday-Monday, Feb. 14-15, 9-11 p.m. EST each night (NBC) **"To Serve and Protect."** Miniseries chronicling a fictional family consisting of three generations of police officers, based on the experiences of a five-generation cop from New York.

Monday, Feb. 15, 9-10 p.m. EST (A&E) **"The Cruelty Connection."** From the "Investigative Reports" series, an examination of possible relationships between those who are abusive to animals and serial killers, with the FBI studying if such a pattern can help identify potential serial killers.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) **"God's New Plan."** Fact-based drama about a mother (Katey Sagal) who comes to terms with her impending death by choosing a new wife (Annabeth Gish) for her husband to help raise their child.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS) **"Dance in America: A Hymn for Alvin Ailey."** From the "Great Performances" series, a performance documentary built around the theatrical dance, "Hymn," created by the artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a tribute to the trailblazing dancer and choreographer.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10-11 p.m. EST (ABC) **"Love American Style."** Updated version of the 1970s series, featuring light-hearted looks at various couples in the throes of dating relationships.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Movies online
Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

May 5-14
A Marian Pilgrimage
Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a visit to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.
For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Flight attendant from Shepherd One still on cloud nine

By DOLORES MADLENER
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Even a week after the trip from St. Louis to Rome with Pope John Paul II on Shepherd One, flight attendant Adrienne Montgomery still has her head in the clouds.

The 24-year TWA flight attendant was the first name drawn in the company lottery to staff the papal return trip to Rome. Five hundred flight personnel put their names into a hat. Eight were chosen.

> Montgomery learned that he enjoys flavored teas, like apple, raspberry and black currant, with milk and sugar and had four cups during the eight-and-a-half-hour flight. He sipped a little red wine before turning in for the night.

In an interview with The New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper, Montgomery said she felt the crew that evolved was "spiritually centered and very culturally diverse."

That aspect, she said, was probably pleasing to the pope, who had called on America to denounce prejudice during his visit. On the flight, several crewmen conversed with him in different languages.

Celebrities are nothing new to Montgomery, a busy wife and mom, and eucharistic minister in St. Dorothy Parish.

She has met Donald Trump, Bill Cosby and U.S. senators, she said, but nothing has been "so overwhelming, so wonderful" as her flight with the pope.

After the papal entourage was on board and the doors secured, she said the crew formed a line to greet the pope. Montgomery knelt and kissed his ring and will never forget her awe. Then the pontiff said he would be happy to have his photographer take his picture with each member of the crew. Montgomery will never forget how "he held my hand as I sat beside him and looked right into my eyes."

"Typical mother," she said, "I showed him a photo of my 10- and 12-year-old daughters and he smiled. I'm still ecstatic. I wasn't aware of anyone else on the plane. The Holy Father was so gracious and made us feel at ease. Meanwhile, FBI agents on the ground were getting anxious."

Thirty minutes had passed and Vice President Gore could not leave on Air Force II until the pope departed. "Our TWA captain explained to them, 'Sorry, we're having a Kodak moment here, we'll be a few minutes more,'" Montgomery said.

When they were finally airborne, the pope, visibly tired, settled back for a light dinner. Montgomery attended the cardinals traveling with the pope and U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs, but flight attendant Maureen Spillane of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Glenview, attended the pope personally.

Montgomery learned that he enjoys flavored teas, like apple, raspberry and black currant, with milk and sugar and had four cups during the eight-and-a-half-hour flight. He sipped a little red wine before turning in for the night.

Was there a "seat belt" on TWA's papal bed? Montgomery said "No. He didn't need one. It was a phenomenally smooth flight all the way."

He awoke about three hours before arrival, Montgomery said "and had a breakfast omelet, meat and cheeses."

She delighted in seeing him with headphones on listening to music. Then he said he would bless any objects the crew wanted blessed. "I had a huge plastic bag of rosaries and things from St. Dorothy parishioners. He blessed everything!"

Once they arrived in Rome, and the pope was off the plane, the TWA crew was applauded by the papal entourage and was invited on a private tour of the Vatican. Crew members saw the pope's private gardens and even a private vegetable garden where the nuns are trying to grow vegetables from seeds from Poland for the pope's table.

Back home with husband Bruce and the family, Montgomery said she was still coping with jet lag. "I didn't sleep five minutes on Shepherd One because I didn't want to miss anything!"

The crew hopes to have a reunion some time, she said, because of the special bond they feel. "We may not know now why we were chosen for that flight, but we'll know in the future." ▼

CNS photo by Simon Caldwell

Church in Fiji

Children stand by a statue of Mary in front of Holy Cross Church in Wairiki on the island of Taveuni, Fiji. Because it is the closest Catholic church to the international date line, the first Mass of the millennium will be celebrated there.

Express Press Ltd. FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS •ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) Member St. John Neumann

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with *honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service* on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Open The Doors
To A New
Millennium
Catholic Newspapers, Magazines and Books
Media For A New Millennium
Catholic Press Month 1999
MEMBER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Abortion foes vow to continue after ruling on posters, Web site

By ED LANGLOIS
Catholic News Service

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Despite a $107 million judgment against them for their "Wanted" posters featuring abortionists and a related Web site, members of a national coalition of abortion opponents vowed to continue their efforts and say they lack the funds to pay the damages.

The judgment was handed down Feb. 2 by a jury in U.S. District Court in Portland in a civil suit brought against the American Coalition of Life Activists in 1995 by Planned Parenthood in Oregon, four doctors who perform abortions and two women's clinics. The plaintiffs claimed the coalition was conducting a "campaign of terror and intimidation."

> Robert Destro, a professor of law at The Catholic University of America, said the Portland case could "punch a big hole in the First Amendment." The First Amendment's protection of free speech, Destro said, prevents federal laws from "shutting off people's speech" no matter how disagreeable.

The suit was filed less than a year after the coalition published and distributed a series of posters.

One, under the heading "Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity," listed names and addresses of 12 doctors from across the country who perform abortions. Reminiscent in design of wanted posters from the Old West, it called the physicians "The Deadly Dozen" and offered $5,000 for information that would lead to revocation of their medical licenses.

Another poster used a photograph of an abortion doctor from the Midwest and urged activists to picket his neighborhood and encourage him to offer medical care to the needy in lieu of abortions.

Also mentioned in the suit was an affiliated Web site called the "Nuremberg Files," which publicizes information about hundreds of abortion doctors and compares their work to Nazi war crimes.

The suit, which claimed the defendants violated federal racketeering and clinic access laws, focused on the words used by abortion foes. Other suits brought against pro-lifers have centered on actions — such as blockades of clinics — as violating those laws.

The case is expected to go to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and perhaps the U.S. Supreme Court.

American Coalition of Life Activists, an umbrella group for hundreds of abortion foes from across the country, says it requires its members to abide by a vow of nonviolence. None of the defendants in the Portland case is directly connected to any violence against doctors or clinics.

"I have never intended to threaten anyone with any poster I have put out," coalition president David Crane said in January from the witness stand. "We are committed to peaceful nonviolence. We had people sign pledges."

The court noted that there is no explicit threat in either the posters or the Web site, but the plaintiffs' attorneys apparently convinced the jury that the writings constitute a genuine threat.

Also, some of the defendants have refused to condemn the killing of abortion providers, a stand that attorneys for the plaintiffs made the center of their case.

The charges of violence bothered Monica Migliorino Miller, a theologian who teaches at Marquette University in Milwaukee. She was one of the 14 original defendants but was later dropped by the plaintiffs, she thinks, because of her long stand against using violence.

"Here you have an organization being sued for supposed threats of violence when it has a very clear policy of nonviolence," she said in an interview. She added that she believes the suit's real aim was to stifle free speech of the pro-life movement.

> Melody Rose, a political science professor at Portland State University, argued that the call to violence was clear in the forms of communication the defendants chose to use.

Joseph Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, which organizes abortion protests and trains sidewalk counselors, said defendants were asked to pay the $107 million in damages because "abortionists are paranoid."

"If this outrageous verdict stands, the First Amendment will have been effectively ground under the gigantic foot of the federal courts," Scheidler said in a statement. He was found guilty last year during a federal racketeering trial in a suit brought against him for trying to prevent women from using abortion clinics. He is appealing the verdict.

Robert Destro, a professor of law at The Catholic University of America, said the Portland case could "punch a big hole in the First Amendment." The First Amendment's protection of free speech, Destro said, prevents federal laws from "shutting off people's speech" no matter how disagreeable.

David Fidanque, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Oregon, said his organization is "very concerned about the possible chilling effect this case could have on protected speech. But we're also concerned if the First Amendment is being used as a shield by people carrying out violence or making threats of violence."

Melody Rose, a political science professor at Portland State University, argued that the call to violence was clear in the forms of communication the defendants chose to use.

"A 'Wanted' poster, in the context of American history, implies violence," Rose said. "Those of us who watched Westerns on TV as kids knew what the posters meant — Wanted: dead or alive." ▼

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Opening a 2nd location mid-February...
72 Long Shoals Road · Arden, NC

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

MODULARCORP

Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

Photo courtesy of St. Leo School

School receives donations

The student body at St. Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem recently gathered to thank Pepsi and R.J. Reynolds for $3,000 in donations that enabled the school to purchase safety mats and glass backboards for the school gymnasium.

In Brief...

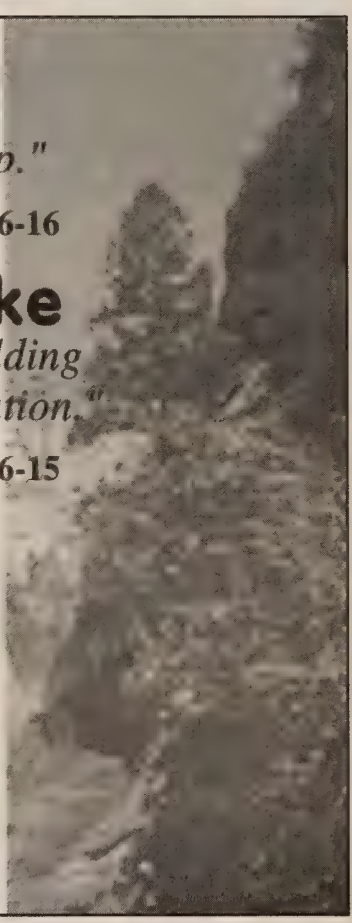
Youth ministry director chairs national commission

WASHINGTON — Paul Kotlowski, director of the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Youth Ministry, has been named chairperson of the Accreditation and Certification Commission of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc., based in Washington. As a member of the Accreditation and Certification Commission Task Group, Kotlowski is part of a team that represents the federation at various gatherings where national groups collectively discuss competency-based standards. The task group's work is ongoing, as the standards for accreditation and certification are to be revised every five years and implementation is continual.

Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe wins publisher contest

CHARLOTTE — Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe in Charlotte was awarded first place by Liturgy Training Publications for best display of the publisher's products in the store. The display, designed by Teresa Hollifield, was based on LTP's "Year of Grace" liturgical year calendar. The prize included a $500 gift certificate for merchandise. Judy Gritzmacher is manager of Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe. Liturgy Training Publications is based in Chicago.

Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16
Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766



Lenten Guidelines

1. The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3. The rule of fasting states the only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "Sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4. Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5. The Substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6. Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the years is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7. Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8. The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconcilation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group penance service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9. The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week Rites.

10. Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11. The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The Rite of Election is celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sunday of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

DSA: Faith Formation

Catechist meeting emphasizes commitment to ongoing formation

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Let your light shine!
DSA '99

CHARLOTTE — A recent gathering of diocesan officials and catechists from the Southern Region emphasized that faith formation in the Diocese of Charlotte affects young people from their elementary school years to beyond confirmation age.

The catechists meet monthly "to gather information and spend some time in dialogue to develop procedures," said Mary Beth Feeser, coordinator of the Southern Region, who facilitated the meeting.

At the Feb. 4 meeting in the diocesan pastoral center, representatives of various types of educational ministry spoke about the spiritual, educational and social development of young people as they continue their faith journey.

Confirmation was a prevalent topic of discussion. Recently adapted diocesan guidelines direct that students be confirmed in their eighth-grade year. Extensive preparation is needed in both the "remote" and the "immediate" sense, said Feeser.

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, diocesan director of religious formation for Catholic Schools, addressed the academic background students acquire in their schools prior to the time for sacramental preparation.

Sister Maureen referred to grades kindergarten through five as a period of "catechism of reality."

Not only are students introduced to the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist during this phase, she said. "They study morality, the sacraments, church, and the liturgy. Each year, their study is developed on another level as the children grow" physically, mentally and spiritually.

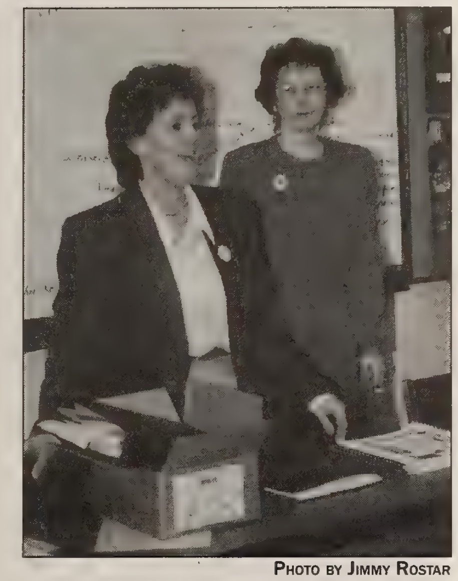


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

M.J. Dawson, at left, addresses catechists of the Southern Region as Mary Beth Feeser looks on.

Sister Maureen explained that "remote preparation" — religious education in the parish, the home, the school, the faith formation class — gives students a foundation in the faith. Scripture, church history and other areas are introduced by the sixth and seventh grades.

She said students during this period move into a more intimate level of faith. That base prepares them for the four to six months of "immediate," or sacramental, preparation preceding the sacrament of confirmation, she added.

Sister Maureen lauded the alliance that must exist between catechists, parents, religion teachers, and others involved in educational ministry. In addition to teaching students tenets of the faith, she said, it is also important to reach as many as possible, whether they're educated and formed in Catholic, public or private schools, or at home.

As students receive the sacrament of confirmation and move into their middle and later teen years, they need opportunities for religious education, too, said M.J. Dawson, campus minister at Charlotte Catholic High School and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte.

With 20 years of youth ministry experience, Dawson said catechesis can manifest itself in a variety of ways for middle- and high-school students — in academics, in social settings, and in sporting and other extracurricular activities. She noted that retreats and liturgy are two powerful ways of keeping the faith alive for students.

"All the retreats should be a reflection of what they're learning, not just in their home parishes but in their religion classes," Dawson said. "It (the retreat) is an opportunity, as Jesus did, to go away and take time to reflect and pray."

Dawson stressed that active student involvement is key. As part of the formal religion curriculum at Charlotte Catholic, she said, students engage in service hours that provide outreach to a variety of community entities. In addition, guest speakers address students about faith, morality and other topics. Groups are formed that focus on particular areas of ministry.

Campus life includes many liturgical contexts, Dawson said. Daily prayer in classrooms and school Masses are part of students' school experience.

"We as youth ministers and DRE's (directors of religious education) are challenged in a new way, especially with the millennium coming," Dawson added. Those charged with educational ministry must creatively find ways to assess students' challenges, hurts and progress, she said.

As director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, Paul Kotlowski encounters the needs of young people of and beyond the confirmation age. He said the diocese's change in the age of confirmation presents an important opportunity for parishes to implement the vision of total youth ministry in their communities — a vision expressed in the guidelines recently promulgated by Bishop William G. Curlin.

Kotlowski stressed that confirmation shouldn't be seen as a graduation from education in the faith, but rather as a new beginning of Christian life. He said such an approach will help open doors to youth, inviting them to explore a variety of ministry opportunities in their parishes.

"How we evangelize effectively is a challenge that faces all of us," he said. Youth ministry models prescribed by the U.S. bishops and educational ministry leaders are valuable tools in that evangelization, he said.

As the other presenters stressed, Kotlowski said cooperation within the educational ministry field is essential. "The success stories and the models that work really need to be shared among parishes for the sake of our ministries," he added, "and more importantly, for the sake of our young church."

There are four faith formation regions in the diocese. The Southern Region is composed of the Albemarle, Charlotte and Salisbury vicariates. The Western Region includes the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates. The Northern Region comprises the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates. The Central Region is made up of the Boone, Gastonia and Hickory vicariates. ▼

Faith formation is one of the 35 life-giving ministries partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Cardinal Arinze, from page 3

sacred congregations of the Vatican, including the Doctrine of the Faith, the Causes of Saints; and the Evangelization of Peoples. Cardinal Arinze is also part of a small group helping plan Jubilee 2000, the church's millennium celebration.

Cardinal Arinze's nephew, Niki, is a sophomore member of the men's basketball team who is out for the season while recovering from an injury. Ifeanyi Arinze, Niki's father and a professor at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, is a member of Wake Forest's Parents' Council.

Commencement will conclude the university's Year of Globalization and Diversity, a yearlong series of events focusing on the world's development into a more global community.

For information about commencement or other events during the year, call (336) 758-5788 or visit www.wfu.edu/wfunews/. ▼

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Community Outreach Worker: Immediate position for experienced Community Outreach Worker to help identify and coordinate enrollment of eligible Latino/Hispanic children in new health care program. Bi-lingual, college degree, computer skills and comfortable working with diverse groups of people. Send resume to: Geri King, Director, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax to 370-3377.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: March 15, 1999.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Catholic leaders praise King Hussein as 'champion of peace'

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Mideast Catholic leaders were among those praising Jordan's King Hussein and attending his funeral in the capital, Amman.

"King Hussein was a very good Muslim but at the same time he was very open to the Christians," said Msgr. Dominique Rezeau, charge d'affaires for the Holy See in Amman. "Not only was he always good to the church, he also had a good understanding of what Catholicism is. He was a very religious man, a real believer and a champion of peace."

Catholics in Jordan said special prayers for their dead monarch at services Feb. 7, said Msgr. Rezeau, who attended the king's Feb. 8 funeral.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah and Bishop Selim Sayegh, the representative of the Latin Patriarchate in Amman, also attended the funeral.

Hussein, who had cancer, returned to Amman in critical condition from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota Feb. 4. He never regained consciousness and died Feb. 7.

In Israel and the West Bank, Israelis and Palestinians also mourned for the king, who went from being an enemy to a partner and a leading force in the peace process.

Father Ibrahim Hijazin, a native of Jordan and parish priest of the West Bank city of Ramallah, said many of his Palestinian parishioners expressed their condolences to him at the death of his king.

"King Hussein was a great man of peace for the Middle East. He kept the balance," said Father Hijazin. "With his loss there will be a big and deep change in the Middle East."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Hussein "a courageous leader, a loyal friend, a maker of peace with Israel."

"The government and people of Israel bow their heads in grief over the passing of King Hussein," said Netanyahu. "King Hussein was one of the few leaders who was recognized even in his lifetime as a historic figure. He will be remembered as the creator of modern Jordan, as a major architect of peace in the Middle East. He will always be remembered as one of the giants of the second half of the 20th century."

CNS photo from Reuters

King Abdullah of Jordan speaks to members of the Jordanian Parliament as he is sworn in as the new king Feb. 7 following the death of his father, King Hussein.

CNS photo from Reuters

A Jordanian boy holds a portrait of the late King Hussein as the coffin is carried through the streets of Amman on the way to the funeral service Feb. 8. Tens of thousands of Jordanians filled the streets to honor their king.

Hussein won the hearts of many Israelis two years ago when he paid personal condolences to the families of seven young girls who were gunned down on a school field trip by a Jordanian soldier. At the king's death, Israelis called him "our hero."

The king also managed to repair the deep rift created between him and the Palestinians after the September 1970 operation that became known as "Black September," when a civil war erupted between Palestinian guerrilla organizations and the Jordanian army. Hussein banished the Palestinian units from Jordan, and they were forced to set up bases in Lebanon.

Hussein gained back the confidence of the Palestinians during the first Gulf War when he supported Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom the Palestinians support. Some 80 percent of Jordan's residents are Palestinian.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser said the king's death was a "big loss" to the Palestinians.

"He really proved his good will and played a very important and remarkable role in the peace process," said Nasser. "He was a man of peace and said he was looking for the day when there could be Palestinian independence. For us it is a very big loss, as he has passed away while we are still in the middle of the peace process with Israel." ▼

Want to re-finance your home at a better rate?
Need help with debt management?

Jeff Branstrator
(336) 370-4100
(888) 322-9503
Parishioner of St. Pius X Church

Call today.
FIRST HORIZON HOME MORTGAGE, INC.

Imagine...
Music beautifully played at every Mass, special service or gathering...

Your selection of music of the Catholic faith played on organ or electronic keyboard by the amazing Synthia... at the touch of a button.

Call today for a demonstration.
Music & Electronics
Corner Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 (800) 331-0768

"I was accepted at four colleges and universities, but once I saw all Belmont Abbey College had to offer, there was really no comparison. The Abbey was the right decision."

Patrick Cahill, Class of 2002

Charlotte, NC
Charlotte Catholic High School
Major: Undecided

Patrick Cahill — who excelled in high school sports and musical productions, and served as president of his student body — says Belmont Abbey College is the perfect fit for him, for many reasons.

"The Abbey has so much to offer. The campus is beautiful and the environment is warm and welcoming. When I visited, I just knew I would fit in here."

Patrick claims it is "the right people in the right positions" that has made his Abbey experience so unforgettable.

"The hearts of the people are genuine and caring; that's one of the things I love about this place. I receive personal attention from people who really know what they're talking about. All five of my current instructors have their doctorate degrees. My classes range from just 15 to 30 students — which is really ideal ... I've been so impressed."

Patrick is leaning toward a major in philosophy or history and plans to try out for the baseball team. He will also continue the work he began in high school helping underprivileged children in downtown Charlotte with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity.

"You can't ask for a stronger Catholic identity than here at Belmont Abbey College, yet our Benedictine instructors don't really care what denomination you're from; they just want the opportunity to teach you. In fact, a fair percentage of our students are not Catholic, and all are welcome with open arms."

Belmont Abbey College
The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Belmont, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • Toll-Free 888.BAC.0110

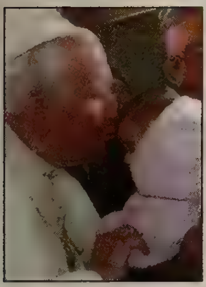
*****************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S298 P2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 19, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 24

Inside



Pope urges return to sacrament of penance ...PAGE 10

Parishes witness to surrounding communities ...PAGE 7

Local News

Retrouvaille: A lifeline for troubled marriages ...PAGE 11

Lenten Reflection ...PAGE 5

Leaders criticize Israeli actions against Palestinians ...PAGE 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 8-9

In this issue...

Communiquémonos

Special supplement to The Catholic News & Herald

Speaker calls chastity example of true freedom

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Molly Kelly believes in teen-agers, and she shares her enthusiastic wisdom with more than 100,000 of them each year.

Her message isn't simply one of praise. Rather, it's a humor-laden plea calling teens, their parents and all of society to talk about and live chaste lives.

"My talk is one big hug," Kelly said Feb. 9 to a general-public audience at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School.

"I want to talk common sense over condom sense," she said. "I want to talk willpower over pill power. I want to talk self-control over birth control, and saved sex over safe sex."

In addition to her general-public talk, Kelly spoke to students in grades 6-12 at Holy Trinity and Charlotte Catholic High schools Feb. 9 and 10. Most in attendance at the public presentation were teens and parents.

A homemaker, lecturer and author, Kelly is the mother of eight children. Her speeches on chastity are part of a pro-life mission she's been on since the 1975 death of her husband, James, a physician who also spoke in defense of life.

She addresses mostly teen-aged audiences in the United States and Canada, and has spoken in Australia, England, Wales and Italy. She has appeared on national news programs and the Eternal Word Television Network, and is the author of the book "Let's Talk to Teens About Chastity."

Kelly is concerned with how the idea of freedom is interpreted by today's society. Rather than doing whatever anyone wishes, "real freedom means self-discipline," she said. Abuse of freedom, she said, leads to a breakdown in responsibility, while self-discipline involves a commitment to oneself and others.

Calling abortion "the most urgent issue of our day," Kelly said chastity can triumph over many of the obstacles bombarding the culture of life.

Society is mired in a "treatment" philosophy that focuses on handling problems rather than uprooting them, Kelly added. Unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease are but two consequences that can result in a sexual relationship lacking love, trust and commitment, she said.

During her public presentation, Kelly also focused on the emotional and spiritual consequences of premarital sex. "(People have) been hurt," she said. "Maybe they didn't get pregnant. Maybe they didn't get a disease.

"What about the emotional consequences? What does a condom do for that? What does a birth control pill do for that? They can't protect a broken heart."

Kelly added that sex, a gift from God, is holy and healthy in the realm of married life. But its misuse can make sex a burden rather than a blessing.

She said "safe sex" is an industry promoted by society, especially the media, to the point of desensitizing its audience. Safe sex is much more marketable than chastity, she added, even though it removes the need for self-control "and reduces our sexuality right down to the animal level."

"Chastity is the only solution that's 100 percent effective," Kelly said. "It costs nothing. It has no harmful side effects, and nobody has ever gotten sick from it."

She said chastity, abstinence and celibacy are all positive lifestyles. She promotes all three, and she serves on the federal government's Grant Review Board of the Department of

SEE CHASTITY, PAGE 10

Molly Kelly chats with a teen-aged member of her Feb. 9 audience at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Kelly visited Charlotte to promote chastity as a way people can more fully appreciate God's gifts.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Church recognizes 1987 healing at Lourdes shrine

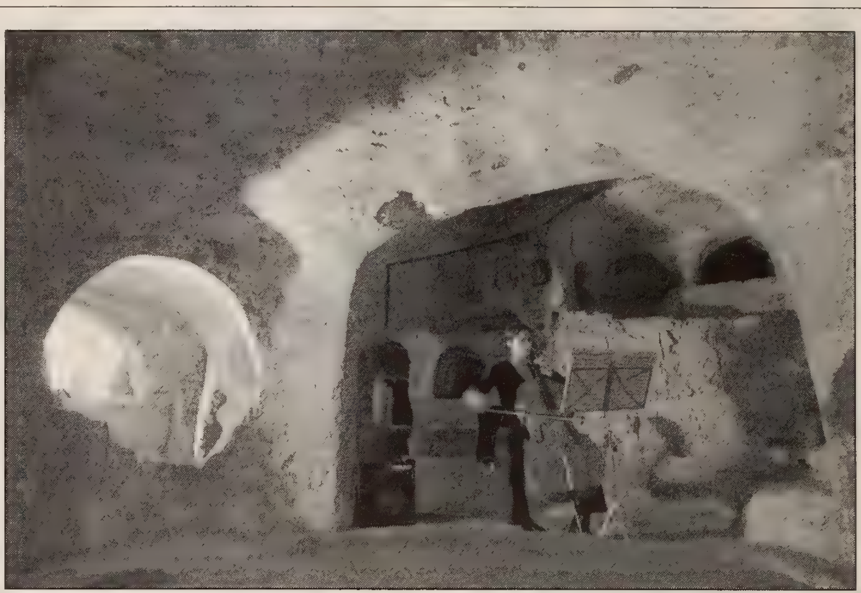
LOURDES, France (CNS) — Church authorities declared that a "sudden and complete" healing of a paralyzed man occurred at the Marian shrine at Lourdes 12 years ago. Bishop Claude Dagens of Angouleme announced the Catholic Church's official recognition of the healing in a statement at the shrine Feb. 10. "In the name of the church, I hereby recognize publicly the genuine character of the healing of which Mr. Jean-Pierre Bely was the beneficiary at Lourdes on Friday, Oct. 9, 1987. This healing, which was sudden and complete, is a personal gift of God for this man and an effective sign of God who is savior, and which was accomplished through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes," said Bishop Dagens.

Pope to visit Slovenia in September to beatify bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is to visit Slovenia in September to beatify a 19th-century bishop, the Vatican said. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Feb. 15 the pope would be in Maribor, Slovenia, on Sept. 19 to preside at the beatification of Bishop Anton Martin Slomsek. A poet and writer in addition to the first bishop of Maribor, Bishop Slomsek was credited with helping keep the Slovenian language and culture alive under Austrian rule.

Bishops in southeastern Mexico decry increase in corruption

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Four Mexican bishops warned that drug addiction and crime are on the increase in the country's southeastern region. These issues are "palpable symptoms" of corruption in government and an inadequate application of justice, said bishops from the states of Yucatan, Tabasco, Campeche and Quintana Roo. Their Feb. 9 statement followed a meeting in Campeche. In Mexico's southeast, the bishops said, many "social sins" must be avoided: extreme poverty, which increasingly affects residents of the region; high unemployment and low salaries, which result in more malnutrition among children; and what Mexicans call "public insecurity" — the combination of crime, corruption among police and government officials, and an inadequate justice system.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Catacombs of Malta

Cellist Giselle Spiteri Miggiani performs in St. Paul's Catacombs in Rabat, Malta, on St. Paul's Shipwreck Day Feb. 10. The day marks St. Paul's visit to the island in 60 A.D. and is one of the holiest in the local church calendar. St. Paul is credited with converting the islanders to Christianity.

Pope praises Catholic-Orthodox pilgrimage from Chicago

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Catholic-Orthodox pilgrimage from Chicago to Istanbul, Turkey, and to Rome will help improve relations between the two churches worldwide, Pope John Paul II said. "We have come to see how the Lord is enabling us to discover ourselves as 'Sister Churches' once more," the pope told the group during its Feb. 15 Vatican visit. "The regular exchanges between our two churches and the work of the theological dialogue have been important in this process; and joint initiatives such as your pilgrimage help in another way to strengthen the bonds of 'koinonia' ('fellowship')."

Bishop helps broker agreement between farmers, government

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A bishop helped broker an agreement between the Polish government and protesting farmers, ending a three-week campaign of rural strikes and blockades over worsening conditions in agriculture. The head of the Polish bishops' agriculture committee, Auxiliary Bishop Roman Andrzejewski of Wloclawek, formed a team of negotiators at the request of Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek and Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw, and urged farmers and police to show restraint as a prelude to negotiations. After all-night talks Feb. 8, farmers' organizations signed an agreement with the government on a package to raise state prices for crops and livestock.

Mitch left behind opportunity in Honduras, priest says

CLINTON, N.C. (CNS) — The damage Hurricane Mitch did to Honduras and other Central American countries was devastating. But a diocesan communications director working in Honduras said the storm also left behind a priceless opportunity. "People have said that Mitch was like a judgment day from God, not a punishment, but a judgment," said Franciscan Conventual Father Carlos Arce, communications director for the Diocese of Juticalpa, Honduras, and director of Radio Catolica de Olancho. "It's a call to review how we're living and to fix what's not right," he said. "There is so much injustice in Honduras, and God wants that to change."

Polish priest sues newspaper over 'vicious' statements about pope

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — An 80-year-old Catholic priest is seeking damages from a leading Polish newspaper for a 1997 article describing Pope John Paul II as a "simpleton vicar." "What they said about the Holy Father was really vicious," said the priest, Msgr. Zdzislaw Peszkowski. "Nothing like this has happened here before, and we should make clear it won't be tolerated. The pope asked me what he had done to his people 'to deserve such a gift,'" said Msgr. Peszkowski.

Latin-rite patriarchate asks U.S. church support in Holy Land

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Officials of Jerusalem's Latin-rite patriarchate met U.S church officials to ask financial support for Holy Land millennial events. The officials — Father Majdi al-Siryani, general manager of the patriarchate's legal and endowments departments, and Father Emil Salayta, education director for the patriarchate — said Feb. 8 that they also discussed twinning parishes and support for Catholic schools run by the patriarchate. Father Salayta said the priests had "very positive" meetings with Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, and Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore.

Canadian ecumenical coalition urges debt cancellation

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canadian religious leaders urged the government to include debt cancellation and increased development assistance for poor nations in the upcoming federal budget. "We are calling for outright cancellation of the outstanding bilateral debts owed to Canada by the 50 poorest, most indebted countries," said the Feb. 3 letter to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, signed by the leaders on behalf of the Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

February 19, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 24
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 21 — 11 am
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
First Sunday of Lent

February 23— 7:00 pm
Rite of Election
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

February 24— 7:00 pm
Rite of Election
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

February 27— 5 pm
Dedication
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

20 WINSTON-SALEM — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Dr. Cost is $4 for adults, $10 for families. Space is limited. For details, call (336) 724-7071.

21 STATESVILLE — "Therese: The Story of a Soul," a live drama based on the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, is today at 7 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 525 Camden Dr. Cost is $3. For details, call (704) 872-2579.

22 CHARLOTTE — Changes, an Alzheimer's support group, meets today at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

23 NEWTON — A Lenten adult education series program called "Satan, Evil, People of the Lie" begins today at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. For details, call (828) 464-9207.

24 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, and remarried outside the church meets today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call Cindy Shortall at (704) 529-5080.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women begins its annual Lenten mini-retreat today at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee and refreshments. Others gatherings are March 3, 10 and 17, concluding March 24 with Mass and a covered dish luncheon. All are welcome. For details, call Lillian Leonard at (336) 299-0736.

25 ASHEVILLE — The Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., hosts a healing Mass celebrated by Father

Religious leaders criticize Israeli actions against Palestinians

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston has joined with other U.S. religious leaders in criticizing the Israeli practice of confiscating residency permits of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem.

Bishop Fiorenza, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, joined Archbishop Spyridon of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Archbishop Khajag of the Armenian Church in America in a protest letter to the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval.

"We call upon the government of Israel to safeguard their (Palestinians') rights, to rescind these deleterious policies, to restore identity cards that have been confiscated, and to refrain from further confiscation," the U.S. leaders wrote.

Their letter was a follow-up to one last year from three Christian leaders in Jerusalem to Israeli Interior Minister Eli Suissa which cited a dramatic increase in the confiscation of East Jerusalem identity cards during the past two years.

"Although some of these confiscations have been justified legally, we feel that this issue constitutes a serious practical dislocation of the Palestinian population within Jerusalem," said Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I and Armenian Patriarch Torkom Manoogian in their letter.

According to a September 1998 report by B'tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, confiscations of residency permits of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem averaged 36 per year in the years 1987-95, with a high of 96 in 1995. From 1995 to 1996, however, the number of confiscations jumped more than 700 percent to 689, and has remained close to that level since.

The Jerusalem patriarchs said "hard-working and peace-seeking Christians are being forced out of their city" because of the lack of affordable housing within city boundaries or because of the need to work or study abroad.

"Now with the stringent requirements to establish a 'center of life' within those same boundaries, many of these families or individuals face losing their access to the city of their birth through the revocation of their residency rights," the letter said.

A spokesman for Patriarch Sabbah said in mid-February that "the situation has not changed" since the patriarchs' initial protest and the U.S. leaders' follow-up letter, sent in January and made public in February.

The U.S. religious leaders' letter echoed the Jerusalem patriarchs' "great alarm and concern" about the Israeli policy, saying it is "detrimental to the continued presence and witness of the Christian churches in Jerusalem and an infringement upon the rights of all Palestinians, Christian and Muslim."

"The churches in the holy city of Jerusalem are not composed only of stones, but more importantly are communities of faithful, worshiping believers," said the letter to Shoval. "Any further diminution of their numbers or weakening of their vitality is a matter of great concern to the churches everywhere."

A copy of the letter was sent to U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Nearly two dozen other U.S. religious leaders endorsed the letter from Archbishops Spyridon and Khajag and Bishop Fiorenza. Among them were Maryknoll Father Dennis W. Cleary, U.S. regional superior of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches.

Other denominations represented in the endorsement included Lutheran, Serbian Orthodox, Reformed, Episcopal, Syrian Orthodox, Disciples of Christ, Moravian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Friends, Church of the Brethren, United Church of Christ and Mar Thoma Church. ▼

Israel invests $450 million in 2000 preparations, says official

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israel has invested $450 million on various projects in preparations for the year 2000, Minister of Tourism Moshe Katzav said.

Israel hopes to provide Christians of all nationalities, including those from the Arab world, an opportunity to visit the Holy Land during the millennial celebrations, Katzav said at a press conference Feb. 15.

"Our efforts are not for any political or economic consideration," Katzav said. "Our main efforts are to be ready for the year 2000 because it is our obligation to supply all the facilities and services necessary to the Christian world."

Katzav said regional cooperation with Jordan and Egypt is "very good" and he hopes that pilgrims will be able to visit all three countries with only one airline ticket. In addition, he said, cooperation with the Palestinians is "much better" than in the past. He said he had visited with his Palestinian counterpart in Bethlehem the previous week to exchange views.

Shabtai Shai, general director of the Ministry of Tourism, said Israel views the year 2000 as an opportunity to reposition its image as a tourist destination, despite years of security concerns.

"We want to build an image for the country not just as a place for pilgrimages but also as a popular tourist destination," he said. "We want (jubilee pilgrims) to leave the country satisfied and bring back with them their friends and relatives."

In addition to improving infrastructure, restoring holy sites and increasing accommodations, the ministry is also training tourism professionals about the special needs and expectations of the year 2000 pilgrims and is preparing the local population for the influx of pilgrims.

Citizens need to know what 2000 tourism "means to the economy of the state and ... understand that the pilgrims not only bring more traffic but also benefit the country," said Shai.

The government is also giving face lifts to other sites of interest such as Massada, Caesarea, Beit Shean and the Old City of Akko in the hopes that groups will visit these sites in order to enlarge the pilgrimage route, he said.

One of the main focuses of the government has been Nazareth, but visitors to that city still are faced with traffic jams. Local residents maintain that nothing has changed in their city, although the renovation of the outdoor market and several churches has been completed.

"Nazareth has a very long backlog in its development of public infrastructure," said Shai.

He added that the recent confrontations between Christians and Muslims in that city have delayed various projects, including development of more parking areas and open-air plazas. ▼

John Pagel at 7 p.m. in the church hall for everyone in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing. Refreshments will follow. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

26 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

CHARLOTTE — The AIDS Memorial Quilt is on display today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m., and Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Belk Gymnasium at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The opening ceremony is Feb. 26 at 6 p.m., and the closing ceremony is Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. The display is co-sponsored by UNC-Charlotte and the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. For details, call Shane Windmeyer, (704) 547-2521. Special transportation needs and bus or van parking can be arranged by Feb. 23.

27 CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School hosts "Swing with Us!", its annual gala and auction benefiting the school, today from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Swing 1000 Club on Central Avenue. Tickets are $75 each, which includes dinner, valet parking, and entertainment. The CCHS Foundation is also selling tickets at $5 each or 6 for $25 for chances at winning a cruise for two on the Mississippi River. All tickets can be purchased by sending a check payable to CCHS Foundation to 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28226. For details, call (704) 543-9118.

28 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, hosts a "moms' evening" today at 7 p.m. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990, or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

CHARLOTTE — The Ultreya Christian community meets today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. For details, call (704) 542-1241.

March

2 GREENSBORO — Marian Father Waldek Ziolkowski discusses how to develop Christian character today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details on this and other adult religious education sessions, call (336) 274-0415.

5 BOONE — A Lenten healing service is today at 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. Stations of the Cross follow. For details, call (828) 264-8338.

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated today at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30, and Benediction with adoration follows the Mass. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

6 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey Basilica today, starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m., continuing with the rosary at 9:30, and concluding with the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:30. For details, call Terri or Phil DeLuca, (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. at Appalachian State University's Catholic campus ministry facility, 232 Faculty St. A covered dish dinner precedes the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.

CHARLOTTE — The Emerald Ball, benefiting Holy Angels in Belmont, is today in Founder's Hall. Various sponsorship levels are available. Holy Angels provides programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation and multiple disabilities. For details, call (704) 542-6846.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

At audience, pope says he appealed to Americas to respect life

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said his messages in Mexico City and St. Louis were an appeal to all American peoples to respect human life at every stage of its development.

"No to abortion and euthanasia; enough with the unnecessary recourse to the death penalty; no to racism and to the abuse of children, women and the indigenous," the pope said Feb. 10, summing up his message.

As is his custom, the pope used his first weekly general audience after his late-January trip to reflect on the visit and to thank the government and church officials who hosted him.

Pope John Paul said his message to the Americas also included an appeal to stop the weapons and drugs trades and the destruction of the environment.

"This visit of mine was, in a certain sense, a great appeal to America that it accept the Gospel of life and of the family, that it repudiate and combat every form of violence against the human person," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said he found American Catholics "very attentive and committed to the defense of life and of the family, inseparable values which constitute a great challenge for the present and future of humanity."

It is within the family, he said, that freedom learns to grow on the foundation of moral values and the laws of God.

"America can carry out its important role in the church and in the world only if it defends and promotes the immense spiritual and social patrimony of its families," he said.

The pope said he was touched and encouraged especially by the young people he met in Mexico and the United States.

Their enthusiasm and their interruptions of applause when "I presented the most exacting aspects of the Christian proposal showed that they want to be the protagonists of a new season of courageous witness, effective solidarity and generous commitment to serving the Gospel," the pope said.

Pope, Irish president discuss peace problems in N. Ireland

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Irish President Mary McAleese met Pope John Paul II on Feb. 12 to discuss problems obtaining peace in Northern Ireland. "There was an exchange of opinions on the current situation in Ireland," said a statement released afterward by Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. "Particular importance was given to the problem of peace in Northern Ireland. Mrs. McAleese reported on the goals already reached and on the prospects for the future," the statement said. The pope "expressed to the president his satisfaction with this path of reconciliation."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Will Catholics listen to the pope on the death penalty?

Again the pope has come to America, mesmerizing thousands of youth and adults through his charismatic presence and insights about human needs. His words that struck me most forcefully were about the most serious conflict we face today "between a culture that affirms, cherishes and celebrates life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings — the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped and others considered 'unuseful' — to be outside the boundaries of legal protection."

Among those "others" are prisoners on death row. The pope urged Catholics to oppose the death penalty, calling this "cruel and unnecessary ... even in the case of someone who has done great evil."

Pope John Paul II believes so deeply in this need to work for a universal culture of life that he took an unexpected step. He asked Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, a Baptist, to commute the death sentence of Darrell J. Mease, convicted of killing three people in 1988. Amazingly, the governor responded by commuting the sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. He explained he did this not because he had changed his mind about the death penalty, but out of respect for the pope.

And so, our amazing pope came to America, gave great inspiration to great crowds of people and achieved something dear to his heart: He saved a life.

News stories after this speculated how American Catholics would react to his strong condemnation of the death penalty. A New York Times story said that lay Catholics support the death penalty by a 2 to 1 margin, reflecting "an implicit rift" between many Catholics and the pope.

I, personally, was overjoyed that the pope was firmly outspoken against the death penalty, a position I have held for a long time. I have had a hard time with the inconsistency I've seen in some Catholics who join the crusade against abortion, but cheer the killing of prisoners.

My readers know that I do not come to my anti-death penalty position as an academic. My life was seared by murder when an 18-year-old cold-bloodedly shot my son John and his wife Nancy five years ago in Montana. The young man faced the death penalty, and I had to ask myself, "Does anyone who could steal the lives of two good people deserve to live?" Facing that question was the most intense moment of truth I ever had to struggle with.

In Montana, two sons and I had to taste the death in that bedroom, with the bullet hole in the blood-stained wall. We fell to our knees, praying to the Lord to exorcise the evil from that room. Strangely, in that moment, I didn't want any more death.

I saw clearly that we are wrong to put the emphasis on "penalty" when it should be on "unnatural death" and all the horror this word conveys. Unnatural death at the hands of evil is horrendous, hateful to the life-giving Lord. My faith taught me that. But it also taught me that equally horrendous is murder when it is sanitized by calling it official and lawful. God is the one in charge of life and death. We have no business trying to take over.

God bless our pope for his courage in coming to America and urging us to end the death penalty. We should follow our holy leader's example.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Novel ministries to meet continent's crying needs

I have been accused by some persons of preferring to "make up" ideas for new ministries rather than actually "do" something, which is absolutely a horrible thing to say to someone working diligently to come up with a solid, working mission statement for a parish-based, but nationally funded, paper-shuffling ministry (PSM).

I invested the better part of an afternoon working with the acronymical possibilities. However, I rejected almost everything: MOPE (ministry of paper executives), OOPS (outreach of paper shufflers), POOPP (parish outreach to ol' paper pushers), etc.

I decided PSM is straight to the point. Besides, it might fool some large pharmaceutical companies into sending along monster grants.

The point is, however, that PSM was an outgrowth of a conversation about another crying need across North America and even parts of Minnesota — especially at this time of year when you see "Little League Sign-Up" signs popping up in snow banks and on reader boards:

VCR (volunteer coach retreats). This is such a great idea it's hard to decide if it should be taken up by a parish's social justice committee, evangelization team, retreat promotion coordinators or hospitality committee.

Regardless, and I know this for a fact, there are tons and tons (33 or 34 tons at least) of people out there right now who are going to volunteer to coach little people about baseball. I say "little people" because most of the players who are going to sign up are, in fact, little people.

There's a caveat, however. It is only fair to point out that an unusual number of teams — against which the teams I coached in the past played — had connections in forgery rings and managed to obtain documents claiming very large "little people" were 10 years old and could play against "my" 10 year olds.

It appeared to me that most of these other teams' players had been shaving for years, probably worked part-time as piano movers and could crush soda cans (I assume it was soda) into ball bearings in one fist.

You can sense already, I'm sure, the many potential issues VCRs could address. Take parents. Please.

Actually, that's not fair. It is an overused axiom that parents who are normally nice, polite, hard-working (even paper-pushing) folks all of a sudden turn into ranting idiots when they see their children in a game. Not fair. By far they rant the loudest when their son or daughter is NOT in the game.

During games, parents are only mildly dangerous, and at many facilities there is a cyclone fence between the playing field and the stands. What irritates coaches, of course, is unsolicited advice like, "Hey, you so-called baseball coach, why don't you have them throw it around the horn?"

I would just smile, knowing that nautical terms would only confuse the boys. Besides, I always felt that kicking the ball from base to base reduced chances of head injuries and built skills they could use later in soccer season.

So, I am sincere in proposing that volunteer coach retreats could be a great place for people to "get their heads on straight," as they say in football, and reflect on the work they are doing for young people.

It would be good, however, to make sure these are scheduled after trading deadline and that the retreat master was familiar with Little League rules for substitutions and stealing bases.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Everyday death, everyday life

One of the best things about writing a weekly newspaper column is the response I get. In return for expressing some of my thoughts, many readers do me the honor of sharing theirs with me.

Over a year ago I wrote a piece about a friend's mother who was in a coma and, according to the considered opinion of her doctors, on her deathbed. After much painful discussion, the family decided to have the machines providing "extraordinary means" disconnected. To the amazement of her family my friend's mom woke up. She lived and enjoyed her family for several weeks more.

Among the readers moved to write was a doctor who works in critical care. I later quoted Dr. Wes Ely who said that while he "considers patient care a vocation, my inability to predict a patient's course is always humbling for me. The wonder of God in such 'miracles' is an important daily consideration."

Dr. Ely and I have kept in touch. Recently he sent me a fascinating and moving letter recounting a couple of days in the Intensive Care Unit "dealing with a huge variety of patients with a multitude of illnesses. For example, a 17-year-old girl pregnant with an 11-week fetus resulting from a date rape came in with severe meningitis.... She arrived to us in the ICU brain dead. We kept her on life support for ... until we had evidence that no blood was flowing to her brain, and then I had a discussion with the family about withdrawal of life support. ... The reaction was so violent and angry that even I was amazed by the mother's reaction and I have these sorts of conversations about death on a daily basis. She screamed at God not to take her little girl. I got her in touch with a priest since they were Catholic. By the next day she had acquired a peace or at least enough control to go through the necessary discussions and bedside good-byes."

Then he told me about a woman with advanced Lupus whose "heart just stopped and wouldn't come back despite 30 minutes of resuscitative efforts. Her husband was seriously hurting, and her daughter screamed out, 'Oh no, Mommy. I need my Mom. I just know she is not really dead. ... I'm 16-years-old and all alone in this ------ world! What am I going to do?'"

The third death he described was that of a 40-year-old man with a progressive lung disease who had received a lung transplant a year before. After months at home, serious complications developed. At the end he had pneumonia, a blood clot and transplant rejection. "His wife ... requested we withdraw support." The next day Dr. Ely sent a note to the transplant team about the man's death. It said that his wife "spoke with resolve through her tears and showed remarkable clarity of thought. ... I have written a letter to the family that describes our sorrow and yet strengthens the nature of her decisions. Perhaps this may relieve any of the unnecessary yet inevitable guilt that she will feel. It was a tough day in the unit."

Yet in the same period, Dr. Ely and his colleagues were able to save a pregnant woman with severe asthma and her unborn child, a college student who had overdosed on alcohol; and give two patients transplants.

I believe many of us think that when death comes we will slip away quietly at a ripe old age, sound of mind and body to the end. Death and life are rarely that peaceful. Thank you, Dr. Ely. Thanks to all of you who bring wisdom and compassion to the dying and those who love them.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The church's position on cremation

Q: Could you please give us the church's position on cremation?

For years we have been told cremation is permitted anytime, for anyone. Now, some of our clergy claim that cremation is allowed only in emergencies (epidemics, disasters with many casualties, etc.) or when individuals are too poor for a traditional funeral.

This has upset some older people who have already arranged, with their children's consent, to be cremated. Is there a change or is the information we received wrong?

A. Catholic Church law permitting cremation has not changed basically since 1964, when the Congregation of the Holy Office lifted the long-time ban on the practice.

As you probably know, cremation was once forbidden because it was promoted years ago by groups, particularly in Europe, who used cremation as an argument against the resurrection and immortality. It is ridiculous, they claimed, to believe God can gather all that smoke and ashes together to make us rise.

Almost no one holds that position today. Reasons for desiring cremation have more to do with health, economics and other private or public concerns.

Thus, the relaxation of the rule. In fact, Catholic funeral liturgy explicitly provides for burial rituals in the context of cremation. (See Introduction to the Rite of Funerals and Canon 1176.)

More recently (1997), regulations were relaxed even further, allowing funeral Masses with the ashes present.

I don't know how your parish staff might have come up with those conditions, but nothing in church law limits cremation to emergencies, financial straits or other such circumstances.

Two important cautions do need to be considered, however. First, while it allows cremation, our church makes clear a strong preference for the traditional custom (in our culture at least) of burying the body in a tomb.

St. Augustine noted 1,600 years ago that Christian funeral rites are more for the living than the dead. He meant that at a time of death, friends and relatives have many lessons to learn about life and death, the shortness of time on earth and priorities that become confused in the normal course of daily living.

His point was that we need the reminders that confront us in the presence of the body of a friend, in the Eucharist we offer and in placing the body in the grave. All our funeral liturgy, from wake to burial, spell out those reminders in the context of Jesus' own death and resurrection.

The second concern is somewhat related. At the time of death we need to consider how what we plan will affect loved ones left behind. The very least we should do, when family is involved, is discuss the decision thoroughly with them, and make sure they are spiritually and emotionally comfortable with the arrangement.

Anthropologists tell us you can learn much about a culture by the way people treat their dead, and how they ritualize their loss and grief. We cannot allow ourselves to lose contact with the great spiritual realities that confront us as Christians in times of death and burial.

Lenten Reflections

FATHER WILBUR THOMAS
VICAR FOR PRIESTS

From slavery to freedom

This forty day period before the Easter Triduum wherein we pray, fast and do charitable works is a time for us to meditate on and hopefully understand in a fuller way the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. These are the actions by which God showed great love for the world and those who believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Through God's Son we are truly being freed from that power in this world that often deceives and binds us. We are held bound and ineffective in loving one another and thus in letting God be God in our lives. Consider the following Gospel account:

Matthew 23:1-12 states: Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi." As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (NAB: Revised New Testament, 1986) .

One of the major reasons many of us are still slaves, bound to routine, bound to destructive relationships, bound to sickness....bound, is that we often choose to relinquish our personal responsibility to make decisions and thereby take authority over our lives. We often choose instead to let others usurp our personal authority and therefore we become powerless to change, to be free, even to decide. This deception is very evident in our society in that often we are very apathetic and actually irresponsible in our attempts at building human relationships. We fall to that deception that we cannot effect change in our society or in our personal relationships that will benefit our personal growth and development.

Those persons to whom we give our personal authority, whether secular or religious, often become deceived into the belief that everything depends on them and their decisions and consequent actions. They become bound to the deception that they are "in control." They begin to "take charge" out of the best of intentions only to end up being less free and very limited human beings themselves.

Jesus teaches us, first and foremost that God is the sole authority in our lives and we are solely dependent on God for any power that allows us the freedom to act responsibly. He

SEE LENTEN REFLECTION, PAGE 11

School of Americas foe heartened by growing opposition

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The massive turnout at November's protest in Georgia may have been a turning point in the movement to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas, according to the priest who started the effort. With increasing public awareness about the campaign, the organizers are now figuring out how to manage the logistics of rallies that draw thousands of people from across the country. They're also looking toward investigating other U.S. training programs for foreign militaries. Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois described for students at Georgetown University Feb. 10 how his one-man protest of a decade ago grew into a nationwide grass-roots campaign involving clergy, elderly nuns, college students, veterans and families.

Pope, Anglican leader discuss India violence, 2000 cooperation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, to discuss church cooperation for the year 2000 and shared concern over recent anti-Christian violence in India. Archbishop Carey, head of the Church of England, met privately with the pope for about a half hour Feb. 13. In a statement, the archbishop said the two had "expressed deep concern over the incidents of persecution of Christians and others in the Indian sub-continent." They also talked about pastoral problems in Sudan, another country where Christians have frequently complained of discrimination, and pledged that their churches would work together in the African country.

STOP ATTROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN AND NUNS
STOP ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Indian Christians

Catholic nuns in Calcutta rally Feb. 11 to protest violence against Christians. Hindu militants are suspected in recent murders and rapes of Christian missionaries and nuns in India. Some 25,000 Christians joined the protest in Calcutta.

Vatican doctrine head cites 'need for moral absolutes'

MENLO PARK, Calif. (CNS) — Meeting with reporters Feb. 12 after a multinational Catholic doctrinal consultation, Vatican doctrine chief Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger warned against moral relativism, saying there is a "need for moral absolutes." Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, one of the meeting's U.S. participants, said the fact that some people don't follow church teaching does not mean the teaching is wrong. Rather, he said, it challenges church leaders to "find new ways" to get the teaching across. The Feb. 9-12 consultation was held at the Vallombrosa Center, a San Francisco archdiocesan retreat and conference center in Menlo Park.

Theologian says church must not ignore electronic revolution

CINCINNATI (CNS) — By his own admission, Jesuit Father Avery Dulles rarely watches television or goes to the movies and has no experience with the World Wide Web. But despite his status as "a survivor of the print generation," the 80-year-old theologian told Catholic communicators that "electronic transmission is dominant" in today's society. Speaking on "Catholics in the World of Mass Media" at the annual gathering of the Salesian Guild Jan. 23 at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Father Dulles warned that the electronic revolution "is producing a new mentality that we cannot afford to neglect." "My own impression is that the enormous power and impact of productions tend to engender a rather passive consumer who is content to be a spectator rather than an actor — a follower rather than a leader," he said.

Peace prize winner urges U.S.-Iraq dialogue, not bombs

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Mairead Corrigan Maguire, co-winner of the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to end violence in Northern Ireland, urged President Clinton in a Feb. 10 talk to use with Iraq the dialogue and negotiations that he has supported in Northern Ireland. She also called on the church to set aside the traditional just-war theory, and to recognize that "Jesus was totally nonviolent." Maguire spoke to about 100 people under sponsorship of the Maryknoll Center for Mission Research and Study.

Students wait hours to join volunteer housing project

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 100 students at The Catholic University of America lined up for hours into a cold, rainy night to apply for 53 positions to build and rehabilitate houses in the South at spring break. Registration for the Habitat for Humanity assignments to New Orleans, and Clearwater and Miami, Fla., opened at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 6. "I just made it," said a relieved Annie Glanville of Holyoke, Mass., who arrived more than eight hours early at 2 a.m. "People started getting in line at 11 o'clock Friday night."

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

K of C

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald
19 de febrero de 1999
Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

Arzobispo colombiano recuerda a 'héroes silenciosos' del terremoto

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Monseñor Pedro Rubiano Sáenz, Arzobispo de Bogotá, elogió a los "héroes silenciosos desconocidos" que desempeñaron un papel indispensable en los esfuerzos de rescate del terremoto y oraron por las víctimas del desastre que destruyó a las ciudades de la región occidental del país.

"Todavía estamos sacudidos por la tragedia y por algunos relatos de horros que hemos estado escuchando", dijo Monseñor Rubiano durante la Misa del domingo 31 de enero.

"Pero tenemos que ver también los numerosos ejemplos de generosidad y el espíritu heroico que se ha mostrado durante esta semana trágica", agregó él.

El terremoto ocurrió el 25 de enero, devastando a 20 pueblos y aldeas de cinco provincias. Armenia, la capital de la provincia de Quindio, sufrió los peores daños, dijeron las autoridades.

Por lo menos 940 personas resultaron muertas y tantas como 4,000 lesionadas en el terremoto, dijeron los funcionarios colombianos el 31 de enero.

En su edición para el 31 de enero, el diario "El Tiempo" dedicó una página a los "Apóstoles de Armenia", personas corrientes que han estado desempeñando papeles heroicos en medio de la tragedia.

En su edición para el 31 de enero, el diario "El Tiempo" dedicó una página a los "Apóstoles de Armenia", personas corrientes que han estado desempeñando papeles heroicos en medio de la tragedia.

"El Tiempo" informó que Jorge Iván García, propietario de una de las mayores tiendas de Armenia, en vez de aprovecharse de la escasez de alimentos, como lo hicieron muchos otros, regaló mercancías por valor de millares de dólares a los más necesitados.

Alberto Llanos, de 53 años de edad, se hallaba cerca del cementerio de Armenia cuando vio la llegada de los primeros cadáveres.

"Advertí inmediatamente que se necesitaría de más de un par de brazos para ayudar a excavar sepulturas", dijo él.

"Cuando cierro las tumbas, oro por los muertos y doy gracias a Dios por aquéllos de nosotros que estamos vivos. Esa es toda la compensación que puedo pedir", dijo Llanos. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Fernando Taborga y Ernesto López llevan una estatua de San Antonio que ellos rescataron el 2 de febrero de una escuela católica dañada por el terremoto de Armenia, Colombia.

Más sobrevivientes de Mitch huyen a los Estados Unidos

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Las dependencias eclesiásticas y gubernamentales dijeron que los sobrevivientes del Huracán Mitch están huyendo de la América Central, asolada por la tormenta, en busca de trabajo en los Estados Unidos.

Desde el 15 de noviembre último en adelante, la corriente de migrantes ha aumentado en gran medida, dijo Mario Morales, coordinador adjunto de un refugio auspiciado por la Iglesia para los inmigrantes ilegales en la frontera entre Guatemala y México.

El dijo en una entrevista telefónica que, en diciembre, más de 900 personas habían pasado por la Casa del Migrante, un proyecto apoyado por los Misioneros Escalabrinos en el pueblo fronterizo de Tecún Umán, Guatemala. El promedio mensual normal era de entre 300 y 400 migrantes.

La mayoría en diciembre fueron centroamericanos, que huían de la secuela de Mitch e iban de camino hacia los Estados Unidos, agregó Morales.

Aproximadamente 9,000 personas murieron y 13,000 fueron lesionadas cuando Mitch barrió a través de la América Central a fines de octubre y principios de noviembre. Honduras y Nicaragua sufrieron el grueso de los daños, dejando a sus infraestructuras y economías frágiles en ruinas.

La directora de los servicios de inmigración de Honduras, Reina Ochoa, dijo a mediados de enero que alrededor de 300 hondureños al día estaban saliendo hacia los Estados Unidos.

El consulado estadounidense en Tegucigalpa, la capital de Honduras, dijo que las solicitudes de visas habían aumentado en un 40 por ciento sobre las peticiones de enero de 1998.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos proporcionó ayuda de emergencia por valor de $300 millones para las gestiones de reconstrucción, y el Congreso de los Estados Unidos estaba considerando dar ayuda adicional.

"La razón de nuestro compromiso sólido con la reconstrucción subraya la necesidad de hacer posible que las personas permanezcan en sus países", dijo Doris Meissner, comisionada del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización de los Estados Unidos.

Ella advirtió que los centroamericanos que se recuperan de los daños ocasionados por el huracán "no deberían arriesgarse a viajar al norte".

Ella dijo en San Salvador: "No se vayan, quédense aquí, se les necesita aquí para la reconstrucción ... ayuden a su nación".

Morales dijo que la corriente de inmigrantes ilegales no será detenida "con nuevos obstáculos o limitaciones en leyes nuevas". ▼

Sacerdote dice que Mitch dejó atrás una oportunidad en Honduras

CLINTON, Carolina del Norte (CNS) — El daño que el Huracán Mitch hizo en Honduras y otros países centroamericanos fue devastador. Pero un director diocesano de comunicaciones que trabaja en Honduras dijo que la tormenta dejó atrás también una oportunidad inapreciable.

"La gente ha dicho que Mitch fue como un Día del Juicio de Dios, no un castigo, sino una sentencia," dijo el Padre Carlos Arce, franciscano conventual, director de comunicaciones en la Diócesis de Juticalpa, Honduras, y director de Radio Católica en Olancho.

"Es un llamado a revisar de qué modo estamos viviendo y a reparar lo que no esté correcto", dijo él. "Hay mucha injusticia en Honduras, y Dios quiere que eso cambie".

Esa es la oportunidad que el Padre Arce, oriundo de Nicaragua, dijo que el gobierno de Honduras está pasando por alto.

Las gestiones del gobierno se han centrado sobre la infraestructura del país — carreteras, puentes, edificios, servicios públicos — dijo el Padre Arce. "Ellos creen que habrá una nueva Honduras, y eso está bien. Pero otro desafío es aún más importante: La edificación del nuevo ciudadano, el nuevo hondureño, con nuevos valores y nuevas actitudes". ▼

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vincente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo:

El día 17 de febrero iniciamos el tiempo de Cuaresma con la celebración del Miércoles de Ceniza. Ese día el sacerdote pone en nuestra frente la señal de la Cruz hecha en ceniza y nos dice una de dos cosas:

Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio o Acuérdate que eres polvo y al polvo has de volver

Hoy quiero reflexionar la primera frase con ustedes: "Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio". La Cuaresma inicia invitándonos a hacer dos cosas: arrepentirnos y creer. Arrepentir es convertir, es cambiar de mentalidad, de estilo de ser y de actuar. Es dejar las redes en la barca y caminar libremente por el camino de Jesús.

Con el Miércoles de Ceniza, empezamos a reflexionar sobre nuestra realidad de pecadores y nuestra necesidad de cambiar de mentalidad, de dejar las redes en la barca, o sea, dejar las cosas que no nos dejan caminar libremente detrás de Jesús, de vivir más plenamente el Evangelio. Reconocemos que necesitamos ser mejores personas, mejores cristianos.

También reconocemos la necesidad de tener cambios en nuestra comunidad, en nuestro mundo. Vemos como Cristo sigue sufriendo, más recientemente, en Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua. ¿Cuáles son las redes que necesitamos dejar en la barca para poder ser mejores personas, mejores seguidores de Cristo? ¿Cuáles son las redes que hay que dejar en la barca para que nuestra comunidad pueda convivir en un verdadero ambiente de fraternidad, de justicia, de paz?

Hoy quiero ofrecerles un camino. El camino de **COMPARTIR. Convertirse es compartir.** Convertirse no es compasión, no es compartir lo que sobra. Es compartir con amor la esperanza, la pobreza, la cercanía para con el pueblo pobre. Es compartir el corazón. El corazón que comparte la espera del pueblo, que comparte su dolor, que busca el encuentro con el hermano, que reparte el perdón y la reconciliación. Convertirse es compartir el camino y la ilusión del pueblo. Es compartir entre hermanos la amistad que vivimos con Dios. Convertirse es compartir el Dios oculto en nuestra debilidad humana y descubrirlo en la debilidad humana del otro. Es soñar con un mundo distinto: un mundo de justicia, de amor y de paz. Es acoger, abrazar, curar el dolor del pobre. Es llorar con el otro, es alegrarse con un Dios que quiso ser pobre.

Hermanos y hermanas, en este tiempo de Cuaresma, busquemos dejar las redes que no permiten que nos arrepintamos y creamos en el Evangelio. Pidamos a Dios que la paz y la reconciliación humana que queremos en nuestra comunidad sea realmente fruto de nuestra conversión a Dios, a su Reino, a su justicia.

Al servicio del Reino

Toda la vida de Cristo fue un servicio inmediato y sencillo para el bien de los hombres y mujeres de su tiempo. El Señor pasó su vida buscando el bien material y espiritual de todos sus hermanos. Su presencia señala la llegada del Reino de Dios, Reino de bondad y salvación, Reino de liberación de los males espirituales y corporales que nos afligen.

A este servicio humilde, muchas veces anónimo, nos llama a todos. De hecho todos nos encontrarnos a cada rato con personas que sufren en su cuerpo o en su alma. A esas personas nos envía Jesús para que les ofrezcamos una mano amiga que los ayude a salir de la prueba o a aceptarla con fe y con cristiana resignación.

Frente al dolor y las adversidades de la vida, no hay que desesperarse. Ya que Dios todo tiene en cuenta y sabrá recompensar -a su debido tiempo la fe que hayamos puesto en El y el amor que le hayamos demostrado prestando nuestros servicios a hermanos y hermanas en dificultad.

Tenemos que ponernos al servicio de nuestros semejantes y del Evangelio con lealtad y con perseverancia. Estamos conscientes de nuestras limitaciones. Sabemos que no podemos socorrer a todos y que no podemos llegar a todos. Pero conocemos también la grandeza y la posibilidad que todos tenemos de ser cristianos auténticos y verdaderos apóstoles e imitadores de Cristo.

Tengamos confianza en Dios y la seguridad de que todas las cosas, agradables y desagradables que nos pasan en la vida, El las guía y las conduce para nuestro bien.

Trabajemos con ahínco para el bien espiritual y material de nuestro prójimo, principalmente para las personas más cercanas a nosotros.

Sólo en la fe podremos encontrar la respuesta a muchos problemas que encontramos en nuestra vida: como son la injusticia, el dolor y la muerte. ▼

Reimpreso de "Unidos en la Oración", con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

El Vaticano empezará 'lugar' en la Red dedicado al Año del Jubileo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los peregrinos que planean hacer un viaje a Roma para el Año Jubilar pueden hacer una visita virtual primero y hasta efectuar arreglos para su estada, con un nuevo lugar del Vaticano en la Internet, dedicado al año 2000.

El "lugar", que entrará en funciones el 22 de febrero con el indicativo www.Jubil2000.org, ofrece bastante información práctica, tal como el modo de llegar desde el aeropuerto hasta la Plaza de San Pedro, así como mapas de la ciudad, descripciones de acontecimientos especiales y las horas de apertura de las basílicas principales.

Una versión de trabajo en italiano ya estaba disponible en enero, aunque sólo podía tenerse acceso a ella con una palabra en clave. Para la fecha de comienzo en febrero, las páginas en español e inglés del emplazamiento habrían de estar ya funcionando completamente. Los programadores se hallaban trabajando todavía en las versiones en francés, alemán; portugués y polaco. ▼

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 4:30 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

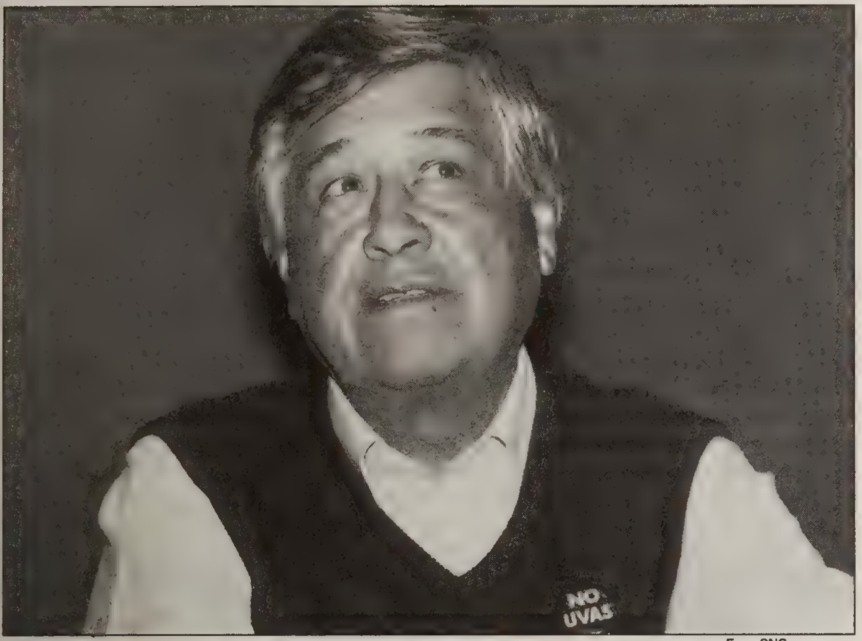


Foto CNS de archivo

César Chávez

César Chávez, que fué presidente del sindicato de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos de los Estados Unidos y murió en 1993 a la edad de 66 años, fué instalado en el Salón de la Fama del Trabajo.

Confirmaciones

CHARLOTTE - El pasado 6 de febrero el obispo de la Diócesis de Charlotte, Monseñor William G. Curlin, celebró el sacramento de la Confirmación en el Centro Católico de Charlotte.

En esta celebración se confirmaron: Edmundo Amancha, Paola Amancha, Taguy Cruz, José J. Flores, Rosa E. Mascorro, Nicolás Mutis, Jennifer Rodríguez, Jessica Rodríguez, Gladys Rosario y Andrea Tapia. Ellos recibieron su preparación de las maestras Noamí Rosado y Consuelo Cansler.

Los Reverendos Padres Anthony Marcaccio y Vicente Finnerty y el diácono Rev. Sr. Rafael Torres ayudaron al Sr. Obispo en esta ceremonia.

Después de las confirmaciones hubo una pequeña recepción donde el obispo compartió con los asistentes. ▾

Cardenal Ratzinger califica la donación de órganos de 'gesto de amor'

ROMA (CNS) — El Cardenal Joseph Ratzinger, funcionario doctrinal principal del Vaticano, dice que él es un donante de órganos que lleva su tarjeta consigo y que lo estima como un "gesto de amor" hacia las personas que necesitan transplantes de órganos.

El cardenal alemán, director de la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe, hizo sus observaciones en una entrevista con el periódico de Roma "La Repubblica" el 4 de febrero, a medida que Italia debatía un proyecto de legislación sobre los donativos de órganos.

"El donar los órganos de uno es un gesto moralmente lícito de amor, siempre que sea un acto libre y espontáneo", dijo el cardenal.

El agregó que se había unido a una asociación de donantes de órganos hace varios años, y que lleva siempre una tarjeta en la que declara su disposición de donar sus órganos a cualquier persona que los necesite.

La enseñanza de la Iglesia declara que el donativo libre de los órganos después de la muerte es legítimo y puede ser recomendable. ▾

Papa dice que apeló a las Américas para que respeten la vida

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que sus mensajes en Ciudad México y Saint Louis fueron un llamado para que los pueblos de las Américas respeten la vida humana en todas sus etapas.

"No al aborto y a la eutanasia; basta ya del recurso innecesario a la pena de muerte; no al racismo y no al abuso de los niños, las mujeres y los indígenas", dijo el Papa el 10 de febrero.

El Papa usó su primera audiencia general semanal después de su viaje a fines de enero para reflexionar sobre la visita.

El Papa Juan Pablo agregó que su mensaje a las Américas incluía también un llamado para detener el comercio de armas y narcóticos y la destrucción del ambiente.

El Papa Juan Pablo dijo que él halló a los católicos de las Américas "muy atentos y comprometidos a la defensa de la vida y de la familia, valores inseparables que constituyen un gran reto para el presente y el futuro de la humanidad".

El Papa continuó diciendo que se sintió emocionado y alentado especialmente por los jóvenes con quienes se reunió en México y los Estados Unidos.

Su entusiasmo y sus interrupciones para aplaudir cuando "presenté los aspectos más estrictos de la propuesta cristiana, mostraron que ellos quieren ser los protagonistas de una nueva temporada de testimonio valeroso, solidaridad eficaz y compromiso generoso de servicio al Evangelio", dijo el Papa. ▾

Parroquia de Fiji celebrará la primera Misa del milenio

WAIRIKI, Fiji (CNS) — La Iglesia de la Santa Cruz de Wairiki celebrará la primera Misa del milenio.

La parroquia de la isla de Taveuni, en el archipiélago de Fiji, es la iglesia católica más cercana a la línea internacional de la fecha, de modo que su Misa de medianoche el 31 de diciembre será la primera Misa del año 2000.

El Padre John Crispin, marista, de 56 años de edad, oriundo de Nueva Zelandia, administra esa parroquia con el Padre Lui Raco, oriundo de Fiji. El Padre Crispin es el hombre que tiene más probabilidades de celebrar la Misa.

El Padre Crispin dijo que la Misa reflejaría la escala de los acontecimientos que se ven normalmente sólo durante la Semana Santa, cuando las multitudes de millares de personas asisten a las ceremonias fuera de la Iglesia, porque no hay espacio suficiente dentro.

La Misa será celebrada principalmente para los residentes locales antes que para los turistas. Casi todos los 14,000 habitantes de Taveuni son católicos, y cerca de 6,000 de ellos pertenecen a la Parroquia de la Santa Cruz. La mayoría de los habitantes de Fiji son metodistas.

La situación de Taveuni no es un secreto, y las habitaciones de hoteles para la Víspera del Año Nuevo se están vendiendo rápidamente y por una gran cantidad de dinero.

Cuando los turistas se aproximan a Taveuni, ven una enorme cruz blanca a un tercio de la altura de la ladera de una colina. ▾

Trabajador/a de Caso y Visitador/a Social

Se necesita inmediatamente una persona con experiencia para trabajar directamente con la comunidad hispana/latina. Esta persona ayudará a identificar e inscribir niños hispanos/latinos en un nuevo programa para el cuidado de la salud; debe ser graduada universitaria y bilingüe; debe sentirse cómoda tratando con personas de diferentes niveles culturales y sociales y además debe ser hábil usando varios programas de computadora.

Favor enviar hoja de vida a: Geri King, Directora de Servicios Sociales Católicos, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 o al fax (704) 370-3377.

El Papa, volando hacia México, dice que continuará viajes mundiales

A BORDO DEL VUELO DEL PAPA HACIA MEXICO (CNS) Su espalda estaba encorvada y sus pies se movían lentamente, pero un Papa Juan Pablo II lleno de espíritu dijo a los reporteros que él se proponía mantener su ritmo riguroso de viajes mientras "subsistan el deseo y la voluntad".

Si el papa cumple su propósito, visitaría "los mayores países, Rusia ... y China".

"Veremos", agregó con una sonrisa.

Después de caminar lentamente hacia la sección económica de su avión para reunirse con los periodistas, él recibió un sombrero azul de gran tamaño de un reportero mexicano.

Los periodistas le preguntaron al Papa sobre la situación en Chiapas, donde una disputa ha estado hirviendo a fuego lento durante varios años entre el gobierno y los guerrilleros que apoyan a los derechos de los indígenas. El Papa dijo que esa situación era complicada, porque involucra a los derechos humanos, las diferencias económicas y las reclamaciones territoriales.

"No habrá solución a menos que se reconozca que los pueblos indígenas fueron los primeros poseedores de las tierras", dijo él.

El dijo que la respuesta definitiva en Chiapas descansa en las gestiones persistentes por el diálogo. El advirtió contra lo que calificó de "teología indígena", de la cual dijo que ha sustituido a la teología de la liberación en algunas partes del mundo, y que toma su inspiración del marxismo. ▾

Papa dice que Cuaresma es época de compartir dones de Dios

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que para responder al amor de Dios Padre y a sus abundantes dones, los cristianos deberían de hacer que la Cuaresma fuera una temporada de compartir esos dones con otras personas.

"Si vivimos la cuaresma con nuestros ojos fijos en el Padre, se convierte en una temporada singular de caridad, que se manifiesta en nuestras obras de misericordia espirituales y corporales", dijo el Papa en su mensaje anual para la Cuaresma.

El tema del mensaje del Papa para la Cuaresma de 1999, que empezará el 17 de febrero para los católicos del Rito Latino, es: "El Señor Preparará un Banquete para Todos los Pueblos".

Al publicar el mensaje el 19 de enero en el Vaticano, el Consejo Pontificio "Cor Unum" anunció que había recaudado $2,800,000 de cerca de 200 diócesis de la América del Norte, Europa y Oceanía para dotar de fondos a "100 Proyectos del Santo Padre" durante 1999. Los proyectos fluctúan desde programas de alfabetización hasta viviendas para los ancianos.

Además, las dependencias católicas para beneficencia y desarrollo se han unido al programa con proyectos que ascienden a $17,600,000.

Las dependencias participantes incluyen a la Campaña Católica para Desarrollo Humano, que es el programa de los obispos estadounidenses para combatir a la pobreza; los Servicios Católicos de Socorro, que es su dependencia internacional para socorro y desarrollo, y la Organización Católica Canadiense para Desarrollo y Paz, que es la dependencia de los obispos canadienses para el desarrollo, dijo Monseñor Dewane. ▼

Desastre descuidado: Trabajadores agrícolas se enfrentan a crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cerca de 28,000 trabajadores agrícolas del Valle de San Joaquín, en California, se enfrentan a la pérdida de sus hogares, automóviles y subsistencia, en la estela de la congelación de la cosecha de cítricos en diciembre último, según dice el Ministerio Nacional para los Trabajadores Agrícolas.

La crisis ha sido pasada por alto después que otros desastres relacionados con el estado del tiempo se apoderaron del escenario, dijo Virginia Nesmith, del grupo de ministerio, una asociación nacional entre creencias que trabaja para movilizar al apoyo a los trabajadores agrícolas por parte de la comunidad religiosa.

Los miembros del personal de la organización, con sede en Chicago, han ido al valle, que está entre Fresno en el norte y Bakersfield en el sur, para poner en práctica los planes de socorro para el desastre.

El Rev. Ron Patterson, miembro del personal del ministerio en el centro de la Florida, voló a California a principios de febrero.

El Rev. Patterson, ministro bautista, tiene experiencia en las gestiones de socorro para los desastres interiores, por haber prestado servicios con el Servicio Eclesiástico Mundial.

"He hallado que el desastre se encuentra muy extendido" y que es más extenso que lo que los funcionarios de California han dicho", dijo el Rev. Patterson.

El agregó que el estado, al calcular un total de 4,500 trabajadores agrícolas afectados, no cuenta a los trabajadores indocumentados, que forman casi la mitad de los 28,000 que el Ministerio Nacional para los Trabajadores Agrícolas dice que han sido afectados.

Ni tampoco ha contado California a los trabajadores que no comenzaron la temporada debido a la congelación, ni a aquéllos que no habían recibido una solicitud para ayuda por desempleo.

Unos pocos trabajadores agrícolas ya han recibido ayuda para el pago de las hipotecas o el alquiler, pero se verán amenazados por el desahucio o la reposesión de sus casas y automóviles a menos que se encuentre dinero o empleos rápidamente, dijo él.

Nesmith dijo que los cultivadores "se hallan tan desvastados que no pueden ayudar" a sus trabajadores, que se hallan en dificultades igualmente abrumadoras.

Los programas gubernamentales de ayuda que existen actualmente van dirigidos a los cultivadores más que a los trabajadores, dijo Nesmith. ▼

Un Poco de tu Tiempo — Un Mundo de Diferencia.

Es la hora de abrir tu corazón. Presta tu tiempo y talento a los necesitados de tu comunidad.

Campaña Católica de la Comunicación

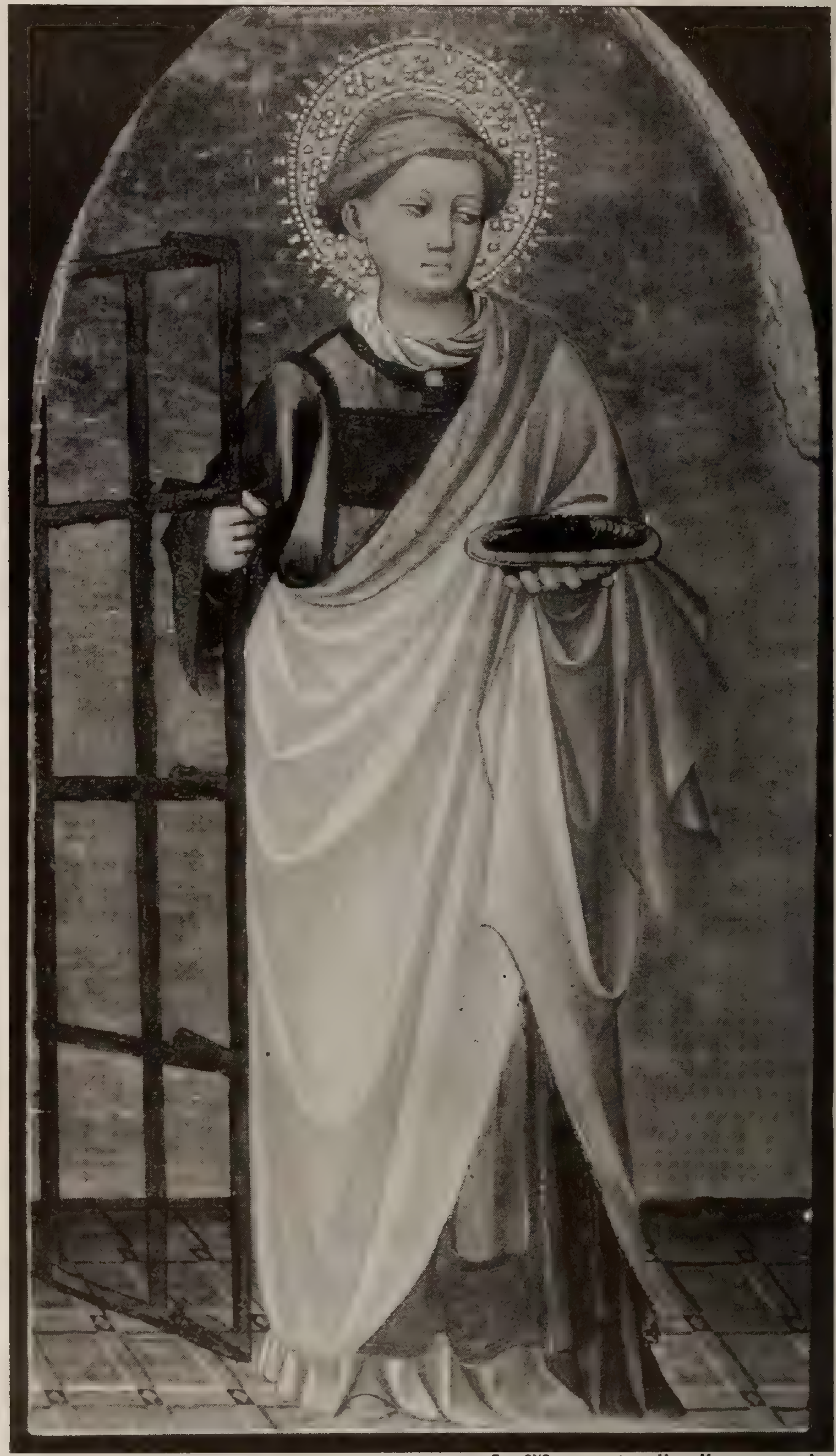


Foto CNS por cortesía del Museo Metropolitano de Arte

Exhibicióm en Asís

Este panel, que representa a San Lorenzo, pintado por Gherardo Starnina a principios del decenio de 1400, es una de las obras maestras de la Basílica de San Francisco de Asís, Italia, que se exhibirán en el Museo Metropolitano de Arte de Nueva York en marzo próximo.

Santuario de la Florecita en San Antonio designado como basílica menor

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Monseñor Patrick Flores, Arzobispo de San Antonio, presidió las celebraciones del 6 de febrero que señalaron la proclamación oficial del Santuario Nacional de la Florecita como una basílica menor.

La histórica iglesia de San Antonio se convierte así en la segunda basílica de Texas.

Desde su fundación en 1926, la iglesia ha sido administrada por los frailes Carmelitas Descalzos. Fue ingresada al Registro Nacional de Lugares Históricas en 1998, señalando que se le considera digna de conservación debido a su importancia histórica y arquitectónica.

Las basílicas, cuyo nombre procede de la palabra griega "basilike", que significa "real", son designadas como "mayores" o "menores". Hay solamente seis basílicas mayores — cuatro en Roma y dos en Asís, Italia.

El título de basílica menor se otorga a ciertas iglesias "de tamaño y belleza notables", que tienen "prestigio en la vida de la Arquidiócesis" y conservan "reliquias especiales de un(a) santo(a) canonizado(a)", en este caso Santa Teresa de Lisieux, conocida como la Florecita. ▼

Parishes can witness to the communities around them

By KATE BLAIN

The first year Missionhurst Father Bart Flat served as pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in McAllen, Texas, he celebrated the funerals of seven parishioners who were victims of gang violence. This year, there were no such funerals. The reason? Evangelization.

"Gang fights and gang activity have gone down drastically," Father Flat boasted. "Kids can no longer terrorize, because people know each other."

St. Joseph's is one of a growing number of parishes who believe that evangelization is the cure for both spiritual and societal ills. Each week, the 5,000-family parish near the Mexican border sends a dozen parishioners into its neighborhoods to sit down together, talk about the Gospel and decide how to act on its message to solve neighborhood problems.

"People say, 'We've lived across the street from each other for years, but I never knew your name,'" said Father Flat. "Every week, you have 450 or 500 people reflecting on the Gospel. I feel very good about this."

"Parishes' witnessing to their communities is as old as the church itself," according to Paulist Father Frank DiSiano, president of the Paulist Fathers and author of several books on evangelization.

"It's the nature of the church to carry out the universal, missionary mandate of Christ," he stated. "If they're not evangelizing, they're not understanding what Christ asks of them."

For some parishes, however, starting evangelization efforts can be a struggle. Father Flat remembers arriving at his parish seven years ago to find just a few dwindling prayer groups in parishioners' homes. But after he assigned his associate pastor the full-time job of developing neighborhood Christian communities in the mainly Hispanic area, residents began to reach out.

> "It's the nature of the church to carry out the universal, missionary mandate of Christ. If they're not evangelizing, they're not understanding what Christ asks of them."

Today, he said, 35 groups of parishioners hold Stations of the Cross in neighborhoods, bring the Eucharist to people's homes on the feast of Corpus Christi and carry a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe through the streets on her feast day.

"We have taken religion out to the barrio," he stated. "People come out of their doors. It's a unique way of evangelization. These people sooner or later find their way back to the church. I've seen more and more younger families come back."

Father DiSiano believes that it makes a difference when an entire diocese commits to evangelization efforts. He cited the dioceses of Cleveland, Ohio; Miami, Fla.; Jackson, Miss.; and Gaylord, Mich., as examples.

St. Louis, Mo., might be an archdiocese to emulate: Its ethnically diverse parish of St. Alphonsus Liguori is located in the midst of a public housing complex in the poorest area of St. Louis, but the parish is financially sound.

Its pastor, Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt, said that the key to such success lies in "powerful preaching and witness of the Gospel." He asks congregants to bring Bibles to Mass, encourages them to reflect on the readings and asks anyone seeking to join the parish community or become Catholic to come forward for a blessing.

"We have a lot of outreach programs to serve the spiritual as well as social and other needs of the community," he added. Parishioners clean up and repair low-income homes and run a food pantry, computer center, job referral service and athletic program.

Evangelization teams even plan soon to welcome back residents whose public housing has undergone renovations with "goodie bags" of taped sermons, Bibles and other information.

Most importantly, a banner on a nearby street corner announces, "Come and worship with us."

"Even before you enter the church, the invitation is there." Father Nutt said.

The U. S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Millennium and other bishops' committees urge parishes to make work for justice a priority going into the year 2000. Toward that effort, the bishops are promoting a Jubilee Pledge for Charity, Justice and Peace. The bishops want parishes to urge members to sign the pledge and commit themselves to such activities as reaching out to people who differ from them and learning more about Catholic social teaching.

Although every parish is different, Father DiSiano offered a suggestion for parishes who want to begin evangelization efforts: Try a "Friend Sunday," where newcomers are invited to Mass and welcomed at a reception afterward. ▼

This story comes from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Third Millennium and the Jubilee Year 2000. It is part of an ongoing series presented by The Catholic News & Herald to inform readers of various preparations for the upcoming millennium.

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary!

On Time — Every Time.

United Mailing Service, Inc.

UMS

(704) 392-2805
(704) 392-2807, fax

Our modern 50,000 square foot facility allows us to offer you complete,state-of-the-art mailing services— with our emphasis on service!

May 5-14

A Marian Pilgrimage

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Jubilee office publishes book of readings on reconciliation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Third Millennium is offering its second book of readings in preparation for the celebration of the jubilee year 2000.

The 52-page resource, titled "Book of Readings on Reconciliation," includes 11 essays on reconciliation, forgiveness and the sacrament of penance. Among the authors of the essays are Mercy Sister Marie Chin and Norbertine Father Andrew Ciferni, both keynote speakers at the National Lay Forum in Denver in 1998.

In an introduction to the booklet, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., subcommittee chairman, said that during the jubilee year 2000, "we are invited to sweep aside the many reasons we have for putting off reconciliation with God, our families, communities, friends and colleagues.

"As we look around our world today we see signs of the need for reconciliation and healing, but also evident are signs for the individual and communal acts of healing and reconciliation," he added.

The book also includes sample print public service announcements which are part of an ongoing jubilee project funded and produced by the bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign.

Word to Life

February 21, First Sunday of Lent., Cycle A Readings:

1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
   Psalms 51:3-6a, 12-14, 17
2) Romans 5:12-19
3) Matthew 4:1-11

My friend Jeff doesn't gossip. He steadfastly will not gossip. Ever. Refuses to join in any conversation in which gossip is involved. Leaves the room.

Occasionally he will make a comment in defense of a person whose name is being smeared, but he never condemns the gossipers, never even says so much as, "Let's not talk this way about______," or "You know this is gossip." Sometimes he shakes his head as he walks away, a subtle hint that he's saddened and disappointed, but I've never detected anger. For a long time I didn't notice this, but it became obvious after he backed out of several one-to-one conversations with me.

> "Just as through one man's disobedience all became sinners, so through one man's obedience all shall become just."
>
> — Romans 5:19

Jeff is one of my closest friends. For years he's been someone with whom I talked about nearly everything, including deep personal concerns. But when I would begin to make critical or judgmental comments about another person, his gaze would drop and he'd stand up, indicating that the discussion was coming to a close.

Once I realized what was driving Jeff away in those instances, I felt awful. One, because I had disappointed my friend and made him uncomfortable; but two, I could see that what I was doing was unkind and harmful to the person who was the object of my gossiping. Then I felt ashamed. Like Eve in today's first reading, I became painfully aware of my sinfulness, and I wanted to hide — to crawl into a hole. Still, in my sinful human condition, as characterized by Eve, I continue to be tempted to equate my knowledge with God's and bring my judgment on others.

But Christ's obedience to the Father, relayed to me by Jeff's obedience to Christ, strengthens me to change. Today's second reading reminds me that Jesus' mercy in redeeming me from my sinful act frees me to be obedient to him, through my own desire, and to participate in his goodness.

Questions:

To what sin(s) are you repeatedly tempted to give in? What consequences of that sin can you foresee that will help you to choose obedience to God?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 21 - 27, 1999

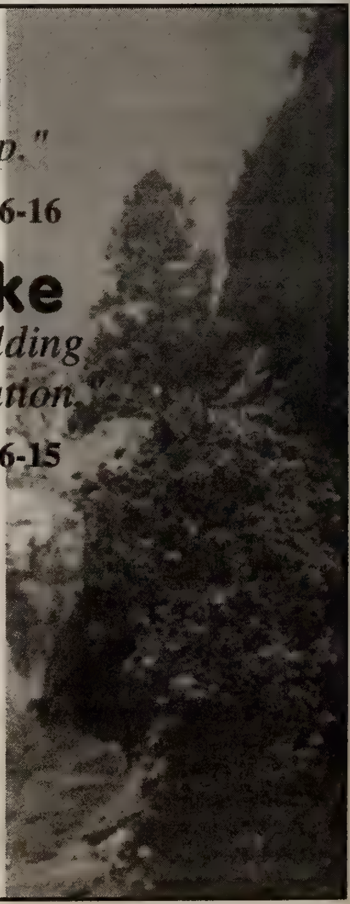
Sunday, Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11; **Monday**, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday**, Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17, Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

New Owners! New Hours!
Nine Choirs
Catholic Books & Gifts
474 1/2 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
Mon.-Fri.: 9-5pm Sat: 10-3pm

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

MODULARCORP
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities



Camp Merrimac
"More than just a camp."
A summer camp for girls ages 6-16
Camp Timberlake
"A summer of fun, building confidence and motivation."
A summer camp for boys ages 6-15
In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
For brochure & information, please write or call
Spencer & Dorothy Boyd
1229 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-8766

Italian film, praised by pope, gets record Oscar nominations

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Italian director and actor Roberto Benigni said he does not know how much a papal blessing contributed to the record seven Oscar nominations garnered by his film, "Life Is Beautiful."

"I'm not sure if he had time to influence the nominations with his prayers, but it certainly gave me beautiful emotions," Benigni told Italian television and newspapers Feb. 9 after the nominations were announced.

The nominations in seven categories, including best film and best foreign film, were the most ever received by a foreign-language film.

Benigni had sat alongside Pope John Paul II Jan. 10 as the pope watched the movie in the Vatican. Two weeks later, en route to Mexico City, the pope spoke to journalists about watching the film.

"Life Is Beautiful" is a story about an Italian Jew who tries to protect his son from the horrors of imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp by convincing the boy they are involved in an elaborate game.

The pope had said the movie demonstrated that even in situations which are decidedly not beautiful, people can do beautiful things.

Benigni said, "Sitting next to him watching my film, I felt like Pinocchio inside the whale — when he finds his father again, he tells him, 'I was bad; I didn't listen to you.'

"I found a daddy when I overcame my awe," Benigni said.

"I called him 'Daddy' and I kissed him," said the filmmaker, who has a reputation for enthusiastically kissing everyone he likes.

Benigni, who would not say what the pope had said to him, said the pope showed him "paternal affection."

New at the box office

"Blast From the Past" (New Line)

Amusing comedy in which a 35-year-old (Brendan Fraser) born and raised in a fallout shelter by parents (Christopher Walken and Sissy Spacek) fearful of a nuclear attack finally emerges and asks a skeptical local girl (Alicia Silverstone) to help him find a wife. Director Hugh Wilson orchestrates some goofy fun as the innocent breezes through the complexities of mean-spirited modern life, never forgetting his manners and winning friends with his unshakable wholesomeness. Mild sexual references, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

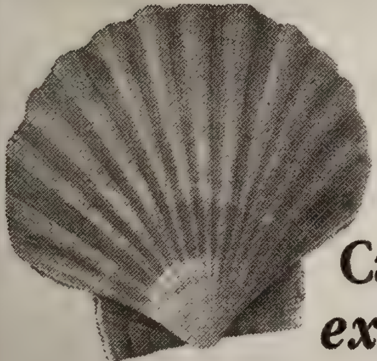
"Message in a Bottle" (Warner Bros.)

Gauzy romance in which a widowed boat builder (Kevin Costner) from North Carolina's Outer Banks is torn between stubbornly clinging to the memory of his adored wife or taking a chance on love again with a Chicago single mom (Robin Wright Penn). As directed by Luis Mandoki, the saccharine-drenched narrative crawls along despite pretty visuals, appealing performances and uplifting themes about loss, hope and renewal. A discreet bedroom scene, fleeting violence and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Susan G. King *(800) 786-7860*
Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor *(336) 727-8900*
- *Retirement Planning*
- *College Savings Plans*
- *Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds*

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1998 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.


The Best Seafood

Caught, graded and packed *exclusively* for Harris Teeter:

Florida Calico Scallops

2.99 lb.

Price Good February 17 through February 23

All of the ocean caught seafood we sell at Harris Teeter is drawn from healthy, sustainable stocks that are harvested under strict controls designed to perpetuate the fishery. We promote them only when they are in high season- when the catch is good, the quality at its peak and when they represent the best value. In the case of aquacultured seafood, we only purchase product from companies that demonstrate a clear commitment to quality and whose facilities have a minimal impact on the environment.

Harris Teeter
Your Neighborhood Food Market
www.harristeeter.com

Pope urges return to sacrament of penance during Lent

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Catholics to return to the sacrament of penance during Lent this year and rediscover the true sense of penitence and reconciliation with God.

Speaking at a blessing at the Vatican Feb. 14, the pope said Lent was supposed to be a time of "return to the house of the Father" through one's personal liberation from sin.

"Isn't this the most appropriate context for the rediscovery of the sacrament of penance, in its deepest sense?" he said.

> "Isn't this the most appropriate context for the rediscovery of the sacrament of penance, in its deepest sense?"

He said the personal conversion and reconciliation offered in penance was "more urgent than ever in today's society, in which the very foundations of an ethical vision of human existence often seem lost."

The pope, who was to open the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service in Rome, was scheduled to begin a week of spiritual exercises in the Vatican Feb. 20.

Earlier on Feb. 14, the pope visited a Rome parish and asked members to participate in the "city mission" he has launched ahead of the year 2000, a program of spiritual encounters and personal visits aimed at renewing the faith in the Diocese of Rome.

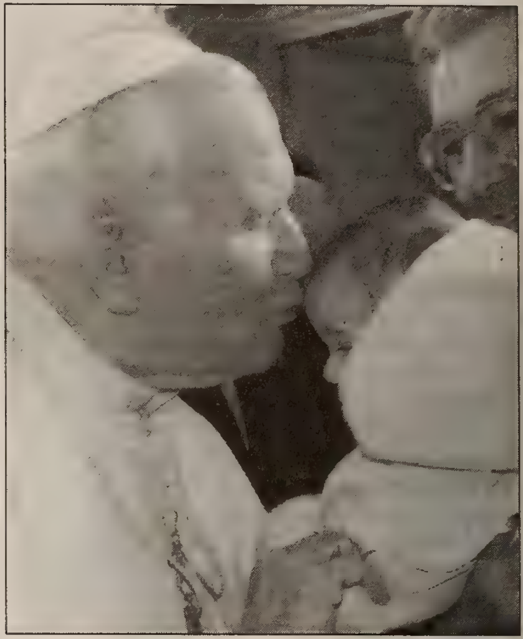
He said two elements deserve special attention during this renewal project: pastoral help to families and to young people preparing for marriage, and solidarity toward the poorest in Rome.

The pope said he was looking forward to World Youth Day celebrations in Rome during the jubilee year, and said he hoped the meeting would provide a moment for young people to consider priestly and religious vocations.

In a visit to Rome's major seminary Feb. 13, the pope advised patience and persistence in finding new vocations to the priesthood.

"The work of the fisherman is hard. It requires constant effort and patience. It asks above all faith in God's power," he said.

"Therefore, don't be rushed, but be watchful and attentive in order to make the best of God's opportunities," he said. ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II kisses an infant as he arrives at a Rome church Feb. 14. The weekend before Ash Wednesday the pope urged Catholics to return to the sacrament of penance during Lent.

Chastity, from page 1

Health and Human Services for the promotion of abstinence.

But chastity, she pointed out, is especially unique because it can be both practiced and promoted by everyone.

Each human being has been given the gift of sexuality, she said. Sexual self-control, then, is what chastity is all about, she added. It is something that can be practiced, lived, and — because God is all-forgiving — reclaimed, if need be.

Kelly urged parents to talk with their kids about chastity, and told the young people in the audience that they can encourage their parents by being open to discussion.

She said that among peers, parents, teachers and the media, parents love kids the most although they talk with them about sex the least. Meanwhile, media outlets have both great influence on young people and little concern over how much sexually explicit material is conveyed to them, she said.

Talking about sex with their children at an age-appropriate time is a parent's privilege, said Kelly, much in the same way seeing a child walk for the first time is a special experience.

The promotion of chastity, she said, will empower young people to appreciate God's gifts more fully.

"I believe in all my heart that our young people today are our hope, not only for the future," she said. "We've got to spend more time in the present, in the presence of God.

"Our young people today are our hope for today." ▼

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem. A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

DSA: Retrouvaille

When the love boat hits rough seas, Retrouvaille extends a lifeline

If a marriage makes it past the honeymoon period — a period some experts say can last as long as 18 months — the chances are good it will weather the storm.

Let your light shine! DSA '99

But for many couples, marriage is like being slammed by an unrelenting tempest — again and again and again. Where can these couples find help?

Couples are discovering Retrouvaille, a 'lifeline for troubled marriages.' In the Diocese of Charlotte, Catholic Social Services has been the sponsoring agency for Retrouvaille for five years. French for "rediscovery," Retrouvaille is an intensive marriage workshop stressing self-discovery, communication and faith.

How vital is the faith aspect of the Retrouvaille program? "There is a continuing reference to God in our lives," says Rev. Mr. Fadero. "We've had many couples who have gotten into trouble because they've turned their back to God." Over the course of the program, scriptural references are woven throughout the weekend and in subsequent follow up sessions.

A peer ministry, Retrouvaille involves 'presenting couples' who share their stories and the process of rebuilding their marriages. It's not group dynamics; each couple work on specific issues privately. Post weekend meetings cover 12 additional topics. This begins immediately following the initial weekends. In the Diocese of Charlotte, the contact couple for Retrouvaille is Rev. Mr. Fadero and his wife Irene.

Much like the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the peer component of Retrouvaille is designed to help an increasing number of marriages and families to remain intact.

> Much like the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, the peer component of Retrouvaille is designed to help an increasing number of marriages and families to remain intact.

Self-disclosure stories are the key to the process, as in all 12-step programs. There are some differences between the use of self-disclosure stories and professional marriage counseling. The most radical difference is the stories, told by the presenting couples and priest, which give measure to the degree of the level of dysfunction. Stories allow participants to evaluate their chances for recovery and also counter the denial that exists in any troubled relationship.

Another difference is that couples are able to practice the sharing of feelings in a protected environment over an entire weekend rather than in one-hour sessions with a therapist. Time is also a factor. A counselor could spend several one-hour sessions before a couple could sense their own progress. Retrouvaille weekends give a sense of progress quickly and motivation for attending follow-up meetings.

Retrouvaille was born in 1977 in Quebec, Canada, as an outgrowth of Marriage Encounter, a Catholic-sponsored marriage enrichment program. While operating on the same principles as Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille was designed for couples in troubled marriages.

From that beginning 22 years ago, Retrouvaille is now offered in more than 165 locations — in most United States regions, Canada, South America, Mexico, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, the Philippines, South Africa and Thailand. It's estimated that some 50,000 couples have participated in the program since its inception, and the number is growing. ▼

Editor Joann Keane contributed to this story. Contact Keane at 704.370.3336 or E-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Social Services' Retrouvaille program is one of the 35 life-giving ministries partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Lenten Reflection, from page 5

tries to help us see that our best attitude must be one of humility before God's authority. He says, in effect, that both those who exercise authority in the natural order and those who are bound to these authorities lack or are limited whenever there is a refusal to acknowledge God as the giver of all responsible authority. Jesus suggests that we are most free when we acknowledge God's authority in all our decision-making and consequent actions. God can create in us a willing spirit of bold service to one another rather than a "lording over," thus making us a freer people. We are challenged to bring our concerns and subsequent decisions to God in prayer, surrendering all to God in an act of faith and trust that everything is in the hands of God.

Christ Jesus, help us to have your attitudes and convictions about life and love. Help us to see your kingdom at work in our lives as we turn our lives over to you this Lent in willing service to others. Thus may your kingdom come more fully into our world and your Name be praised. Amen.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Office Nurse: Organized, detail-oriented R.N. or L.P.N. who enjoys patient contact, for telephone triage, insurance approvals, referrals, help with disability reports, medical records, patient flow, and refills. Leave message at (336)760-4806 (Winston-Salem).

Principal: Due to the continued, rapid growth of the Catholic community in the greater Raleigh, NC area, two new Catholic primary schools are scheduled to open in the fall of the year 2000. We are seeking innovative candidates who, as school principals, can provide excellent leadership and a compelling vision for our schools and engage and involve both parents and the community. The successful candidates must be practicing Catholics, have at least a master's Degree with experience as elementary school administrators, and hold or be qualified for North Carolina elementary school principal certification. Send cover letter with your statement of educational philosophy and your resume with salary requirements to: Catholic Schools of Southwest Wake County, Attn: Principal Search Committee, P.O. Box 310, Apex, NC 27502-0310.

Community Outreach Worker: Immediate position for experienced Community Outreach Worker to help identify and coordinate enrollment of eligible Latino/Hispanic children in new health care program. Bi-lingual, college degree, computer skills and comfortable working with diverse groups of people. Send resume to: Geri King, Director, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax to 370-3377.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: March 15, 1999.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. DL

Irish famine, migration commemorated in new stamp

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When a stamp commemorating Ireland's great famine and migration is issued Feb. 26, an Irish-American priest who promoted the stamp for two years said he'll feel "a certain amount of satisfaction."

Carmelite Father David Dillon, who planned to be at the stamp's unveiling in Chicago, said the event also will make him mindful of "the significance of our relationships with suffering people around the world."

The priest, pastor at St. Matthew's in Glendale Heights, Ill., spoke with Catholic News Service by phone Feb. 11.

"I have strong feelings about the famine," he said, "because I think it's one of the most formative experiences in the Irish heritage, and one that I knew little about."

In significance, he said, it "ranks right up with the conversion of the Irish, the English conquest and the formation of the republic."

The priest said he thought the famine was something Irish-Americans, including himself, "had ignored or perhaps denied because it was such a traumatic and terrible experience."

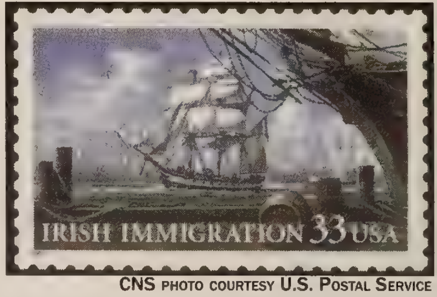
He recalled that an Irish-born Chicagoan on the local famine commemoration committee had told him "that he lived very close to an area on the coast of Ireland where bones would be exposed from a mass grave, and nobody talked about it."

The famine years 1845-50 are remembered as the Great Hunger, "An Gorta Mor" in Gaelic. The immediate cause of the famine was a blight that ruined successive potato harvests. By the time it was over, 1 million Irish had died and another 2 million had been forced to leave their homeland.

The new stamp is the latest in a number of 150th anniversary famine commemorations held in recent years.

A joint issue with the Republic of Ireland, the stamp pictures a sailing ship, like those that carried Irish emigrants to America, coming into port. The 33-cent U.S. stamp says: "IRISH IMMIGRATION 33 USA." The 45-pence Irish version reads: "IRISH EMIGRATION 45 EIRE."

The boats — packed with human cargo — came to be known as "coffin ships" because so many of the Irish, already weakened by famine, died at sea from hunger and disease.



CNS photo courtesy U.S. Postal Service

The U.S. Postal Service is issuing a new stamp commemorating Ireland's great famine and migration. The stamp will be available Feb. 26.

In addition to the unveiling ceremony at the Art Institute in Chicago, there will be ceremonies the same day at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston and in Cobh, Ireland, the southern port city from which most Irish emigrants sailed for America, Canada and Australia.

According to Father Dillon, "Anybody whose family emigrated from Ireland during 1845 to 1850 or after would be famine survivors." He said this links them with "people suffering around the world today."

He cited victims of abortion and victims of famine in Sudan, North Korea and Iraq. "We have a spiritual bond because we, too, are survivors of the famine," he said.

The priest said when he realized "how the Irish were treated so contemptuously at this time," it gave him a different perspective "on minorities or those who are at the bottom of the social ladder today, because 150 years ago our forebears were in the same situation."

A network of local famine commemoration committees and the Ancient Order of Hibernians had pushed for a famine stamp for several years, said Father Dillon. But the idea "was turned down many, many times" by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, he added.

Despite congressional support generated through letters circulated by Rep. William O. Lipinski, D-Ill., and Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., he noted, the committee still said no.

The priest said Durbin and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., then met with the postmaster general, who promised to take the issue back to the committee. ▼

School Uniform Sale!

Lower prices!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
*And order next year's uniforms before March 30th for 10% off any order over $75.

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Free shipping on orders over $75!

1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

An Invitation to Hear U. S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia

Speaking at the Law and Society Lecture

Wednesday, March 17, 12 noon
Hilton Hotel, Charlotte, NC

"Interpreting the Constitution"

Bishop William G. Curlin will give the Invocation

Sponsored by the Mecklenburg County Bar Foundation

Tickets: $20.00 including luncheon

For reservations call:
Martha Hinnant
(704) 375-8624

"We feel extremely fortunate to have Justice Scalia speak to us. He is widely recognized as a brilliant jurist and superb speaker. And, as far as we know, this is the first sitting Supreme Court Justice to address a Charlotte gathering."

— John Burtis, Co-chair of the Luncheon

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with **honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

************************3-DIGIT 275
S297 P1
42083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 26, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 25

Inside

Bishops' meeting highlights collaboration

...PAGE 7

McGivney sainthood cause takes to the road in Ireland

...PAGE 12

Living the Faith

Real Patch Adams says embrace life

...PAGE 16

Local News

Conversion leads to Catholic Church

...PAGE 14

Lenten Reflection

...PAGE 5

DSA: Seminarians

The education of future priests

...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

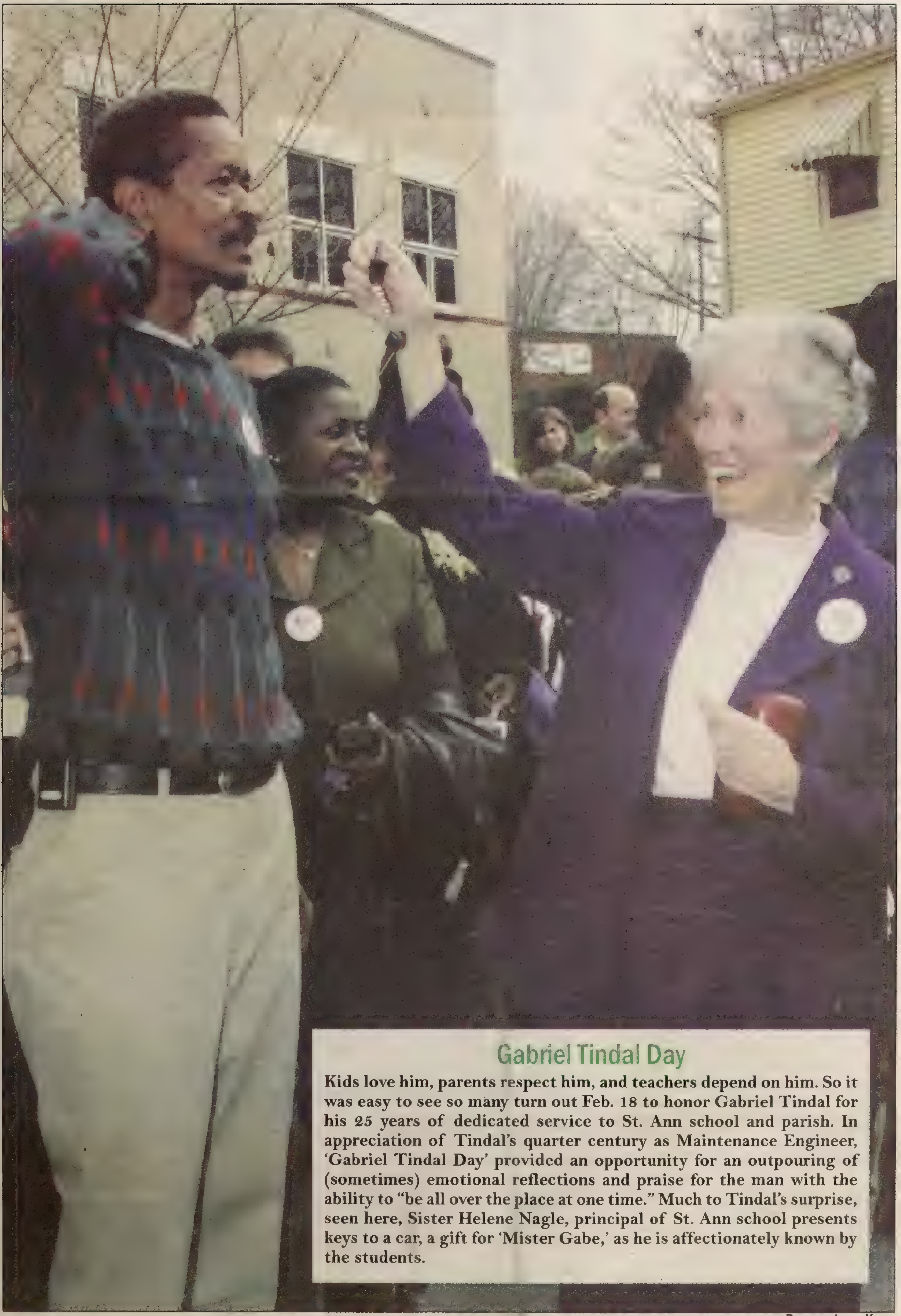
...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

The Transfiguration of Jesus

"And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light."
— Matthew 17:2



Gabriel Tindal Day

Kids love him, parents respect him, and teachers depend on him. So it was easy to see so many turn out Feb. 18 to honor Gabriel Tindal for his 25 years of dedicated service to St. Ann school and parish. In appreciation of Tindal's quarter century as Maintenance Engineer, 'Gabriel Tindal Day' provided an opportunity for an outpouring of (sometimes) emotional reflections and praise for the man with the ability to "be all over the place at one time." Much to Tindal's surprise, seen here, Sister Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann school presents keys to a car, a gift for 'Mister Gabe,' as he is affectionately known by the students.

PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Archbishop tells priests to stop blessing oil for lay use

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (CNS) — To ensure that people actually receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe has directed priests to stop blessing oil for private use by the laity in healing services. Archbishop Sheehan's recent directive also states that only ordained priests may use blessed oil to celebrate the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Msgr. Joseph Pepe, chancellor of the Santa Fe Archdiocese, said that questions have been raised about "lay people anointing with oil." "People thought they were getting the sacrament of the anointing of the sick," he said. "So the archbishop wanted to clarify the issue."

Nicaraguan poverty likely to increase, say church workers

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS) — Despite international emergency aid in response to Hurricane Mitch and official optimism about the economy, church workers and academics predict a rise in poverty levels in Nicaragua. "The international response has been so great that we won't notice the (hurricane's) impact on the overall macro economy," said Jesuit Father Eduardo Valdez, an economist and rector of Jesuit-run Central American University in Managua. "The impact will be felt on the micro level. There will be greater poverty, but it will be camouflaged by the fact that more dollars will be coming into the country."

San Egidio Community wins 1999 Niwano Peace Prize

ROME (CNS) — The Rome-based San Egidio Community has won the 1999 Niwano Peace Prize, which includes a cash award of about $175,000. The community, a lay Catholic organization of about 18,000 volunteers, has worked extensively on behalf of the poor, in interfaith dialogue and in resolving international conflicts. The Niwano Peace Foundation of Japan announced the award Feb. 18. The foundation cited San Egidio's work among the impoverished, the elderly, AIDS sufferers and drug addicts, as well as its programs for thousands of immigrants in Italy and elsewhere.

CNS photo by Jim Dallas, The Dialog

Statue move

A crane is prepared to move a four-ton steel statue of Mary created by sculptor Charles Cropper Parks of Wilmington, Del. The statue was created for a Chicago man and was trucked to St. Louis during the recent visit of Pope John Paul II.

Welfare changes reflect worst fears, best hopes, says professor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Those tracking the impact of the 1996 federal welfare reform have seen "perhaps both the worst fears and best hopes realized," said Columbia University social work professor Marcia Meyers. Changes in social and health policies, including welfare, "have made some people much worse off," she said, while "others have been able to capitalize on some new opportunities to end up actually better off." Meyers, associate director of the New York City Social Indicators Survey Center, addressed a forum sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers' Peace and Justice Committee Feb. 12 in Washington.

Oregon's suicide report draws criticism

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A state health division report on Oregon's assisted suicide deaths is "almost useless," critics say. In the report, released Feb. 17, Oregon health officials confirmed that 15 terminally ill patients died in the first year of the state's controversial doctor-assisted suicide law. Eight men and seven women — mostly cancer patients — swallowed fatal doses of barbiturates, according to the Oregon Health Division report. The law requires an annual tabulation of suicides. But critics of the report say it has a dearth of information. "The report provides little useful information with which to protect the poor and disabled in this state, because the assisted suicide law has no penalty for doctors who do not report cases of assisted suicide," said Dr. Gregory Hamilton, president of Portland-based Physicians for Compassionate Care.

Catholic weekly in Ireland banned from radio advertising

DUBLIN (CNS) — Ireland's largest-selling religious newspaper, The Irish Catholic, has been banned from advertising on the radio. The Irish Independent Radio and Television Commission ruled that advertisements by publications such as The Irish Catholic would be contrary to Section 10(3) of the Radio and Television Act of 1988, which states: "No advertisement shall be broadcast which is directed toward any religious or political end or which has any relation to an industrial abuse." The commission interpreted the act to include ads by religious publications.

TV ad campaign seeks to change minds to pro-life view on abortion

DALLAS (CNS) — At a pro-life dinner in Dallas, the Missouri-based Caring Foundation showcased its major TV advertising campaign to shift public opinion on abortion toward the pro-life view. "An abortion decision is not a rational decision. It's an emotional decision, a heart decision," said Colleen Parro, who is the Caring Foundation's Dallas/Fort Worth project director. Parro, also director of the Republican National Coalition for Life, made the comments at a dinner sponsored by the Culture of Life Foundation of Washington, D.C.

U.S. health care workers assess medical care in Cuba

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Medical care in Cuba is bleak, according to a group of U.S. health care professionals who visited the island nation. "Currently, the hospitals in Cuba are falling quickly into disrepair," Michael Sheedy, who made the trip, told Today's Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. "Much equipment is unusable because of a lack of replacement parts, and pharmaceuticals such as aspirin and basic antibiotics are in incredibly short supply, as are soap and paper."

Methodists, Catholics set stage for local dialogues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic-Methodist dialogue in the United States will enter a new stage next year with the issuance of "Yearning to Be One," an ecumenical study guide for local congregations. The national United Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue finalized the themes, structure and overall content of the guide at a meeting in Washington Feb. 11-13. It is to be published jointly in 2000 by the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship and the publications office of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

February 26, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 25
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Award Winner Catholic Press Association 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 3— 7:00 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Highways, Thomasville

March 6
Mass for MACS Board
Meeting with MACS Board
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 7 — 7:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Elizabeth, Boone

March 9 — 11:00 am
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

28 CHARLOTTE — The Ultreya Christian community meets today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. For details, call (704) 542-1241.

March

2 GREENSBORO — Marian Father Waldek Ziolkowski discusses how to develop Christian character today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. For details on this and other adult religious education sessions, call (336) 274-0415.

4 NEWTON — An adult education series called "Father, Revelation, The Shroud" begins today at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. Other sessions are March 11 and 18. For details, call (828) 464-9207.

5 BOONE — A Lenten healing service is today at 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. Stations of the cross follow. For details, call (828) 264-8338.

GREENSBORO — The Family Life and Liturgy commissions of St .Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., host a family Lenten meal today at 6:30 p.m. followed by stations of the cross or a prayer service. Children's activities are also available. For details, call (910) 294-4696.

HICKORY — Stations of the cross are hosted today at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 5:15 p.m. for families and children, and again at 7 p.m. followed by Benediction. A Lenten meal is hosted at 6 p.m. For details, call (828) 327-2341.

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is celebrated today at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30, and Bene-

Professor says death penalty a paradox in culture of life philosophy

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The death penalty is a paradox in Christian ethical history. But today the Catholic Church is at the forefront of eradicating public support of capital punishment, a Wilmington professor said Feb. 16.

In an interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Dr. James Megivern, a professor in the philosophy and religion department at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, discussed his view that capital punishment is an unnecessary — and unacceptable — option in today's world.

Dr. James Megivern

"The short answer is the sacredness of life," said Megivern, who has studied the death penalty for almost 20 years. "It's the violation of the dignity of the human person that really is the ultimate objection to the death penalty."

The debate continues to make headlines around the world, especially in the United States. In 1999 alone, at least six death sentences have been commuted here, including one resulting from Pope John Paul II's clemency plea during a pastoral visit to Missouri.

Six states have recently introduced bills to repeal the death penalty, while Massachusetts and Michigan may soon see its reinstatement.

Megivern is the author of "The Death Penalty: An Historical and Theological Survey," which examines applications of capital punishment in the West over 2,000 years.

He said a deeper understanding can be achieved by examining its use in the context of the social, moral and theological developments of the past two millennia.

Extensive research, showing approval through the centuries of the use of death as punishment, illustrates examples of departure from Gospel-based values, Megivern said. Subsequently, the second half of the 20th century has marked a drastic, albeit gradual, return to those values as they relate to the preservation of life.

Megivern said the silence of the church on the matter during some periods of time, along with its endorsement in others, underlines Christian leaders' historical struggle in facing the dilemma over using lethal force against criminals, heretics and other lawbreakers.

The violence of the Crusades, beginning in 1095 under the direction of Pope Urban II, is a particular example of "a great exception in Christian ethical history," Megivern said. He explained that crusaders imposed "a new theology" that says there are two kinds of people: believers and infidels, the latter of whom may be punished by death.

"What that implied was that some human life is less valuable than others," Megivern said. "That was the justification for the Crusades."

Megivern added that a philosophy of retribution over time has led some to a "distorted use of the Bible" to support imposing death as punishment.

"What we're really saying with this is that mercy, forgiveness, kindness, appreciation, rehabilitation aren't worthwhile," he said. "We strive for justice, but here we mean justice without any kind of human quality."

He said life imprisonment without parole is an alternative that punishes without taking more life, and is thus a move favorable option. The restorative framework is yet another choice, he added, but while it comes from a Christian perspective, it "would have to be implemented very cautiously."

Especially in the latter half of the 20th century, there has been a dramatic rethinking of retributive mentality around the world. Church hierarchy has played a key role in this reevaluation.

In addition to the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, Vatican II and a string of papacies have progressively called for a return to societal values. Among those values, Megivern stressed, is a worldwide respect for all life.

"This particular line of popes has been inspired by Christian personalism, and they have made it much more prominent," said Megivern of Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI and especially John Paul II.

> **"It's the violation of the dignity of the human person that really is the ultimate objection to the death penalty."**
>
> — Dr. James Megivern

The professor said history will someday gauge the long-range impact of Pope John Paul II's stance on capital punishment, which the pope has expressed even more emphatically in recent months. "But it is extremely significant that he is the first and only Roman pontiff to speak out in such clear, uncompromising terms against the death penalty," he added.

The American Catholic Church is an example of the philosophical and theological changes that Megivern described. But the church here emphasizes the challenges and complexities of the issue, too.

While U.S. Catholic leaders are calling for the abolition of the death penalty more so than ever before, there is still nominal support among the laity, statistics show. Referring to the laity as a "sleeping giant," Megivern said American Catholics can "wreck the system" of capital punishment by including death row inmates in their pro-life stance.

It is a challenging stance indeed, he said, especially given the brutality of crimes like the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh in 1995.

But, he added, "if your basic principal is the sacredness of life, then the heinousness of the crime is irrelevant. It doesn't mean you're overlooking it, or making it less horrible than it was.

"On the contrary, what you're saying right up front is that people are not for killing. You can't kill human beings intentionally and directly. In every other sphere, we recognize that."

"That's the significance of the Universal Declaration, the significance of Vatican II, and especially the significance of John Paul II: that we're pointed more and more completely to a higher evaluation of human life," he said.

Megivern looks to the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, to whom his book is dedicated, as a U.S. Catholic leader who challenged people of faith in the context of the gospel of life.

"If you are going to be in favor of human life and its roots, then you ought to be consistently concerned," Megivern said. "If it's wrong to destroy life in the womb, if it's wrong to destroy it on the death bed, if it's wrong in other situations, why is it not wrong on death row?" ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar at (704) 370-3334 or send e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

---

diction with adoration follows the Mass. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

HOT SPRINGS — A Lenten retreat for men and women called "St. Ignatius & the Lord's Passion" is today through March 7 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern facilitates. Early registration is requested for the 15 spaces available. For details, contact the Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, or call (828) 622-7366.

6 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey Basilica today, starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m., continuing with the rosary at 9:30, and concluding with the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:30. For details, call Terri or Phil DeLuca, (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. at Appalachian State University's Catholic campus ministry facility, 232 Faculty St. A covered dish dinner preceded the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.

CHARLOTTE — The Emerald Ball, benefiting Holy Angels in Belmont, is today in Founder's Hall. Various sponsorship levels are available. Holy Angels provides programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation and multiple disabilities. For details, call (704) 542-6846.

7 CHARLOTTE — A children's prayer hour, followed by a procession ad rosary, is hosted today at 3:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For details, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

GREENSBORO — The Ultreya for the Cursillo community in the Greensboro area is held today at 7 p.m. in the parish center of St. Pius X Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. For details, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377.

NEWTON — The rosary is prayed today following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church, 720 E. 13th St. For details, call (704) 464-9207.

12 ARDEN — The youth of St. Barnabas Church present living stations of the cross March 12 at 7 p.m. For details, call (828) 684-6098.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter, a weekend devoted to deepening, understanding, and communication within marriage, is today through March 14 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School presents "Godspell," a musical celebration of Matthew's Gospel, at 8 p.m. today in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium at Winston-Salem State University. Encore performances are March 13 at 8 p.m. and March 14 at 2 p.m. Cost is $8. Senior citizens tickets are $5, and group discounts are available. For details, call (336) 725-4247.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 1999 St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade of the Carolinas begins today at noon. The parade route begins at the corner of Tryon and 6th streets in uptown Charlotte, and proceeds south along Stonewall Street. The parade is coordinated by the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The festival is on Tryon Street between 2nd and 4th streets, including the First Union atrium courtyard, from noon -11 p.m. Live music, food, arts and crafts, dancing, and children's activities are featured.

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GASTONIA — A Mass in Vietnamese is celebrated at St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, today at 2 p.m. For details, call (704) 867-6212.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Prodigal son shows modern need for reconciliation, says pope

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The biblical parable of the return of the prodigal son mirrors the need by modern Christians to reconcile with God, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking at the start of Lent at a general audience Feb. 17, the pope said that through prayer, penitence and charity, Christians can prepare themselves for receiving divine grace in the period leading up to Easter.

This process of inner conversion was simply and profoundly illustrated by the prodigal son in Christ's parable, who left his home, had a change of heart and returned to the father, the pope said.

"How many men and women of every age have recognized in this parable the basic outline of their own existence!" he said.

"It is a path which, after the bitter experience of sin, leads back to the house of the father through an examination of conscience, repentance and a firm purpose of conversion," he said.

The pope said Lent marked an especially appropriate time for inner reflection of one's own faults and participation in the sacrament of penance. The period should "help us enter back into ourselves and abandon with courage whatever prevents us from faithfully following the Gospel," he said.

Later in the day, the pope led a procession at the Rome Basilica of Santa Sabina, then placed ashes on the foreheads of those attending an Ash Wednesday liturgy.

In a sermon, the pope emphasized the need for works of charity during Lent, to call to mind the fact that too many people in the world "are waiting to collect the crumbs that fall from the table of the rich."

He said that charity combined with fasting were not only important personal practices, but a way to highlight the need for a more just system of distribution of goods, so that all can live with dignity.

The pope said the Ash Wednesday service reminds Christians that they are only passing through this world and are destined to die. But he said that death, a consequence of sin, should be seen in the perspective of the hope brought by Christ's resurrection and his saving sacrifice.

Vatican contacts British government about status of Pinochet

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it had contacted the British government about the fate of former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who was arrested in October for alleged human rights abuses. The Vatican said only that it was motivated by the claim of the current Chilean government for sovereignty in the controversial case. In a statement Feb. 19, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls confirmed what had been announced the previous day by British Foreign Office Minister Baroness Symons: that the Vatican had written to the British government inquiring about the status of the 83-year-old Pinochet.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Sharing stories of my favorite people

One thing I learned from being a mother, and now a grandmother, is that there's a sure way to get the attention of children: Tell them stories.

When it came to spinning a tale, I had a great advantage as I entered the journey of motherhood. A nonstop reader from age 4, I had read just about every fairy tale and mythology yarn written. More than that, I had memorized all the stories in the great "Bible History" books that accompanied our catechisms in elementary school. Then, when I became a teen-ager, my fascination with the saints took over, and I never found a book about these incredible faith-ancestors of ours that I didn't want to read immediately.

Admittedly, I had an edge when it came to getting my children interested in the saints. We had our own, personal namesake saint: St. John Bosco. And his story was loaded with color.

This poor Italian farm boy was a great juggler, strong enough to defeat three bullies at once, bright enough to get a seminary scholarship. He never forgot his roots in poverty and yearned to help the poor boys who filled the alleys of city streets.

He founded what I used to call the "Boys Town of Italy," which sparked the hatred of mean, greedy business owners. They resented him for taking away these boys — their ultracheap labor pool — and teaching them a trade. Don Bosco's enemies even plotted to have him killed, but got their comeuppance when a strange, big, gray dog showed up suddenly to protect the gentle priest.

My kids thought their special saint was really a neat guy!

I recalled the saint stories I used to tell my children as I read a new book, "Saints for Our Time"(Twenty-Third Publications). Written by Ed Ransom, a former submariner in the Navy and now a catechist in his parish, the book tells the story of a saint honored each day of the year.

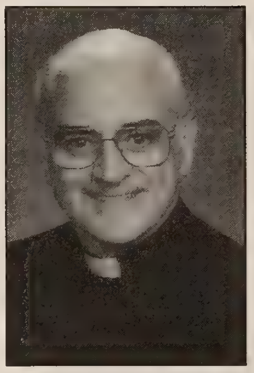
It was a joy to read again about some of the saints who were my favorites: Elizabeth of Hungary, Peter Claver, Elizabeth Seton, Rose of Lima, Kateri Tekakwitha and Francis Xavier. And there were a few saints who were new to me: Bruno, Jerome Emiliani, Gabriel Possenti, Frances of Rome and Vibiana. It was so nice to make their acquaintance.

Another saint perhaps new to most would be Marguerite Bourgeoys, a French-born woman who left her country to go to Canada to care for and educate children in the French settlement at Ville Marie, the present day Montreal. This became her life, and she founded an order of nuns to carry out her work, the Congregation of Notre Dame. I know all about St. Marguerite Bourgeoys because she is the patron of my parish in Brookfield, Conn.

Ed Ransom's book is special because he does more than simply tell the story of each saint he selected. He presents these saints as real people who experienced many of the same problems, hopes, fears and dreams we do.

As the publisher puts it, "Each saint has a message for our time, one which proclaims that mercy, piety, wisdom, forgiveness, charity and the other virtues are relevant and attainable through grace."

I strongly recommend that when a child pleads, "Tell me a story," parents and grandparents look to the saints for great material. We have this rich heritage. We should pass it on to the children.



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Annulments: Obstacles to true and valid marriage

Anyone who has lived through the nightmare of a marriage with an emotionally sick person deserves great compassion and understanding. As a presiding judge in the appeal court for my diocese, I have processed hundreds of cases over the last 30 years. This article is offered to help you to understand the church's thinking in these matters.

Tribunals throughout the world have benefited from the jurisprudence of the Roman Rota, which sets the precedents for our canonical understanding of true marital consent. Our jurisprudence has been significantly refined as a result of a continuing dialogue with experts in the field of psychology.

For instance, as far back as 1973 the Roman Rota decided that marital consent is not true and valid unless both parties possess the basic capacity for an interpersonal relationship. No one can oblige himself to do what he is incapable of doing. Even if the person does not want or desire the character defect, it still renders him or her incapable of giving a true and valid consent.

Those who marry must be able to see their spouse as a separate person, not as an extension of their own ego. A husband who cannot appreciate his wife's way of thinking and feeling without distorting it or projecting his own needs and motives on everything she says or does, is incapable of fostering a conjugal interpersonal relationship. Here are some personality disorders which present obstacles to a true and valid marriage.

— Extreme selfishness. As an ingrained, predictable character flaw, this state destroys real love and affection. Everyone is a little selfish. However, an extreme personality disorder exists when the person is barely aware of anything but his or her own experiences and states. Like little dictators, they tolerate no opposition.

— Extreme immaturity. This is a permanent trait which blocks the capacity to relate to one's spouse in a human way. Such people argue severely over nothing and then often become extremely withdrawn. They are filled with self-pity and blame everyone for their problems but themselves.

— Compulsive personality disorder. This condition renders one incapable of experiencing warm and tender emotions. It can take the form of a blind perfectionism which tries to impose order. The person insists on conformity to a degree which destroys any hope for a normal personal relationship.

All of these serious character disorders have been spelled out by the church's high court. The disorder must exist prior to the marriage and be perpetual in nature in order to be eligible for an ecclesiastic annulment.

If you think you have a case, you will need to present your story to the tribunal of the diocese or archdiocese where you are now living. The tribunal where your marriage took place is also competent. Please do not write to me to see if you have a case. My column is syndicated nationally, and I cannot handle the volume of mail to be your personal guide. Your local pastor may be of help in directing you to the proper authorities. A court-appointed advocate can assist you in presenting your petition.

May God bless and protect you. Remember, it is possible to forgive and begin again. With the help of God's grace, all things are possible. Do not lose heart.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

A Manhattan miracle

"It's a great place to visit — but I wouldn't want to live there." That's one cliché that lots of visitors apply to Manhattan. I understand, but I certainly don't agree.

Living in Manhattan is different. The sheer statistics of this island, the smallest of New York City's five boroughs, boggles the mind. Stop to consider that more than one and a half million people live on this 28-square-mile island. That's more than the population of Alaska and Montana combined. Millions more commute to work here every weekday.

Having lived here for three years, I have come to understand that Manhattan is more than an entanglement of wires and tunnels and skyscrapers, more than its sights and sounds and smells. What makes it work and what makes it home is the humanity of it all.

When I use the word "humanity" I always remember Charles Schultz's cartoon of the indomitable Lucy arguing with Charlie Brown: "Oh, I love humanity! It's just people I can't stand!"

Well, there is abundant evidence that convinces me that a generous human spirit flourishes here in Manhattan's congested canyons as much as it does in the smallest town.

Take one day last week. I was in a taxi careening up Third Avenue toward my apartment. (New Yorkers joke that to get hit by a New York cab is to die a natural death.) The taxi driver was a wonderfully articulate Russian Jew who has lived and worked here for forty years.

When you wear a clerical collar you find that conversations often turn to religion and faith. That's what happened. The driver also managed to condense his whole life story within the span of the ride. This he did with such passion for his family and faith that I was profoundly moved.

As I reached for my wallet to pay him, he broadly gestured with grace and a smile, "No, Father — there's no charge." Astounding!

No sooner had the cabby driven off that I realized I had left my briefcase in the taxi. In an instant I accepted the inevitable — I assumed that whoever came across it in the cab would probably just take off with it before my new friend the driver could spot it. Surely it would be too much to hope that a stranger would return it. Not true!

Within an hour I got a phone call from a woman who lives near me, explaining that she had found it, and all I had to do was pick it up from her doorman at my convenience. She told me that when she got into the cab after me, she pointed the briefcase out to the driver. They both agreed the quickest way to get it back to me would be for her to handle it.

When I offered to send her a reward, she exclaimed, "Oh no, I wouldn't think of it! Someone once did the same for me, and since then I have returned a wallet with $400 in it, a dog ID tag, a bag of Christmas presents, and now your attaché case. Please, I am only too happy to return the favor!" Once again I was astonished, though I shouldn't have been.

At The Christophers we are always reminding people that they are important and can change the world for the better. That was one day when a couple of my neighbors took the trouble to remind me.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Purgatory revisited

Q. I am 74, raised Catholic, and finally find there are many truths of our faith I don't know much about. One is purgatory. What exactly is that? I did not know, for example, that when we go there we cannot pray for ourselves; others pray for us.

I also learned that Masses should be said for the people there. But now when someone dies, often it is requested that memorials be sent to Hospice, a heart or cancer society and so on. This is wonderful, but how does this fit in with praying for those who have died?

A. You ask a lot of good questions, which I know puzzle many others as well.

First it's good to clear up exactly what Catholic teaching is about what we call purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church sums it up by noting that those who die in God's grace and friendship, but may still be imperfectly purified, undergo a "purification" to enter the joy of heaven.

It then adds, "The church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (No. 1031).

Note first of all that in the church's understanding expressed here, purgatory is an event, a process, not a place or location.

After death we enter into a wholly different framework of existence where there would seem to be no time or place in our sense of those words. We know, of course, that for God there is no past or future. In his eternal vision, all is in his knowledge as one present moment.

Thus, in spite of a lot of folklore that (especially during the Middle Ages and later into the Renaissance) made purgatory into a kind of minihell where people endured ages of torture and pain, the church consistently avoids speaking of purgatory as being "somewhere," or lasting some "time."

As the catechism says, something happens to us at or after death which, if necessary, prepares us for the face-to-face vision and presence of God.

How about indulgences? Don't we believe they take "time" off of purgatory? I hope everyone knows by now that, in the church's understanding and teaching, an indulgence of "one year," for example, does not mean one year off of purgatory. It means rather whatever alleviation of that final purification might be achieved by one year of fasting or other penance for the benefit of those who have died.

Part of the problem has been some confusion concerning the ancient and consoling Christian belief that we, the living, can assist those who have died with our prayers. This doctrine is one significant aspect of our belief in the communion of saints, which unites all who are joined in Christ, whether still on earth or in the next life.

Some Christians through the centuries have not been content to accept that belief as it lies, but have tried to embellish it with all sorts of theories about hundreds of years of affliction in some mid-place between heaven and earth, and how we can "shorten" this time of terror by our prayers.

Such horrible images may literally scare the devil out of someone, but again they are irrelevant to the actual teaching of the church on the subject.

As for your question about memorials, while the Eucharistic Sacrifice is the pre-eminent form of prayer for the dead, the catechism reminds us that gifts of charity, indulgences and works of penance are also good ways to commend our deceased loved ones to the mercy of God (No. 1032).

Lenten Reflection

FATHER CHRISTOPHER DAVIS
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Transfiguration of Jesus

In the Gospel for this Sunday we read about the Tranfiguration of our Lord Jesus. Peter, James and John were privileged to see Jesus in a way they had never experienced before. The apostles were used to Jesus' appearance, actions and habits. They were used to seeing the son of Mary. They had laughed with him, ate with him, and cried with him. They see the same person in the reading today, but in a different way.

This triumvirate catches a glimpse of the divine. Instead of seeing the Jesus they were comfortable with, Peter, James and John saw the Son of Man in his transfigured glory. The mystified disciples heard the voice of God coming from heaven, "This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests. Listen to him." Instead of being at ease they were awestruck and dumbfounded. They had seen the glory of God, an honor reserved for only a few of the prophets... or is it?

We see that same transfigured God, that same Jesus, in our neighbor, friend and family. We see that same transfigured God in the poor, neglected and marginalized. We see that same transfigured God in the rich, the well-to-do, and elite.

Pope John Paul II asks, "I exhort every Christian, in this Lenten season, to evidence his personal conversion through a concrete sign of love toward those in need, recognizing in this person the face of Christ and repeating as if almost face to face: "I was poor, I was marginalized... and you welcomed me."

Like the apostles on Mt. Tabor, we see the transfigured Christ. We see the transfigured Christ in every person we meet. Do we take advantage of this graced opportunity? Do we repeat the words of St. Peter in Gospel of Luke when we meet someone in spiritual, physical or material need "...how good it is for us to be here...?" Or, do we pretend that we have seen and felt nothing?

We see the transfigured Jesus in the sacrament of penance, through the forgiveness of our sins. Most especially, we see Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. In the Eucharist we see the body of Christ made present in a most excellent way. We may come to him any time. Whether we are a saint or a sinner, Jesus calls to us. He beckons us to come to him, to adore him, to love him. As Catholics, do we appreciate the miraculous gift that Jesus has given, his very body and blood? Have we become complacent with the Jesus we "know" like the apostles?

We are transfigured through Christ. His glory shines around us daily. During this Lent may God help to transfigure our knowledge and understanding of him. May each of us grow in love for Jesus in each other and Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Christopher Davis is parochial vicar at St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville.

Angelou, Spielberg among winners of 1999 Christopher Awards

NEW YORK (CNS) — Poet and novice film director Maya Angelou has been selected for her first Christopher Award for "Down in the Delta," her directorial debut, and Steven Spielberg was chosen for his fifth for "Saving Private Ryan."

Also honored with the Christopher Award for films is writer/director Roberto Benigni for "Life is Beautiful" and writer Sherman Alexie and director Chris Eyre for "Smoke Signals," a film that explores how Native American society is coming to terms with its past.

The Christopher Awards are presented annually to writers, producers and directors of films, books and television specials judged to be works that express the highest values of the human spirit.

This year's awards were to be presented Feb. 25 in New York.

A special award was to go to Dennis Byrd, the former New York Jet who made a remarkable recovery after being paralyzed by a spinal cord injury during a 1992 game.

Byrd, who has been able to regain some movement, will receive the James Keller Award, named for the founder of The Christophers, for his work with the Dennis Byrd Foundation, which helps children who face physical and other challenges to lead happy, productive lives.

"Dennis Byrd's story is one of courage, dedication and caring," said Father Tom McSweeney, director of The Christophers. "He went from a life-shattering accident, where doctors said he might never walk again, to a remarkable recovery and then a life of service to others in need. Dennis exemplifies The Christophers' belief that every individual can truly make a difference."

Television specials being honored with Christopher Awards include the 12-part HBO miniseries "From the Earth to the Moon," narrated by Tom Hanks; "About Sarah," a CBS special starring Mary Steenburgen, Kellie Martin and Diane Baker; the CBS-Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of "Grace and Glorie" with Gena Rowlands; "Nicholas' Gift," also on CBS, with Jamie Lee Curtis and Alan Bates; "Ruby Bridges," an ABC special; and "Travis," an ITVS/PBS documentary about a child born HIV positive.

Among the books receiving the Christopher Award are "The Children" by David Halberstam; "Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement," by John Lewis with Michael D'Orso; "The Gift of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels," by Thomas Cahill; "Free and Faithful: My Life in the Catholic Church," by the late Father Bernard Haring; and "Free the Children: A Young Man's Personal Crusade Against Child Labor" by teenager Craig Kielburger.

Other book winners are "The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition," by Caroline Alexander; "The Life of Thomas More," by Peter Ackroyd; "Love's Harvest: Family, Faith, Friends," by Christopher DeVinck; and "Maurice & Therese: The Story of a Love," by Auxiliary Bishop Patrick V. Ahern of New York.

Books for young people selected for Christopher Awards are: "Raising Dragons," by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera; "The Summer My Father Was Ten," by Pat Brisson, illustrated by Andrea Shine; "Mary on Horseback: Three Mountain Stories," by Rosemary Wells, illustrated by Peter McCarty; "Shipwreck Season" by Donna Hill; and "Holes" by Louis Sachar.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of awards presentations by The Christophers. The awards have recognized 2,800 creators of more than 1,100 words in film, television and literature.

The award is a 4-inch bronze medallion inscribed with the winner's name and the Christopher motto: "Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." ▼

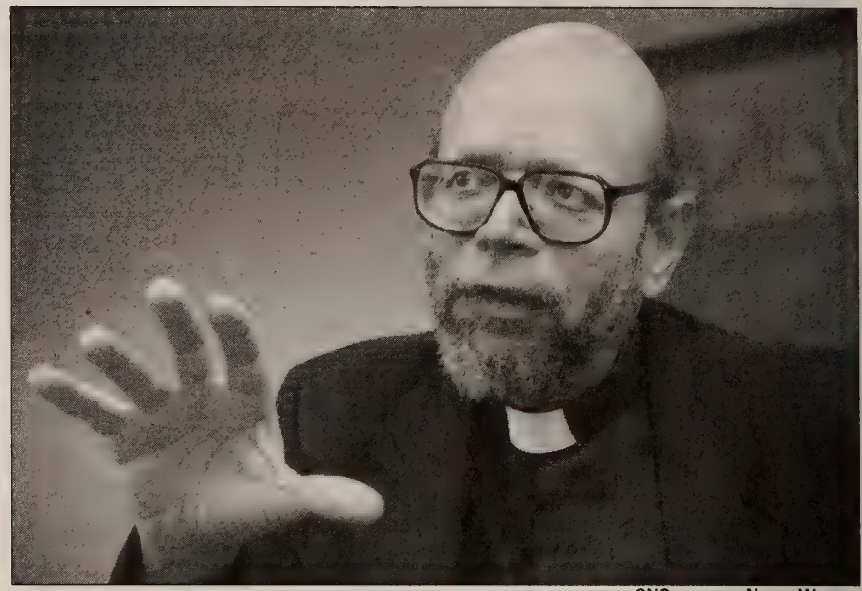
A Marian Pilgrimage

May 5-14

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:

E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis

Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis talks with Catholic News Service recently in Washington. "We live in a society where racism is still a reality," said the priest, whose book "The History of Black Catholics in the United States" is still seen as the definitive work in its field.

Turner issues brief apology for remarks on pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After he was criticized for saying the Ten Commandments were "a little out of date," and that Pope John Paul II should "get with it" on population issues, media mogul Ted Turner issued a one-sentence apology Feb. 17. "Mr. Turner regrets any offense his comments may have caused while in Washington, D.C., and extends his heartfelt apologies," said a statement released by his publicist in Atlanta, Phillip Evans. The Washington Times reported that Turner made the remarks Feb. 16 in Washington at the 27th annual meeting of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, where Turner was honored.

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800·581·9257

Inter-American bishops' meeting highlights collaboration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Meeting in Cuba, bishops from North and South America agreed to work more closely in response to Pope John Paul II's recent apostolic exhortation.

During the biennial meeting, held Feb. 14-16 in Havana, officials from the Latin American bishops' council and the Canadian and U.S. bishops' conferences agreed to establish an ad hoc commission on the application of the apostolic exhortation, "Ecclesia in America," on the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America.

The Latin American bishops' council, known by its Spanish acronym as CELAM, represents the bishops' conferences of 22 Latin American countries.

Msgr. Peter Schonenbach, English-sector general secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops agreed that the document, released by the pope during his recent visit to Mexico, would serve as the foundation for their joint meetings, held every two years.

"They actually changed the name of the organization from the Meeting of Inter-American Bishops to the Meeting of Bishops in America in order to stress the oneness of America as defined in the exhortation," Msgr. Schonenbach said on his return to Canada.

Five cardinals and more than two dozen bishops and priests attended the meeting.

This was the first time the gathering had been held on the communist-ruled island. The meeting also nearly coincided with the first anniversary of Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Cuba.

The president of the U.S. bishops' conference said the meeting in Cuba showed how "the world has not forgotten" the Cuban people, suffering "the horrible impact" of the U.S. trade embargo.

The president of the U.S. bishops' conference said the meeting in Cuba showed how "the world has not forgotten" the Cuban people, suffering "the horrible impact" of the U.S. trade embargo.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, conference president, spoke to Catholic News Service in a Feb. 16 telephone interview from his Havana hotel.

He said one of the "major ways" for the U.S. Catholic Church to show support for the people of Cuba was to "convince (our) government to lift the embargo."

The bishops talked about the need for the U.S. church to enter a "more frequent dialogue" with the U.S. government on the trade embargo, in force since the early 1960s, said Bishop Fiorenza.

"We hope to create a groundswell of opinion ... since there is growing understanding among people that the embargo is wrong, yet the politicians have not yet come to that conclusion," he said.

"The embargo ought to be lifted and other ways sought to engage Cuba to move it toward becoming a free country," he added.

Following an opening Mass, the bishops began two days of discussions on the state of the Cuban church after the papal visit as well as on the application of the pope's apostolic exhortation, said Bishop Fiorenza.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cuban President Fidel Castro (right) meets with Catholic bishops from Latin America, the United States and Canada at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana Feb. 16. Cuba was hosting an inter-American meeting of bishops for the first time.

The meeting's participants, led by Brazilian Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves, president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, also reflected on the "lineamenta," or outline, for the general Synod of Bishops next year in Rome.

Also on the agenda were reflections on projects to mark the jubilee year 2000.

Msgr. Schonenbach said the relationship between the bishops of Cuba and those of other episcopal conferences was strengthened.

"A lot of the Cuban bishops said this was a 'kairos' moment for their church," he said. "Kairos" is a New Testament term for "time of grace."

"A lot of the Cuban bishops said this was a 'kairos' moment for their church," said Msgr. Schonenbach. "Kairos" is a New Testament term for "time of grace."

After the official close of the gathering, the bishops met privately with Cuban President Fidel Castro at the presidential palace.

Msgr. Schonenbach said Castro lived up to his talkative reputation during the Feb. 16 meeting, which lasted four-and-a-half hours and stretched into the wee hours of the morning.

He said Castro, who has been known to deliver six-hour speeches, spoke at length on several subjects, including his recent visit to Venezuela and the merits of Cuba's education system.

Thanks to a "providential insight" from Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston shortly before midnight, Msgr. Schonenbach said, Castro's attention was drawn to fact that if the group did not dine soon it would be the beginning of Lent, the church's 40-day period of fasting and sacrifice.

"So that got us into the meal, but he (Castro) kept on talking and talking," said Msgr. Schonenbach. ▾

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?
We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.
Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Books & Gift Items
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome
Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen —Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

USDA graded on policy on farmworkers, civil rights, other issues

By MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A watchdog group gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture a just-above-average grade on a 10-point report card it prepared to evaluate the agency's policies on extending credit to farmers, protection of farmworkers, market access and other issues.

Taken together, the report card from the Time to Act Campaign gives the USDA a grade-point average of 2.15, or just above a C.

"I think I would have graded them lower on some of the things," said Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, who heads the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. While he is not a member of the campaign, Brother Andrews attended the press conference in Des Moines, Iowa, where the report card was issued in February.

The highest grade was a B-plus for market development, which "bolster the marketing opportunities unique to small farms." The campaign gave Bs for risk management, such as crop insurance, and for helping beginning farmers.

C-plus grades were handed out in the conservation category, and in the outreach and organization category. Cs were given in three categories: extending credit to farmers; civil rights enforcement and monitoring; and research and extension, which look at ways to improve farm productivity through technology.

USDA earned Ds from the group in assisting farmers with market access and protecting farmworkers.

"In some cases, USDA has acted 'quickly and decisively.' But in most areas, real change is slow to come," the campaign's report said. "In the hog industry, for example, we could lose half of the remaining family farmers in the coming months."

By issuing its report card, the Time to Act Campaign said it was trying to promote recommendations made in the 10 areas by the USDA's National Commission on Small Farms, which was convened last year. The campaign is made up of individuals who served as commission members.

Its report called on Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and his staff to "redouble their efforts to implement the commission's recommendations if independent family farmers are going to maintain any economic opportunity in agriculture."

It listed market access as the first issue needing improvement, and said the subpoena authority granted in the Packers and Stockyards Act is the place to start.

Its report called on Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and his staff to "redouble their efforts to implement the commission's recommendations if independent family farmers are going to maintain any economic opportunity in agriculture."

The USDA's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration "should subpoena processors and retailers to access price data for a full-fledged investigation of anti-competitive practices," the report said.

"A fair and competitive marketplace is fundamental to providing economic opportunity to farmers and ranchers of all sizes and every effort must be made to uphold market conditions," it said.

Brother Andrews predicted that Glickman would "tend to ignore" the report and "go with the flow, which will not make the Time to Act Campaign happy."

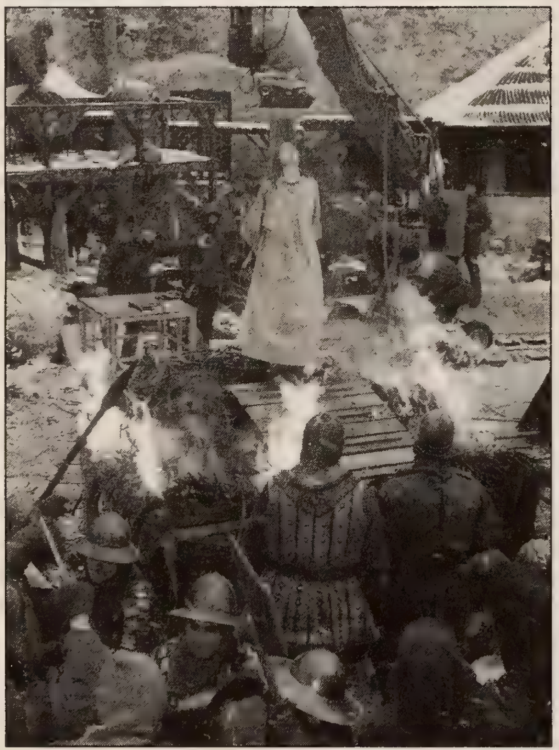
He noted that news reports said Glickman in a speech to the National Farm Forum in Virginia was talking about "how bad things are, and how worse it's going to get in rural America."

If Glickman's forecast is accurate, Brother Andrews said, farm advocates "may be calling for Glickman's resignation in six months, simply because it's getting so bad."

He added that "things are so desperate, people are hunkered down and ready to do anything," and they "are willing to open up the sluice gates" to try to make their farm profitable.

Last fall a Catholic bishop raised the same concern as the Time to Act Campaign about prices being paid farmers, calling it not just an economic issue but a moral and justice issue that should concern everyone.

Bishop Robert J. Carlson Sioux Falls, S.D., asked state and federal agencies to investigate prices farmers are currently getting for what they produce and whether there is "anything criminal" at the bottom of it. ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

"Joan of Arc" filming
Sixteen-year-old actress Leelee Sobieski portrays Joan of Arc in a scene from an Alliance-Atlantis production being filmed near Prague in the Czech Republic Feb. 22. The film about the 15th-century French heroine and saint is to air in the United States as a CBS miniseries in May. With a budget of $20 million it is said to be the most expensive made-for-TV movie ever.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

"I have a desire to learn about everything from teachings and writings to my faith and the world around me. I had no desire for these things before. When I came to the Abbey, I began to desire to grow in knowledge."

MAUREEN DAVIS, CLASS OF 2001

Harrisburg, NC
Northwest Cabarrus High School
Major: Psychology

Maureen Davis is on a mission. Her goal is to share hope with young people who have none — and she's off to a blazing start.

Prior to beginning her journey at Belmont Abbey, Maureen went on a mission trip which sent her and co-workers to 140 towns across America. In each, they offered retreats for struggling youth.

"I know what it's like to be a troubled teen and to have a difficult time growing up. In high school, I didn't care much about anything. Then God made me realize how important He is — and doors started opening."

As a freshman at the Abbey, Maureen received one of the College's most highly-respected awards, the Hintemeyer Scholarship for Leaders. Since then, she's found that Belmont Abbey College's close-knit community, family-oriented environment, and "approachable" faculty provide the combination she needs to prepare to accomplish her life's mission.

"For me, success is truly making a difference in other peoples' lives. There's no greater joy than knowing that, because of something I did, someone else's life is better. To do that, you've got to develop the gifts you've been given to better serve others. Belmont Abbey is helping me do that. It's been a real gift in my life."

Belmont Abbey College

The Catholic College of the Carolinas

BELMONT, NC 28012 • belmontabbeycollege.edu • TOLL-FREE 888.BAC.0110

Jesuit magazine criticizes animal rights movements

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — A leading Jesuit magazine has sharply criticized animal rights movements, saying they ignore humans' unique dignity as spiritual beings.

"The human being ... is not only different from animals but is superior to them; he has a value and an incomparable dignity that animals lack," said an editorial in the Feb. 20 issue of La Civilta Cattolica.

"Animals, because they are not persons, do not and cannot have rights," it said.

The magazine, whose articles are reviewed at the Vatican prior to publication, expressed deep concern that some animal rights advocates have adopted a two-pronged approach: on the one hand, insisting that animals have basic rights, and on the other, claiming that "marginal humans" — such as the disabled, the sick or even young children — do not.

The editorial said this was a deliberate attempt to blur the basic distinction between humans and animals: that humans are self-aware, spiritual beings. This self-awareness also gives human suffering a distinctive quality that is not found in the suffering of animals, it said.

On a more practical level, the editorial said animal rights claims would lead to "absurd consequences." If all animals have an equal right to exist, for example, then human responsibility would extend to protecting some species from others.

"Are we supposed to spend our entire lives keeping the cats away from the mice?" it said.

The article cited positions expressed by a leading U.S. animal rights advocate, Tom Regan, who has theorized that not all humans should necessarily share in basic animal rights; among those who might be excluded would be children under the age of 1 and people with mental retardation.

The Jesuit magazine said this kind of thinking ignores the qualitative difference of nature that exists between animals and all human beings. Even people with grave disabilities still maintain their human nature and therefore their human dignity, it said.

The editorial said this doesn't mean animals can be mistreated or that their nature as living and feeling beings should not be respected by humans.

According to the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," animals are due respect and kindness and should not be made to suffer or die needlessly. At the same time, the catechism says it is legitimate for humans to use animals for food and clothing and to carry out medical experiments on animals within reasonable limits.

Animal rights groups in Italy immediately criticized the Jesuit article. Italy's anti-vivisection league said the editorial had given "superficial treatment to a question that involves the suffering and death of billions of animals every year."

A Green Party official, Annamaria Procacci, said the church's position "denied animals even their dignity." ▾

Come enjoy Seniors' Spring Fling '99
At the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Come from 9-10am for coffee and danish

Your day will be filled with fellowship, Mass with Fr. Ed Sheridan, music, lunch with friends, games, crafts, bingo, door prizes, and more...

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Seniors' Spring Fling, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name Phone
Address
City Parish

$7.50 per person. Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services.**
Registration deadline: April 15
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope discusses Middle East with Arafat, international authorities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In back-to-back meetings with Palestinian and international authorities, Pope John Paul II voiced the Vatican's continued support for peace in the Middle East and his enduring personal wish to visit the Holy Land. The pope made his remarks Feb. 19 during separate audiences with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and delegates from a Rome-based U.N. meeting on year 2000 events in Bethlehem. Arafat, visiting the Vatican for the seventh time, reiterated his previous invitation for a papal visit, adding, "There will be a big celebration."

Vatican asks people to give up smoking, donate money to AIDS

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has called on people around the world to give up smoking for a day and donate the equivalent money to the fight against AIDS.

The proposal by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers was designed as a penitential preparation for the year 2000. At the same time, it aimed to provide concrete assistance to AIDS sufferers and increase awareness about the health risks of smoking, said a February statement sent to bishops and posted on the council's Internet site.

The council asked local church leaders to "invite all Christians and all people of good will" to give up tobacco products for a day and to give what they would have spent in smoking to the fight against AIDS.

The funds could be allocated to local Catholic hospitals or to other health care organizations that sponsor programs to fight AIDS or assist the disease's victims — the sick, their relatives, widowers, widows and orphans, it said.

A main benefit of this initiative would be to draw attention to the damage smoking causes to the health of tobacco users and those around them, the council said. It cited World Health Organization statistics showing that 3.5 million people die each year because of smoking, a figure which is expected to triple over the next 30 years.

It called for a strong awareness-raising campaign about the risks of tobacco products.

The council's idea follows an earlier church suggestion of small acts of personal penance, which during the jubilee year Catholics can use to gain an indulgence from temporal punishment for sins.

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Book Review

REVIEWED BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the dark of night, priests and monks sneak into St. Peter's Basilica to pray. One night, one of them is murdered after being pushed from the walkway inside Michelangelo's majestic dome to the floor below.

The story, including the nighttime visits of prayerful clerics to the world's largest church, is fiction.

"Basilica"
By William D. Montalbano.
G.P. Putnam's Sons (New York, 1999).
304 pp., $23.95.

Published posthumously, "Basilica" shows how well William D. Montalbano came to know the Vatican during his eight years as the Los Angeles Times' Rome bureau chief.

In the book, described by the publishers as an "ecclesiastical thriller," Montalbano blended fact with credible creations of his own imagination to produce a page-turning "whodunit" set at the Vatican.

For example, early in the book the star sleuth — Brother Paul, a former Miami cop turned religious — goes after a historian who stole pages he had cut out of a medieval manuscript he was studying in the Vatican Library.

A U.S. historian was found guilty in 1995 of a similar theft, but only after he had successfully smuggled the pages into the United States.

In Montalbano's book, the sticky-fingered academic is relieved of his haul just outside the Vatican gates by Brother Paul and Father Luther practicing an unfortunately common Roman sport — drive-by bag snatching from a moped.

"Basilica" is not pious fiction.

Every character — from the pope on down — is portrayed in a very human fashion, weaknesses of the flesh and all. It must be said, however, that the concupiscent clerics at least feel guilty about their failures while the bed-hopping reporter does not.

At the same time, the book reveals a deep respect for many aspects of church life, especially its concern for the poor and its efforts on behalf of social justice.

Like Montalbano's first solo novel, "The Sinners of San Ramon," the book reflects the author's passion for baseball and his appreciation of the dedication of church workers to meeting people's basic needs and helping them in their struggles for justice.

The pope presiding over liturgies in "Basilica" is a Latin American, Pope Pius XIII, generally referred to as "Tredi," which is short for the Italian word for 13th, "tredicesimo."

One briefly reigning, rather lackluster pontiff separates Tredi from the pope Montalbano described as the "Inflexible Pole" and the "Never Never Pope."

While "Basilica" sometimes reads like a traveler's guide to Rome — with wonderful descriptions of its side streets and hidden fountains — the book is written more from a journalist's explorations than a penitent's pilgrimage.

In addition to being the headquarters of the universal church, the Vatican also is an independent state and journalists often find the easiest way to make sense of what is going on there is to cover it like they would politics.

Of course, that works especially well in a thriller. Bad guys and good guys inside and outside the Vatican push their own agendas.

In Montalbano's book there are "commando Catholics" who are tired of change in the church; groups every bit as extreme who believe nothing has changed enough; a secretive, wealthy group of laity and clerics who believe they are the only remnant of the Holy Roman Church; and thugs from a drug cartel who are trying to kill the pope.

"Basilica" won't make a difference in anyone's faith life, and the agendas of the various groups of quarreling are nothing a Catholic reader hasn't heard before.

But the Vatican's a great setting for a mystery and Montalbano took obvious pleasure in using it for his last book. ▼

Cindy Wooden is senior correspondent in the Rome bureau of Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

February 28, Second Sunday of Lent. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Genesis 12:1-4a
   Psalms 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
2) 2 Timothy 1:8b-10
3) Matthew 17:1-9

By JEFF HENSLEY

When bad things happen to people, the worst thing they can do is spend large amounts of time seeking to answer the question "Why?"

One of my favorite Ziggy cartoons shows the little round fellow walking down the street. In every shop window is a sign with two words. The same words are lettered on the T-shirts of those who walk by him. The same words are blinking in a sign on a blimp floating in the sky above him: "Why me?"

When good things — extraordinarily good things — happen to us, we often ask the same question. And often we come up quickly with an answer that has to do with our own virtue or worthiness. We reach this answer despite our intimate knowledge of our own imperfections.

In this Sunday's Genesis Scripture reading, Abram acts in obedience to God's direction in such a way that God is able to say to him, "All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." Was Abram a perfect person who always acted in accord with God's will? No.

But he was obedient enough to be a tremendous channel of blessing for the human family, obedient enough to be the foundation stone of the Jewish people through whom God's salvation was to come.

In Matthew, Jesus is transfigured, and poor Peter blusters about, trying to prolong the moment, to comemmorate it with a brush arbor shrine, to somehow sanctify the holy. Was Peter a perfect guy? No. But he was obedient and loving enough to serve as the foundation stone of the church which would bring salvation to the nations.

And so to you and I. What will we do that is foolish and weak and reveals our own flaws on our path to obedience to God? Plenty. Does that make us unusable by God? No.

As it says in Timothy, the answer to all of our why questions has more to do with grace than with goodness. "God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours, but according to his design — the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior."

God will make our mortal dust enough, enough for the foundation stones of his glorious purposes, if we will only believe — believe, obey and love.

Questions:

Have you been tempted to believe God has given up on you? Have you considered going to the Bible to read about the sins and errors of God's heroes?

"God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design — the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began...."
— 2 Timothy 1:9

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 28 - Mar. 6, 1999

Sunday, Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9; **Monday**, Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday**, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday**, Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

© 1998 Wachovia Corporation

Where are you?

Does the future sometimes feel out of reach? Could you use a little help? Are you overwhelmed with all the choices now available? We are here. To offer clear thinking about money and the future. To provide answers based on the questions created by your needs. To support you with a tradition of sound financial thinking. To help your money earn more. Even if it means we might make less. We were all born trusting other people. We just want you to feel that way again.

WACHOVIA

We are here.

Let's get started.℠

1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM

[MODULARCORP]

Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Movie Review

"My Favorite Martian" laboriously drawn out to movie length

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Yet another forgettable TV sitcom is given the big-screen treatment, with likewise results, in "My Favorite Martian" (Disney).

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

Based on the 1963-66 sitcom with Bill Bixby and starring Ray Walston in the title role, this frantic, flailing update teams TV newsman Tim (Jeff Daniels) with a crash-landed alien who assumes human form posing as Tim's odd Uncle Martin (Christopher Lloyd).

The comedy is still a sitcom, laboriously drawn out to movie length, but the frenetic goings-on can't disguise a threadbare narrative.

Sensing a career-making story, Tim initially sets out to expose the alien but is won over once he realizes ominous government agents are out to snatch his bogus uncle with dastardly intent.

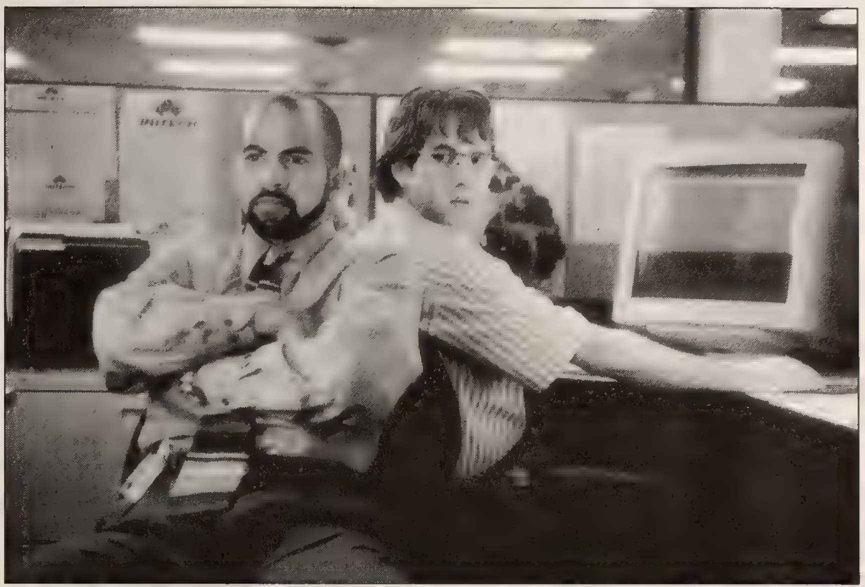
Daniels and Lloyd go into overdrive competing with the real star of the show — the special effects. The prime one is the Martian's talking silver space suit which has a life of its own, rushing around uninhabited and uncontrollable in ways likely only to amuse young schoolchildren.

With not much happening storywise, several female characters are supposed to amuse, but Daryl Hannah is simply bland as a TV operator sweet on Tim, Elizabeth Hurley gets few laughs as an on-camera brunette bimbo, and Christine Ebersole is embarrassing to watch as Tim's sex-starved landlady. By and large the characters amount to walking cartoons, but they are wacky without being witty, especially when director Donald Petrie resorts to vulgar toilet humor.

Nostalgic fans of the show will appreciate Walston's appearance as a Martian hunter and the twist ending that reveals a hidden agenda. However, based on this dopey movie, the suggestion that a sequel could be down the road should definitely blasted into the farthest reaches of outer space.

Due to some slapstick violence, fleeting rear nudity, occasional sexual innuendo and toilet humor and a few instances of profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from Twentieth Century Fox

"Office Space"

Ajay Naidu and David Herman portray two fed-up employees in the comedy "Office Space." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

TV of Note

Tuesday, March 2, 9-10 p.m. EST (A&E) "New York Underground." From the "Inside Story" series, an exploration of the world beneath the city, including a subway system where concert violinists vie with graffiti artists for the public's attention.

Wednesday, March 3, 8-9 p.m. EST (CBS) "Shania Twain's Winter Break." Musical special in which the Grammy-winning country-pop singer performs, along with guests Elton John and The Backstreet Boys.

Friday, March 5, 9-10:30 p.m. EST (PBS) "Star Crossed Lovers." From the "Great Performances" series, tenor Placido Domingo and soprano Renee Fleming perform selections from "Faust," "Otello," "Romeo and Juliet," "The Merry Widow" and "West Side Story" with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Saturday, March 6, 8-9 p.m. EST (PBS) "In Search of Tuscany With John Guerrasio." Special in which the food critic and author guides viewers through the heartland of Tuscany, exploring the heritage, cuisine, wine and crafts of Northern Italy's small towns and such tourist meccas as Florence and Sienna.

Kathy Troccoli
In Concert
March 12, 1999
7:30 p.m.
St. Raphael Parish, Raleigh
(Kickoff to "A Call to Jubilee" the Annual Diocesan Gathering)

See one of America's most popular Catholic Christian contemporary performers.

- 1998 Dove Award for Inspirational Song of the Year, *A Baby's Prayer.*
- Founder of A Baby's Prayer Foundation, ministering to women who have had or are contemplating an abortion.
- Four #1 contemporary hits: *I Will Choose Christ, My Life Is in Your Hands, In a Father's Heart, Go Light Your World.*
- New CD release titled "Corner of Eden".
- 13 Dove Award nominations.
- Two Grammy Award nominations
- National spokesperson for LifeTeen, the national Catholic youth organization.
- National spokesperson for Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Tickets: $12 in advance. Children 12 & under $10 in advance.
$14 at the door, if available.
Concert tickets can be purchased by Visa and MasterCard at In His Name Bookstore, Raleigh for an additional $1.50 service and handling fee. For charge card purchases call 919-847-2220 or 800-735-4566.

Get
DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive
EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

McGivney sainthood cause takes to the road in Ireland

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell took the sainthood cause of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, on the road — to Ireland's County Cavan — for two weeks in January.

As part of the research he must do as postulator for the cause, Father O'Donnell went in search of Father McGivney's roots, especially records concerning his parents and grandparents.

The most interesting discovery was that the McGivneys "were part of the great emigration of the potato famine," he told Catholic News Service in a phone interview from Knights' headquarters in New Haven, Conn.

Father McGivney, who lived 1852-90, was the eldest of 13 children born to Patrick and Mary Lynch McGivney in Waterbury, Conn. Emigrating from separate towns in Cavan, the couple met and married in the United States. Only seven of their children lived past childhood.

The parents "had some property over there, but it wasn't a great deal," Father O'Donnell said. He made photo copies of land records, but has yet to examine them fully.

"There were a number of McGivney families and some spelled the name differently, sometimes 'McGibney,' sometimes 'McGeveney,'" he said. An Irish genealogical buff — and former archbishop of Cavan — advised him they were all the same family.

Though the parents were unskilled when they arrived, he said, "the fact that the McGivneys came in either through New York or Boston would indicate that they weren't quite as destitute as some others."

Father O'Donnell found no record of Father McGivney's grandparents. Consequently, he said, "we really can't be sure who his aunts and uncles were."

Though not critical for documenting the cause, he said, this is somewhat important because "many people claim to be cousins or relatives."

One McGivney family in upstate New York has an oral tradition that Michael, while studying in Canada, visited their home, said the postulator. Another in Detroit believes they are related, but they "don't even come from Cavan originally," he said.

"There's really not going to be any way that we can sort all this out," he added.

The Dominican said Irish records from the period are scarce, partly because Catholicism had been outlawed in Ireland until the 1820s and partly because of the chaos of the famine years, 1845-50, when 1 million Irish died and another 2 million emigrated.

In Ireland, he recalled, a priest writing a book about Cavan priests who emigrated during the famine told him of "an oral tradition that the McGivney family left lock, stock and barrel."

Father O'Donnell said the trip provided an important context for Father McGivney as the eldest child of famine immigrants.

"I don't think the McGivneys came to the United States looking for a bright new world," he said. "I think they were desperate for food and sustenance."

In family lore passed down to great-nieces and nephews still alive, he said, there are no stories or anecdotes about Michael, but many about his younger brothers, Patrick and John, who became priests after his death and lived well into the 20th century.

The postulator believes Father McGivney is historically and psychologically bracketed in family history. "He's kind of the first fruits out of this terrible devastation of the Irish famine," he said.

This might also explain Father McGivney's enigmatic quality and unsmiling portraits, Father O'Donnell suggested. "He must have heard terrible things from his parents about their life in Ireland. And I think it probably accounts also for the sensitivity of his heart to suffering."

After Ireland, Father O'Donnell traveled to Rome to consult with the Congregation for Sainthood Causes. He found officials "both interested and cooperative," he said.

The postulator hopes to submit the cause's historical documentation and official positio or biography to the congregation in 2000. He said he told officials there will not be much in terms of Father McGivney's papers or writings.

They reassured him, he said, "that the cause of canonization is a theological discernment on the part of the church. It isn't the conclusion to historical research."

He also described three "purported miracles," all healings attributed to Father McGivney's intercession, that he has just begun to investigate. Acceptance of one of these could lead to Father McGivney's beatification.

The congregation was especially interested in the priest's pastoral significance, said Father O'Donnell, so he stressed Father McGivney's parish and diocesan ministry as significant "for priests and seminarians who are somewhat beleaguered in this time."

He also noted that Father McGivney, who founded the Knights in 1882, "anticipated in many ways the movements that we have celebrated so at the end of the 20th century, that is, the awareness of social problems and collaboration with the laity."

The Dominican, himself Irish-American, said he recently read a great deal about the famine and the lives of new Irish immigrants in the United States. It made him realize they "lived in subhuman conditions," he said. "We have lost touch with how poor people were."

Father O'Donnell said the Knights' founder "can be a tremendous reminder of the cultural transition that's occurred over a hundred years." ▼

Vatican says world's Catholic population has surpassed 1 billion

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It's official — for the first time, the world's Catholic population has surpassed 1 billion.

The Vatican announced the event when it unveiled its 1999 annual yearbook Feb. 20, in a presentation to Pope John Paul II. The latest statistics show that while the Catholic population continues to increase, the number of priests is holding about steady and the number of religious is slowly dropping.

According to the statistics, dated Dec. 31, 1997, there were about 1,005,000,000 Catholics registered in the world's dioceses, representing 17.3 percent of the global population.

By regions, Catholics represented 62.9 percent in the Americas, 41.4 percent in Europe, 27.5 percent in Oceania, 14.9 percent in Africa and 3 percent in Asia. They were served by more than 219,000 parishes and more than 115,000 missionary stations across the world.

While the number of Catholics per priest continues to increase, the yearbook noted that the number of seminarians was rising, up about 2.5 percent from the previous year.

It said the church's pastoral workforce totaled nearly 3.4 million:

— More than 4,400 bishops.

— More than 404,000 priests, of which nearly 264,000 were diocesan clergy.

— More than 24,400 permanent deacons, which increased 4 percent.

— More than 58,000 male religious who were not priests.

— More than 819,000 female religious.

— More than 31,000 members of secular institutes.

— More than 26,000 lay missionaries.

— More than 2 million catechists.

According to the yearbook, the Vatican maintains diplomatic relations with 168 states, also a record. ▼

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Pope says Lenten conversion is key part of jubilee preparation

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lenten reflection, repentance and conversion are not only important parts of preparing for Easter but also will help Catholics prepare for the celebration of the Holy Year 2000, Pope John Paul II said.

"Do not let this favorable time pass in vain," the pope said Feb. 21 in his midday Angelus address, his last public appointment before beginning a weeklong Lenten retreat.

"It is necessary to be freed from indifference and from the distractions of the world and to listen to the voice of God that echoes in the church and, even before, in the conscience of each person," the pope said.

Dedicating time and serious attention to examining one's conscience is an important part of Christian life, he said. It reveals the truth about one's life and helps people see the distance between their actions or attitudes and the ideals they hold.

Pope John Paul asked for prayers for his Feb. 21-27 retreat, which was to be preached by Bishop Andre-Mutien Leonard of Namur, Belgium.

Bishop Leonard, 58, told Vatican Radio the retreat, which will include three sessions each day, would have the theme: "The Eternal Trinity: Viaticum for the Journey Toward the Third Millennium."

He said he accepted the pope's invitation to preach the retreat "with great joy because I think it is a very interesting spiritual experience to live the preparation of Lent with the Holy Father and his closest collaborators."

"At the same time," Bishop Leonard said, "I obviously have a bit of apprehension, because thinking about guiding the pope does have a certain effect."

Earlier Feb. 21, Pope John Paul visited St. Raymond Nonnato Parish on the southeastern edge of Rome.

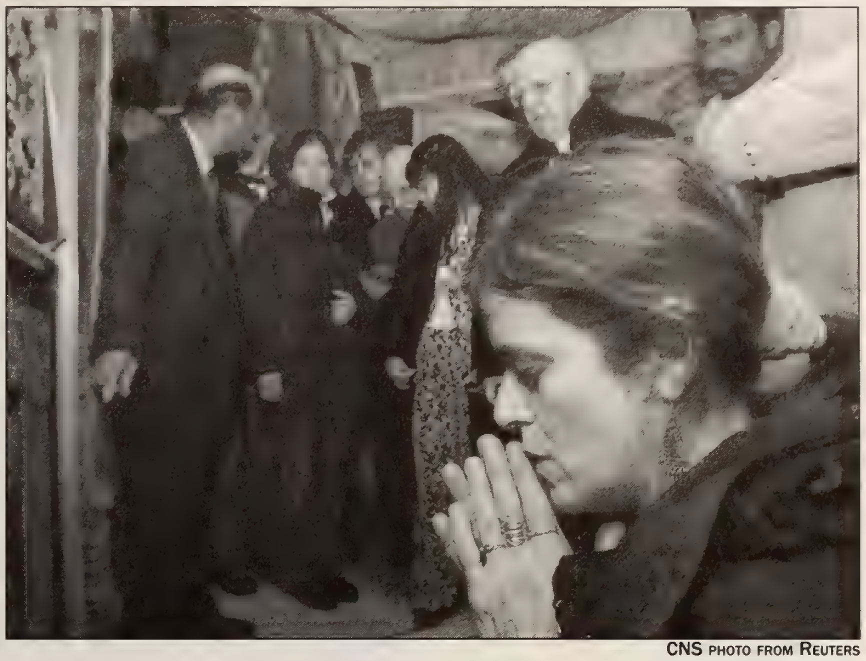
During his Mass homily, the pope said that especially during Lent, Catholics are called to let themselves be questioned and nourished by the Word of God.

"Man does not live by bread alone; our hearts need God most of all," he said.

The pope also asked parishioners to give special attention this Lent to the sacrament of penance.

"In the frequent practice of this sacrament, the Christian experiences divine mercy and becomes, in turn, able to pardon and to love," the pope said.

He said he hoped final preparations for celebrating the year 2000 would awaken in more people a desire to receive the sacrament and would stimulate priests to make more time available for hearing confessions. ▼



CNS photo from Reuters

Holy Land visitors

A pilgrim prays in the Church of the Nativity as church leaders are guided on a tour Feb. 19 in Bethlehem. Some 500 clergy members, from the United States, Europe and South Africa, were invited to the Holy Land as guests of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and the Palestinian Authority to promote millennium celebrations.

Dialogue, prayer service, concert to honor St. Edith Stein

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An afternoon and evening of events has been scheduled for March 14 in Washington to celebrate the canonization last October of Edith Stein.

A dialogue, prayer service and organ concert have been planned by the Discalced Carmelites, in collaboration with The Catholic University of America, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Archdiocese of Washington.

A dialogue on "Edith Stein's Challenge for Our Times" will be presented by Eugene Fisher, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. Catholic bishops, and Suzanne Batzdorff, author and niece of Edith Stein, beginning at 3 p.m. in Gowan Hall Auditorium at Catholic University.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore will lead an evening vespers service at 6 p.m. in the lower church of the shrine, including prayers for all who died in the Holocaust and for an end to ethnic and religious persecution.

At 7 p.m. Franciscan Sister Mary Jane Wagner will present an organ concert of pieces by a favorite composer of the saint and others chosen to highlight the troubled times that led to her death in the Nazi gas chambers and relating to her life as a contemplative nun.

The events are free and open to the public.

St. Edith Stein was born into a Jewish family but was baptized a Catholic in 1922 and entered the Carmelite monastery of Cologne, Germany, in 1933, taking the religious name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. She died in 1942 in the Birkenau section of the Auschwitz concentration camp and was canonized by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 11, 1998. ▼

CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMPS

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina
Owned and Directed by Roman Catholics

A place where a child can explore, build self-confidence and self-esteem.
A wholesome and challenging environment where our youth can play, learn and grow in faith together.

Two mountain camps, in the heart of the Blue Ridge, surrounded by national forest, whitewater rivers and waterfalls offering: rock climbing, swimming, drama, whitewater canoeing, horseback riding, archery, high ropes, backpacking, arts and crafts, mountain biking, kayaking, gymnastics, tennis, nature study, riflery, team sports, and more...

CAMP KAHDALEA FOR GIRLS

CAMP CHOSATONGA FOR BOYS

2500 Morgan Mill Road, Brevard, NC 28712
(828) 884-6834 E-mail: kahdalea@citcom.net

Ages 8-17
Tuition starts around $1800
Please call for a VIDEO.

"I will lift up my eyes
to the mountains, from
whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Conversion

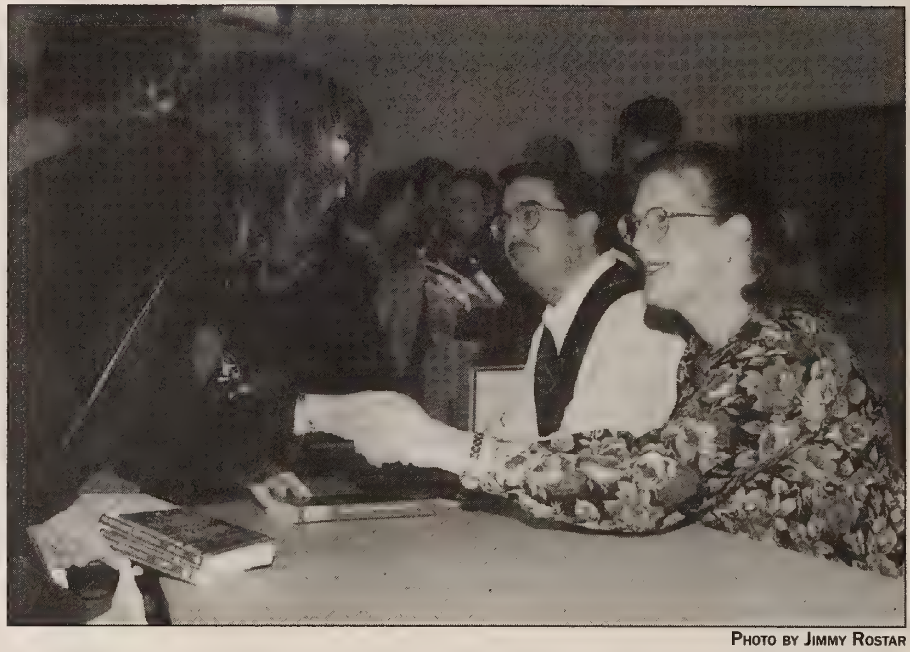


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Scott and Kimberly Hahn sign books and meet audience members at St. Gabriel Catholic Church Feb. 13. They gave four talks on God, Mary, Scripture, and conversion.

Faith journey brings woman to Catholic Church

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Kimberly Hahn remembers a time when the very thought of becoming Catholic made her weep.

Her opposition caused much turmoil in her life, threatened to break up her marriage, and left her with feelings of abandonment by those who meant the most to her.

It's now been almost 10 years since Hahn entered the Catholic Church, and she continues to share her conversion story with thousands — a message of faith she brought to St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte on Feb. 13.

Her presentation was part of "Dare to Call Him Abba," a series of four talks by Kimberly and her husband, Scott, on topics about God, Mary, Scripture and conversion. The series was sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

The Hahns appear frequently on television, in print and through speaking engagements to discuss a variety of Catholic issues, including their own conversions.

"I can truthfully say to you there has not been one backward glance for me," Kimberly told her Charlotte audience. "There has not been a moment of doubt as to whether or not this was the right decision."

Today, Kimberly Hahn can say that with joy and enthusiasm, although the process she endured was a tumultuous one. "All that pain welled up inside me," she said, "and (yet) I really sensed the love of God in the midst of it."

The journey begins

Raised in a loving, evangelical Presbyterian household, Kimberly learned about Scripture and living one's faith from her mother and her father, a minister.

She graduated from college and got married in 1979. Her husband, Scott, was also an evangelical Presbyterian. They decided to enter Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts that fall to pursue master's degrees.

She said a Christian ethics class, in which she pursued a social issues project on contraception, caused her to reaffirm her pro-life position — and reevaluate her stance on birth control.

Study for the project, which included research on the Catholic viewpoint, led to a deeper understanding of the nature of God and of honoring him by using his gifts as he intended, she said.

Later studies at the seminary turned up another inkling of Catholic teaching. "I came to a Catholic understanding of justification, that we're made right with God when he makes us his children," she said.

By the time she graduated, she said, she could no longer embrace "a Protestant understanding of justification" — namely, that humans are justified by faith alone. She said Scott also had begun to study the issue, and his findings on Catholic teaching shook him to the very core.

Still, Kimberly was perfectly "happy to be an evangelical Protestant."

After graduation, the Hahns settled in Virginia. Kimberly was pregnant with their first child, and Scott had become a minister, teaching in a local seminary.

Kimberly began to sense that Scott was experiencing a time of discovery.

"Some of what he taught disturbed me," she said of her husband's class work, which included discussions on liturgy and typology.

After much consideration, prayer and study, Scott told Kimberly he felt he was being called to the Episcopal Church. Kimberly was crushed.

"The last thing I wanted to be was Episcopalian," she recalled.

As he continued to study and teach, Scott was offered the dean's position at the seminary. He turned it down, saying that he needed time to sort out questions about his own faith.

The Hahns moved to Pennsylvania, and in time Scott delivered more news that left Kimberly heartbroken: His faith journey seemed to be taking him not to the Episcopal Church, but towards Roman Catholicism.

"I remember ... just feeling like the joy I had in the Lord had literally drained out of my body through my feet," Kimberly said.

Still a devout Presbyterian, Kimberly reluctantly agreed to grant Scott's request that he enter Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., to continue his conversion process.

They relocated to Milwaukee. As Scott's journey took him in one direction, Kimberly's took her in another: She began to question who God really was, and listened with doubt as Scott described the Catholic Church as a teacher of biblically based truth.

Although he had promised Kimberly he would study and pray for another four years before even possibly converting, Scott felt an undeniable call to enter the Catholic Church the following Easter. Kimberly offered her pain up to God, but felt an intense feeling of abandonment by her husband.

The first Mass Kimberly attended was an Easter Vigil in 1986 in Milwaukee. It was the Mass during which Scott became Catholic.

"To me, it was a day I wanted to forget," Kimberly said. "It was the day that ended taking communion together, and my heart was very, very broken."

Arguments and challenges reached into the early hours of the morning in the Hahns' home. Scott wanted to raise their children in the Catholic tradition. Kimberly felt pushed away, and recalled feeling that Scott's conversion "was costing me everything" — even perhaps their marriage.

"Two different times I walked the block wanting to leave," she said. "The pain was so excruciating."

A fork in the road

About a year had passed when Kimberly's father reminded her of a prayer that promised total obedience to God and his plan. She admitted that she hadn't prayed it in a long time. Her father urged her to ask for grace.

A month of soul searching ensued. Still convinced that she would be giving up her mind and heart by entering the Catholic Church, she finally found the courage and faith to pray that prayer.

Something clicked.

"The powerful message God gave me was that I had placed myself in the

See HAHN, next page

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

An Invitation to
Visit Southern Italy and Sicily
Sept. 22 - Oct. 5
$2,750 per person
(based on double occupancy)
With Fr. Carl of Sacred Heart in Brevard
Escorted Tour includes:
Motorcoach to Charlotte
Round-trip airfare
Professional guides
8 glorious cities
Superior first-class hotels
Most meals
Deluxe motorcoach
Space is limited so call Butch at Fugazy Travel
(828) 274-2555 or (800) 221-7181 for info
Some restrictions may apply

DSA: Seminarians

Preparing those to whom we shall someday turn for spiritual guidance

"Jesus Christ told his disciples to pray for vocations, and so everyone must work and pray that many young men will follow the Lord's call."
— Pope John Paul II,
September 1993.

By JOANN KEANE
Editor

Usually direct services are associated with the DSA beneficiary ministries. Educational ministries, Catholic Social Services and Multicultural Ministries provide tangible support and service.

However, of the life sustaining ministries supported by the Diocesan Support Appeal, one stands apart from the others: The education of future priests for the diocese.

It can be years in the making before the diocese reaps the benefits. But make no mistake, the end benefit of seminarian education is in fact a ministry of service, and a key component of the annual support appeal.

Let your light shine! DSA '99

It's a massive undertaking, providing for these men of faith. And the responsibility falls upon the shoulders of those to whom they will someday minister.

"A vocation, the response to a vocation, depends to a very high degree on the witness of the whole community, the family, the parish," said Pope John Paul II in a 1993 address. "It is people who help vocations to grow. It is priests who by their example attract young men and help them respond to Jesus' words: 'Follow me.' Those who have received a vocation must be able to give an example of how to follow."

Coordinating such efforts in the Diocese of Charlotte is how Father Eric Houseknecht spends his days — when he's not tending to the faith needs of Our Lady of Consolation parish in Charlotte. Four years ordained, Father Houseknecht is well aware of the need to cultivate, educate and encourage future priests; and draws from his own experience. "Throughout my own priestly formation, I was continually amazed, humbled and affirmed by the tremendous spirit of love shown to me by the people of our diocese."

> **"Throughout my own priestly formation, I was continually amazed, humbled and affirmed by the tremendous spirit of love shown to me by the people of our diocese."**
>
> *— Father Eric Houseknecht*

In an era where a critical shortage of priests is becoming all too common, vocations to the priesthood in this diocese are encouraging. "The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed with 24 young men studying for the priesthood," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

"This June we will celebrate the ordination of two new priests, who will accept the joys and challenges of serving God and the people of Western North Carolina," said Bishop Curlin. "While we rejoice in this blessing, we face certain challenges in order to educate, nurture and recruit future priests."

The cost of educating seminarians in this diocese exceeds $538,600 annually. And while the seminarian allocation from the support appeal is 12 percent of the overall support appeal collection, it is not enough. A second collection and the diocesan Friends to Seminarians programs help offset the expense of theological training for these future priests.

"If we feel involved in the redeeming work of Christ and the Church, we must always pray for vocations," said Pope John Paul II. "The harvest is great." ▼

The Seminarians program is one of the 35 ministries partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Editor Joann Keane at (704) 370-3336, or send e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Hahn, from page 14

bird cage," she said. "In praying a prayer of total relinquishment, no matter what the cost, I handed the key back to the Lord — and he unlocked the cage.

"He said, 'Now you're ready to fly again with me.'"

For the first time in about three years of spiritual struggle, Kimberly felt true joy.

Homecoming

Kimberly said her decision was in no way final. But with her and Scott's third child, Hannah, on the way, another step toward the Catholic faith was taken.

As she prayed, she said, she felt a conviction in her heart that their daughter was to be baptized Catholic.

She said listening to and witnessing the power and mystery of the baptismal rite "meant so much to me, and as we left there I remember thinking, 'Lord, I don't know what you've done for Hannah, but I know you've done something in my heart.'"

As Scott had so ardently tried to encourage her before, Kimberly began to embrace a new sense of faith.

Kimberly's period of conversion continued, and it wasn't without doubt and fear. But as she kept studying, she said, "the fabric of truth just became rich and more beautiful."

She learned and embraced Catholic teachings about the sacraments, about the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, about the role of Scripture and sacred tradition in the church.

A growing understanding of the intercession of Mary and the saints comforted her greatly, she recalled. With that understanding, she overcame one of her most steadfast roadblocks to accepting Catholic teachings.

"I began to realize that there is a rich truth to the communion of saints that I needed as a Christian," she said. She grew to love the saints not as equals to or replacements for Jesus, but "as an extra way to him."

Kimberly Hahn became a Catholic at Easter of 1990 in Joliet, Ill.

Her faith journey, which began in a Christian home, reached both a completion and a new beginning with her conversion, she said.

"I believe there's continuity from what I was given as a child that my Protestant family members may not be able to see," she explained. "But I don't think I've rejected what I was given.

"I think I've come to the fullness of the faith by the mercy of God." ▼

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Want to re-finance your home at a better rate?
Need help with debt management?
Jeff Branstrator
(336) 370-4100
(888) 322-9503
Parishioner of St. Pius X Church
Call today.
FIRST HORIZON HOME MORTGAGE, INC.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Receptionist: Bi-lingual (Spanish and English) person; part-time, (25 hours/week) M-F 12:00-5:00; friendly, comfortable with people; minimal office skills required with willingness to learn more. Send resume to B. Bazluki, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or Fax to (704) 370-3377.

Office Nurse: Organized, detail-oriented R.N. or L.P.N. who enjoys patient contact, for telephone triage, insurance approvals, referrals, help with disability reports, medical records, patient flow, and refills. Leave message at (336)760-4806 (Winston-Salem).

Principal: Due to the continued, rapid growth of the Catholic community in the greater Raleigh, NC area, two new Catholic primary schools are scheduled to open in the fall of the year 2000. We are seeking innovative candidates who, as school principals, can provide excellent leadership and a compelling vision for our schools and engage and involve both parents and the community. The successful candidates must be practicing Catholics, have at least a master's Degree with experience as elementary school administrators, and hold or be qualified for North Carolina elementary school principal certification. Send cover letter with your statement of educational philosophy and your resume with salary requirements to: Catholic Schools of Southwest Wake County, Attn: Principal Search Committee, P.O. Box 310, Apex, NC 27502-0310.

Community Outreach Worker: Immediate position for experienced Community Outreach Worker to help identify and coordinate enrollment of eligible Latino/Hispanic children in new health care program. Bi-lingual, college degree, computer skills and comfortable working with diverse groups of people. Send resume to: Geri King, Director, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax to 370-3377.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: March 15, 1999.

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Real Patch Adams tells Catholic students to ‘dance through life’

By CLARE MACDONNELL
Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — The real-life physician named Hunter “Patch” Adams, portrayed by actor Robin Williams in the hit movie, told Catholic high school students in Arlington to embrace life and to not be afraid to reach out to others.

The movie tells the story of Adams’ determination as a medical student to treat patients with humor and humanity.

Dressed in colorful, mismatched garb, the gregarious doctor, who is also a professional clown, spoke from the auditorium stage at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington to kick off the school’s 24th annual “Superdance” fund-raiser for cystic fibrosis.

It is the largest high school fund-raiser for cystic fibrosis in the country. In 23 years, the school has raised $1.5 million.

In his remarks, Adams shared with the students what he said his father told him as a child: “Be thankful you are alive, then look around to see who else is at the party.”

“Take it upon yourself, with intent, that the minute you leave your house you will give,” he said.

Adams is one of several doctors who run the Gesundheit Institute, a holistic clinic in West Virginia. He and his colleagues are currently planning to build a hospital to provide free, holistic care.

Born in northern Virginia, Adams graduated from George Washington University in the District of Columbia and the Medical College of Virginia.

Inspired to become a doctor while institutionalized for depression as a teen-ager, Adams told the crowd simply but emphatically, “I love people.” As a result of his experience as a patient, he was a pioneer in the idea of treating the patient instead of the disease.

“The ideal patient is someone who wants a deep, intimate friendship for life,” said Adams. “When I see a patient, I want to spend two or three hours with him.”

Referring to the fact that he has made no money and has gained no material possessions from his work, Adams told the students, “I’ve only known pain to practice medicine but I am a billionaire of the richness of life.”

He said he will make $4 million this year and all of it will go back into his work. With a note of sadness in his voice, he said that the first donation to his clinic came 14 years into the project.

“Last week, two large foundations gave us all the money we need to build the hospital,” he said. “It has taken a film — the modern church — to draw an interest in my work.”

He cautioned the students about the temptations of fame. “I don’t want you to be seduced by celebrity — mine or anyone else’s,” he said. “Forget the name and remember the deeds.”

Adams did not leave the stage without giving the school an example of his clowning abilities. While performing he pointed out that the humor in the movie starring Williams was understated. He is much crazier than the movie portrayed him, he said.

He described himself not as a birthday clown, but more like “the nut on the street.” He views his clowning as a public service which “changes the mood on the streets by being playful and funny.” He will even disrupt family disputes if he thinks he can ease the pressure by clowning around.

Adams has led clown contingents to Russia and Bosnia, trying to bring smiles in the midst of war.

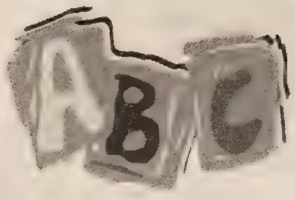
“None of this is what I started out to do,” he said. “But the thrill of the quest is palpable everyday and I want to offer that intoxication to you.”

Adams challenged the students to move beyond the Superdance event by spending a week with a child who has cystic fibrosis or with another suffering individual.

“Take it upon yourself, with intent, that the minute you leave your house you will give,” he said. “Make yourself act conscientiously toward this goal. Think to yourself, ‘Maybe my feet will save lives,’ and remember that every day is a superdance, so dance through life.” ▾

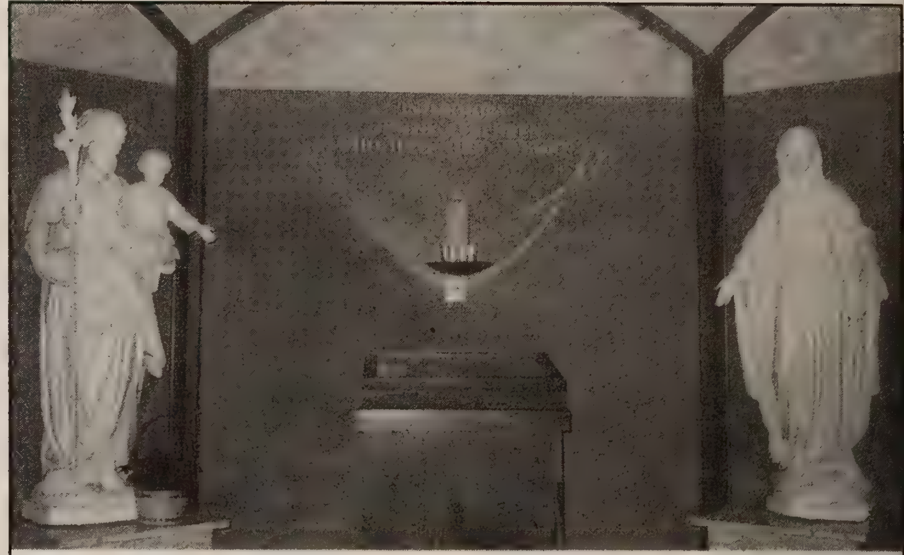
Elementary Principal Needed

Summerville Catholic School, with 400 students in grades K-4 through 8, is seeking a principal beginning with the 1999-2000 school year. Now in its fourteenth year of operation, Summerville Catholic School has an excellent reputation, a dedicated staff, outstanding parental support, three supporting parishes, and an enthusiastic and energetic student population. We are seeking a student-oriented, community-minded leader to build on our past accomplishments, help devote, refine and implement long-range plans, and be an integral part of our spiritual and academic development as we move into the twenty-first century. Desired qualifications:



- *Master's degree in administration or education.*
- *Eligibility for SC elementary principal's certificate.*
- *Five years experience in administering a Catholic school.*
- *Active and practicing Catholic.*

Please send letter of interest and resume to:
Rev. Msgr. Christopher Lathem
28 Sumter Ave., Summerville, SC 29483



The
Shrine
Dedicated to Children Who Died
Unborn

Church of the Holy Innocents, New York

The Shrine Dedicated to Children Who Have Died Unborn is a memorial for all children who have died before birth through miscarriage, abortion or who are stillborn.

When parents suffer the loss of an unborn baby, there usually is no burial or any way for them to honor and remember their child. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, reminds us in his encyclical letter Evangelium Vitae, that these children are now “living in the Lord” and are with God for all eternity.

This shrine offers an opportunity for families to enter the name of their child into the *Book of Life* which is encased at the shrine between statues of the Holy Family and beneath the Eternal Flame candle. Our shrine is a place of prayer, healing, forgiveness and love.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated on the last Friday of every month in honor of the children inscribed into the *Book of Life* and for the comfort of their families.

If you would like to enter a child's name into our "Book of Life," please send us a letter with the name of the child, or contact:

Dominique Guiteau at (212) 279-5861 ext. 321
or E-mail us at: Shrine@innocents.com
Church of the Holy Innocents
128 West 37th Street
New York, NY 10018

Ad sponsored by the Respect Life Office, Diocese of Charlotte.
For information, call Maggi Nadol (704) 370-3229

***************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S297 F1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 5, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 26

Inside

Land mine document

Pope urges nations to sign global anti-land mine treaty

...PAGE 13

Bishop asked to participate in sainthood cause

...PAGE 16

Local News

Catholic, Lutheran bishops issue Lenten statement

...PAGE 3

"The Song of Mark"

St. Barnabas Church in Arden hosts Gospel-based play

...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

Faith Formation Week

March 14-21

SEE SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

PHOTOS BY DONNA JERNIGAN

"Here is reflected the mystery of the Church," read Bishop William G. Curlin, during the prayer of dedication and the anointings of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "The Church is the dwelling place of God on earth: a temple built of living stones, founded on the apostles with Jesus Christ its corner stone." The new building is the final chapter in a three-phase construction plan, as parking facilities and education and social facilities were completed over the past few years.

Come Holy Spirit

St. Vincent de Paul parish family celebrates its new parish home

By JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For a number of years, the parish family of St. Vincent de Paul prayed in unison: "Help us ... put into reality the dream of a church — a place to worship — a place to gather as Christians united in friendship — a community of believers praying together in sacred matters and working and playing together in secular pursuits."

During the Feb. 27 Vigil Mass, the parish gathered to celebrate the fruition of those prayers. With the sacred liturgy of dedication, the parish received its long anticipated house of salvation and grace. Where Christians gather to worship in spirit and truth and grow together in love.

In a most sacred moment, Bishop Curlin anointed the altar and church with a fragrant holy oil of chrism. As the building was filled with aromatic incense the prayers of the people asscended to God. In this a holy place we mark the altar with five crosses ... signifying the wounds of Christ," said Bishop Curlin. We will put into this altar the relics of holy saints who gave their life for Jesus.

With this solemn consecration, the new St. Vincent de Paul Church was dedicated as an ever-holy place to feed God's people on Christ's word and sacrament. "How blessed we are with this magnificent church," said Bishop Curlin. "Through your sacrifices your efforts and through the inspiration of Msgr. Pharr, you have constructed a place where you will be nourished by the sacraments we will celebrate here."

"This is where we worship," said Bishop Curlin. "This is where we celebrate God's presence and share in love, to celebrate the greatest gift of all, our Lord's presence in the Eucharist, the heartbeat of the church." However, he added, "this building, as beautiful as it is, is not the whole church. The church is also outside of these walls. We are living stones. We are the body of Christ. Where you go, Christ goes."

The new church — with seating for about 750 — towers above its former self. In 1961 St. Vincent de Paul was established as a mission of St. Ann parish. The first facility, "a gym, was constructed to be used as a temporary chapel," recalled Msgr. Bill Pharr.

In 1965 St. Vincent — the mission — was elevated to parish status. "The temporary chapel became the permanent church for the next 36 years," said Msgr. Pharr, pastor of the southeast Charlotte parish for the past eight years.

The new building completes a triptych of a plan: Parking facilities, education and social wings, and this final phase, a new church for liturgy and prayer.

"We are especially grateful for our renovated church," said Msgr. Pharr. "It has been the number one long-range goal for this parish."

Building committee chair Andy Lock — a St. Vincent de Paul parishioner for more than a decade — spent the better part of that time involved with the parish construction plans. In spite of nominal setbacks such as unearthing rock — where rock should not have been — during the parking lot phase, and a few design reconfigurations, Lock is proud of his new parish home. "We've built a lovely church. Simple and beautiful." ▾

The new church — with seating for about 750 — towers above its former self. In 1961 St. Vincent de Paul was established as a mission of St. Ann parish.

U.S. mediator says Kosovo peace proposal is 'only solution'

PARIS (CNS) — The chief U.S. mediator to the Kosovo peace talks said there is "no question now of proposing any other peace plan." "Everybody knows that these 83 pages of sometimes-tortuous prose represent the only solution," said the mediator, Christopher Hill, U.S. ambassador to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. "Both sides have begun to understand that this is how the future of Kosovo will be decided." Hill spoke to the French Catholic daily La Croix after the inconclusive end of the first phase of peace talks between representatives of the government of Yugoslavia and ethnic Albanians, the majority in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. The initial talks were conducted in Rambouillet, a village some 30 miles west of Paris.

For jubilee, Vatican to issue identity cards to visitors

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican plans to issue identity cards to visitors during the year 2000 that will include personal health data, access to mass transportation and records of reservations for events and services. Officials who released details of the "Pilgrim's Card" Feb. 26 emphasized that several aspects of the program, such as prices and availability dates, were still being finalized. They nevertheless were able to describe a range of potential benefits to card-holding individuals and groups. Card holders would be able to reserve places for Jubilee Year celebrations ranging from papal general audiences to liturgical celebrations.

Used medical equipment may save lives of Third World children

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — For hospitalized children in developing countries, used medical equipment from a Worcester convent, most destined for the trash, could be a priceless find. With the help of volunteers, hundreds of medical supplies were taken from the Sisters of Notre Dame convent to be refurbished for use in Ukraine. The convent was once a nursing home with rehabilitation services and it will undergo another conversion to become an assisted living facility.

Belgrade prayers
A Serbian woman lights a candle at a church in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Negotiations in France to end the conflict between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo region broke down Feb. 23.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

German bishops decry slave trade, religious persecution in Sudan

LINGEN, Germany (CNS) — The German bishops deplored reports of an ongoing slave trade and widespread persecution of southern Sudanese Christians by the North African country's militant Muslim leadership. "In addition to shocking reports about the slave trade and starvation, we are worried about the detention of priests and religious workers, protracted legal proceedings, and the unfair release of prisoners," said Bishop Karl Lehmann of Mainz, head of the bishops' conference.

Bishop Ruiz meets in Chiapas with U.S. ambassador to Mexico

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (CNS) — Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas told reporters he and U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow discussed prospects for peace and economic development during a meeting in Chiapas. "He made no value judgments," Bishop Ruiz said Feb. 21 following the meeting that lasted just over an hour. "He wanted to know the situation, and from the diplomatic point of view he did not say anything that could be interpreted as an intervention" in domestic affairs.

Denying reality of death can be harmful, speakers say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Wanting to live and to make the most of one's life means not dwelling on death, but to deny its reality is spiritually and psychologically harmful, said speakers at a Vatican conference. "Christianity announces the hope of the resurrection, but it does not banalize the event of death, does not take away the weight or the suffering, or even offer discounts," said Father Mario Bizzotto, an Italian professor of philosophy. When someone dies, Christianity "does not administer cheap comforts by trying to silence the pain," he told a Feb. 24-27 meeting of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Cuban cardinal criticizes new penal code

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cuba's highest Catholic Church leader criticized new laws that expand the use of the death penalty and establish lengthy jail terms for dissidents seen as subversive. Vatican Radio reported Feb. 21 that Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana said the anti-subversion law presents "the possibility of inflicting punishment only on the basis of subjective impressions." Human rights groups have criticized the law, saying it was aimed at political dissidents and independent journalists in Cuba.

Vietnam permits nine religious to be ordained priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After refusing to allow the ordination of any religious-order priests in 1998, the government of Vietnam has given permission for nine men to be ordained in March. Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said the nine would be ordained March 18 in the Cathedral of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Ho Chi Minh City. Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Phạm Minh Man, the city's archbishop, will ordain two Dominicans, two Jesuits, two Redemptorists, a Sulpician, a Franciscan and a member of the Nazareth Institute, a local order.

Doctrine report says faith must critique culture

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic doctrinal officials who met recently in California called for "more effective doctrinal formation" of Catholics, saying that "Christians cannot accept uncritically the presuppositions and values of the dominant culture." Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, head of the U.S. bishops' doctrine committee and a participant in the Feb. 9-12 meeting, sent the conclusions of the gathering to all U.S. bishops Feb. 19.

The Catholic News & Herald

March 5, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 26
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Award Winner cpa Catholic Press Association 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 6
Mass for MACS Board
Meeting with MACS Board
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 7 — 7:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Elizabeth, Boone

March 9 — 11:00 am
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 10 — 6:00 pm
Catholic Social Services Annual Awards Dinner and presentation of the Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award
The Hilton Charlotte & Towers

Diocesan planner

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Singers are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass Choir. The chrism Mass is celebrated March 30 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop William G. Curlin and priests serving the diocese. Choir rehearsals are March 21 and March 28 from 4-5 p.m. at the cathedral. If interested, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, ext. 22

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Registration for The Oratory Religion Camp is underway. Two separate sessions are July 11-17 and July 18-24 for boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September. The fee is $90. For details, write to The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586. Volunteer staff counselors are also needed.

March

5 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church hosts its St. Patrick's Day luncheon today at 11:30 a.m. For details, call Joanne Halgas, (704) 535-3745.

10 CHARLOTTE — The presentation of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services annual Francis J. Beatty Award is today during a reception and dinner at 6 p.m. in the Charlotte Hilton Hotel & Tower. Community activist Janice Valder-Offerman is this year's recipient. The annual Spirit Award for volunteer service to CSS is also to be presented, to Jim and Marion Weber of Holy Spirit Church in Denver. Cost is $60 per person. For details, call (704) 370-6155 weekdays.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Catholic Church is among the sponsors of an ecumenical Lenten worship service today at 12:15 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Bishop James Gary Gloster, suffragan bishop of the Epis-

North Carolina Lutherans & Roman Catholics in Dialogue

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH
NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE ELCA
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Lent 1999
A Statement of Catholic/Lutheran Intercommunion

In the year prior to the signing of the Covenant between the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Catholic Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, an intentional effort was made to educate the members of each denomination as to the meaning and implications of the Covenant. Since the signing in 1991 there have been regional meetings each year to which we have come to pray, learn and grow in our appreciation of each other. At the local parish level, a wide variety of activities has taken place to foster the vision of the Covenant. For all of this we are deeply grateful.

While our efforts have focused on North Carolina, we have benefited from the long years of work done by the members of the National Committee, Lutheran World Federation and the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs which produced the series of studies entitled "Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue." In these studies our theologians, historians and biblical scholars examined foundational issues which included the Eucharist, Ministry, Papal Primacy, Teaching Authority, Infallibility and Justification by Faith. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, a unity of belief was revealed that would have been unthinkable only a generation or two earlier. For all these things we are deeply grateful.

The combination of solid scholarship and local ecumenical activity has not only drawn us closer together but has raised a new tension. At virtually every meeting participants express a yearning, and often hurt, at our not sharing the Eucharist. We share this hunger for the Eucharist with you and recommit ourselves to labor with you toward that goal under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is guiding us toward the time when Lutherans and Catholics are united at the Eucharistic Table. Many of the theological, scriptural, historical and linguistic issues which obstructed our unity were dissolved when the Holy Spirit changed minds and hearts, brought about new attitudes and mentalities, and helped us to find unity in diversity. We celebrate the authentic unity to which our prayers, dialogues and common service have brought us and will continue to assist us in resolving traditional differences and overcoming historic obstacles.

Ecumenical dialogue demands that we speak honestly in love and charity. The sharing of the Eucharist is not acceptable at this time because the necessary agreements have not been reached between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Roman Catholic Church, especially on the issue of the validity of holy orders and full unity. However, we believe that the experience of Vatican Council II, the framework of our dialogues and the presence of the Holy Spirit speak to us of a hope which we must work to bring to fulfillment.

SEE LETTER, PAGE 12

Catholic, Lutheran bishops issue Lenten statement on intercommunion

A shared hunger for the Eucharist is bringing Roman Catholics and Evangelical Lutherans in North Carolina closer together, the denominations' top leaders in the state say in a Lenten statement.

Bishops William G. Curlin of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, F. Joseph Gossman of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, and Leonard H. Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America say in "A Statement of Catholic/Lutheran Intercommunion" that they realize that much still needs to be done before a sharing of the Eucharist can take place at the same table.

The bishops, though, praise the ecumenical progress that has been achieved since the signing of a covenant between the two faith communities in 1991.

In the statement, the bishops cite success in efforts such as "solid scholarship and local ecumenical activity." They add that such success has also elevated the issue of not being able to share Communion, and point out that "the necessary agreements have not been reached ... on the issue of the validity of holy orders and full unity."

The bishops state, "We share this hunger for the Eucharist with you and recommit ourselves to labor with you toward that goal under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

They encourage the faithful of both traditions to continue to work together and pray for each other so that when full unity is achieved, the transition will be one of understanding and acceptance.

"Essentially, it is a statement of hope because it is recognizing the fact that there are problems," said Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. "But when we recognize that the strains are there and face them in an honest way, we have not lost sight of that goal: that we are working for intercommunion.

"My hope is that people will see this statement as a way of reaffirming the importance of the covenant, and to get us to continue to work toward the many dimensions of unity that we as Lutherans and Catholics need to work together for." ▼

Prayer week for AIDS healing set for March 7-13

NEW YORK (CNS) — The National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life in New York is urging African-American Catholics to participate in the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS scheduled for March 7-13.

The theme for Catholic observance of the week is: "Let Us as Black Catholics Receive Them and Then Heal Them."

An announcement from the apostolate quoted some startling statistics cited during a Feb. 26 conference in Washington on how prevalent AIDS has become in the black community:

According to figures released at the conference and confirmed by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but 45 percent of new AIDS cases. AIDS has been the leading killer of blacks ages 25-44 for most of the 1990s. Infection rates are estimated at one in every 50 black men, and one in every 160 black women.

"As we embark upon this ministry of healing for the black community we must ready ourselves to overcome and conquer denial, fear, apathy, ignorance, confusion frustration, hopelessness, narrow-mindedness and the lack of trust and faith in God," Franciscan Father James Goode, president of the apostolate, said in a statement.

"I believe that God will give us that grace to conquer," he added. "Why? Because someone who is struggling with HIV-AIDS needs to know about God the Father's arms of mercy and the divine gifts of the sacraments." ▼

copal Diocese of North Carolina, facilitates. A light lunch is available for $4.

12 ARDEN — The youth of St. Barnabas Church present living stations of the cross today at 7 p.m. For details, call (828) 684-6098.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter, a weekend devoted to deepening, understanding, and communication within marriage, is today through March 14 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacey Holcomb, (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School presents "Godspell," a musical celebration of Matthew's Gospel, at 8 p.m. today in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium at Winston-Salem State University. Encore performances are March 13 at 8 p.m. and March 14 at 2 p.m. Cost is $8. Senior citizens tickets are $5, and group discounts are available. For details, call (336) 725-4247.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 1999 St. Patrick's Day Festival and Parade of the Carolinas begins today at noon. The parade route begins at the corner of Tryon and 6th streets in uptown Charlotte, and proceeds south along Stonewall Street. The parade is coordinated by the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The festival is on Tryon Street between 2nd and 4th streets, including the First Union atrium courtyard, from noon-11 p.m. Live music, food, arts and crafts, dancing, and children's activities are featured.

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

15 CHARLOTTE — A Lenten retreat/mission is at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., today through March 18. Each day includes Mass and Scripture sharing at 9:30 a.m., and Liturgy of the Word at 7:30 p.m. Dominican Father Michael Burke of the De Porres House in Raleigh facilitates. For details, call Carol at (704) 527-5277.

16 HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave., presents "The Passion of the Lord" today, March 20 and March 21 at 7 p.m. For details, call (828) 693-6901.

17 BELMONT — Melodye Micere Stewart, a featured speaker at the Million Woman March in Philadelphia in 1997 and a Charlotte Post columnist, discusses literature of the "Harlem Renaissance" at 7 p.m. today in Grace Auditorium, on the third floor of St. Leo Hall on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. For details, call (704) 825-6890.

18 HENDERSONVILLE — A series of natural family planning classes taught by the Couple to Couple League begins today from 7-9 p.m. The Sympto-Thermal method is taught. For details and location, call Mary Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357.

HICKORY — A day of reflection for parish catechetical leaders, with Bishop William G. Curlin as the featured speaker, is today from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. The gathering also includes prayer, Mass and discussion of next year's retreat. Participants are encouraged to bring Bibles. To register, send name, address, parish, and phone number to Faith Formation Office, Attn. Pat Onaindia, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003. Include $5 (checks payable to Faith Formation Office) if you wish to purchase lunch. Registration deadline is March 5.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope ends Lenten retreat reflecting on persons of Trinity

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After taking a week off for Lenten spiritual exercises, Pope John Paul II thanked his retreat master and said he felt like he had been "immersed in the mystery of the eternal Trinity."

The pope said he and other Vatican officials who took part in the Feb. 21-27 program were now better prepared theologically for the Holy Year 2000.

The Lenten retreat featured daily Mass, prayers and a number of talks by Belgian Bishop Andre-Mutien Leonard of Namur, a theologian and consultor to the Vatican's doctrinal congregation. The homilies reflected upon the persons of the Trinity as guides on a spiritual "journey toward the third millennium."

Bishop Leonard said promoting faith in Christ as the son of God was "the most urgent task in the church and in the world" as it approaches the jubilee year.

"If we lose Christ, we lose it all," and the faith the church promotes must be Christ understood in his unique nature as God and man, the bishop said.

This is not always easy, he said, because the reality of Christ's life and the demands of the faith form an implicit challenge. People have to accept Christ as the true son of God or else end up seeing him as "humanity's most dangerous guru," he said.

"He doesn't just indicate the way of salvation, but claims to be the way of salvation. He doesn't just teach a truth or promote life, but says he is the truth and the life," Bishop Leonard said.

Similarly, the faith challenges people to accept and understand Christ's divine nature even in the light of his "humiliation" on the cross, he said.

Bishop Leonard preached on the need for charity as people prepare for the jubilee year, as well as the need to reconcile with God the Father. He examined the Lord's Prayer as one good way to begin a dialogue with God. But when Christians recite "Thy will be done," they shouldn't say it with the fearful attitude of someone wondering what disaster is going to strike them next, he said. God doesn't want people to suffer, he said.

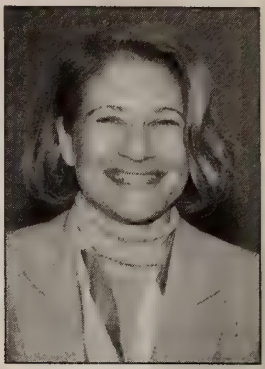
The Belgian bishop said he was convinced that many of the world's evils were linked to the infrequent use of the sacrament of penance. He spoke of an urgent need to rediscover the sacrament's "beauty, humility and tenderness."

The pope focused on the same theme when he visited a parish in the Rome suburb of Ostia Feb. 28, telling young people that confession can have a great value in their lives.

Later, at an Angelus blessing, the pope emphasized the need to perform concrete acts of charity, especially given the new forms of poverty that affect so many people in the world today.

"Faced with the temptation of closing in on oneself, the commitment to helping others — without expecting anything in return — is a precious way to demonstrate God's love in one's own life," he said.

Planned Giving



CINDY RICE
Diocesan Director of Planned Giving

Including the church in the plans you already have

Like most of us, you probably own life insurance policies and invest in retirement plans as a way to protect your family's financial security. We all want to provide future support for our loved ones and provide income during retirement. You may be interested in learning more about how these plans can also allow you to support your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan Foundation.

How can I give through life insurance?

Many people have never considered making a charitable gift through life insurance, but it can offer great opportunities and benefits. Here are some good reasons why.

- You can continue to provide for family members and other beneficiaries and, at the same time, designate a Catholic organization to receive part or all of the policy proceeds.
- Another option is to give a life insurance policy itself to the church. This may be especially appealing if you have a policy you no longer need, such as a policy originally purchased for a child's education.
- When you make a charitable gift through life insurance, possible tax savings may also be an added benefit of your gift to the church.

How do gifts through retirement plans work?

Like life insurance, retirement plans such as IRAs, Keough plans, SEPs and 401(k) plans may be used to make charitable gifts.

If you are over age 59 1/2 and can make unpenalized withdrawals from your IRA or other qualified retirement plan, you may choose to give that money to a Catholic organization. Although the withdrawal will be subject to tax, the gift qualifies for a charitable income tax deduction for those who itemize deductions. Therefore, the usual tax on the withdrawal is avoided altogether.

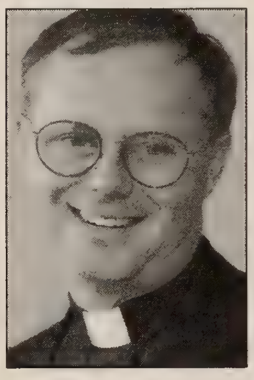
You may also make charitable gifts through retirement plans when you no longer need the funds. Consider naming a Catholic organization as the second or third beneficiary after your spouse or other loved ones have been provided for. This will ensure your surviving loved ones will be taken care of first and charitable distributions will only be made after the primary beneficiary(ies) no longer needs the property. It is a good idea to discuss your plans with your spouse before making any charitable distributions.

What's the next step?

It is easy to name your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the diocesan Foundation to share in life insurance or retirement plans. It may be as simple as completing a change of beneficiary form. Simply contact your life insurance representative or the administrator of your retirement account.

Remember that everyone's needs are different. That is why it is important to seek the advice of your professional advisors before you give.

For more information, please write or call Cindy Rice at the diocesan Development Office, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203, (704) 370-3320, or call Jim Kelley, director of development, at (704) 370-3301.



Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

Listen in on our prayers of the faithful

In our parish the Prayer of the Faithful is spontaneous. People place their petitions before God and the church after a brief introduction from the priest.

It works pretty well. Most people pray for the sick or for someone who has died. When there is a big event in the news, it often makes its way into our prayer. For instance, when Princess Diana died, a number of children were moved to pray for her.

A lot of the folks are too shy to say anything at all. Some just say, "For a special intention." This is fine, except then we don't really know what we are praying for. (It could be that we are praying that their neighbor's dog will die.) Probably they keep the intention vague because it is something they are embarrassed to talk about publicly. We understand.

Sometimes, however, after three or four "special intentions" in a row, I feel like saying, "For all of our special intentions." After all, we always pray for "all the prayers we hold in our hearts." That should cover it.

Some people have a single intention that they voice at every Mass, for example, "for the unborn" or "for the children of our parish."

One man often prays by name for all the priests who have been at our parish during his time. Until recently he left me out. Lately I've been added, which tells me he finally has accepted me.

Sometimes people lose their train of thought. Recently one man started to pray for somebody, but forgot the name, so he just said, "For our neighbors to the south." It made no sense to us, but we dutifully said, "Lord hear our prayer." God can sort it out.

Really, our spontaneous prayer is not so spontaneous. We have a clearly defined etiquette.

At weekday Mass we have a dear, motherly lady, Mary Claire, who always prays first. We know to wait for her. On the rare occasions she is not at Mass there are a couple of seconds of dead air while people look around. Often someone will say, "For all of Mary Claire's intentions, we pray to the Lord."

Mary Claire has a list. She starts out with the "right to life of all innocent babies throughout this whole world," and then touches briefly on world peace, an end to starvation and communism, vocations, the sick, travelers and usually ends up with the unemployed.

She also has seasonally adjusted intentions. God does not rest during flu season if Mary Claire has anything to say about it. Sometimes she clarifies things for God a bit. For instance, when she prays, "For all travelers," she often adds, "whether for business or for pleasure." She wants God to remember her son, who drives an 18-wheeler. He is certain that it was his mother's prayers that saved him last year when his rig rolled over in a blinding snowstorm.

God listens to Mary Claire and her husband, Bill. She prayed for an end to communism in Russia; it came. He prayed for a cemetery and a crisis-pregnancy center and we got one of each. I have a stock I'd like them to remember if it wouldn't be sacrilegious.

When I first came to this parish I made the mistake of cutting off the spontaneous petitions on Sundays, thinking they would go on too long. At the first parish council meeting there was an explosion. I never tried that again.

Our prayer is truly the prayer of the "faithful." It is a window to our worries and our loves.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

You do make a difference

Denise Lugo, a Mexican-American, was told she could never go to college because she was severely dyslexic. But she did go, and is now director of the Latino Museum of History, Art and Culture in Los Angeles.

People were skeptical when Julie Martines of Chicago went into the construction business. Today she is the founder and president of a company specializing in construction equipment sales, rentals and service.

Carmen Pacheco opened New York's first Latina-owned law firm. Besides serving corporate clients, she is a bridge between Wall Street and the small Hispanic business community.

None of these women allowed somebody else's doubts to stop them from pursuing their dreams. With faith, talent and persistence, they made those dreams come true. They created careers for themselves that other people doubted they could ever achieve. Such accomplishments demonstrate the truth of the Christopher motto: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Sometimes we light candles for ourselves and those close to us. Sometimes we have the chance to light the way for people we may never meet and for future generations.

And if you think age has anything to do with it, consider these two "candle lighters."

103 year-old Marjory Stoneman Douglas may be best known for writing the classic book, "The Everglades: River of Grass." Starting in the 1940s and for decades after, Douglas took on special interest groups that had allowed the destruction of this magnificent habitat. Though she faced opposition, she managed to stop the construction of an airport that would have severely damaged the Everglades. In 199[illegible], she was awarded the nation's Medal of Freedom for her work in saving the land she loved.

Then there is Craig Kielberger. A few years ago, when he was only 12, the young Canadian opened the daily paper and an article about a boy his own age caught his eye. It was the story of a Pakistani child who was assassinated because of his efforts to reveal the horrors of child labor in his country. With a small band of his friends, Craig formed Free The Children, his own human rights organization that has gained international media attention and influenced government policy. Craig has empowered young people to speak up for other young people throughout the globe — thousands of girls and boys who are making children's rights their cause.

Our world is a better place because of these people. Every struggle to light a candle at first seems overwhelming and impossible. People who campaigned to end the slave trade met enormous opposition and were told they could never succeed. Women who called for the right to vote were mocked. People with disabilities were told that access to transportation, jobs and everyday activities was impossible.

People who are bold enough to believe they can make a difference have always made this world that much better. And so it is with you. Refuse to give up when others insist "It's not possible. You are being unrealistic. It is too complicated. There will always be injustice. Give up!" Take courage and follow your heart. You can not only change your own life, you can change the world.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Saturday evening Mass

Q. I thought I understood something for many years; now I'm not sure. At a recent meeting the priest said a Saturday evening Mass is not a vigil for the Sunday Mass.

What does that mean? Wasn't the Saturday evening Mass initiated to accommodate people who for some reason could not attend on Sunday? Has there been a change?

A. No, there has been no change. I'm not sure what your priest may have meant, but in at least one way he is right. The Saturday evening Mass is not, properly speaking, a vigil for Sunday. It is referred to as an anticipation of the Sunday Mass.

Thus, the Mass celebrated Saturday evening is the one assigned for that Sunday in the liturgical calendar, with its own Scripture readings and prayers.

The same points apply generally to Masses celebrated on the evening before a holy day of obligation.

Some major feasts, Pentecost and Christmas for example, have a separate Mass for the "vigil" (the day before the actual feast) designated in the Sacramentary. Masses on the evening before these feasts use the texts of the vigil (Instruction "Eucharisticum Mysterium," 1967; No. 28).

No specific conditions or reasons are required by church law for Catholics to fulfill their "obligation" by participating at Mass on the evening before a Sunday or holy day.

The future virginity of Mary

Q. For the past few years I have had a renewed interest in understanding more about my faith. Admittedly, one driving force is the spirited conversations I've had with my grown daughter who has been attending a fundamentalist church.

A few weeks ago you wrote an interesting column on the perpetual virginity of Mary and referred to Luke 1:34, where Mary says she has no relations with a man.

In Matthew, however, we're told that Joseph had no relations with Mary until she bore a son, Jesus. Doesn't that contradict the belief in Mary's future virginity?

A. What Matthew says in that verse is not really relevant to the future virginity of Mary, one way or the other.

In the New American Bible, the passage reads that Joseph had no relations with Mary "before she bore a son." Whatever the translation, however, the Greek adverb in the Gospel, hers, simply means until, or "as long as," with no implication of what happened or didn't happen afterward.

Some in the past have attempted to claim that this word refutes belief in the continued virginity of Mary. Such an interpretation, however, is pretty commonly considered unwarranted today.

The intention of the Gospel author is clearly to show that Joseph was obedient to the instructions received from the angel, that he should accept Mary as his wife, that she would have a son, but it would come about not by him, but through the action of the Holy Spirit. Anything further than that would go beyond what the text says.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER JOHN SCHNEIDER, VF
VICAR OF ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

Repentance and forgiveness

Now that we are in the midst of our Lenten Season we hear in our Scripture readings the call to repentance and forgiveness. The Johannine Gospel Stories which we hear on Sunday, during this month of March, expose us to the important parts of that Gospel. We hear powerful stories of people who encounter Jesus and come to deeper appreciation and understanding of him in that encounter. These stories are the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus.

All of these people who encounter Jesus are changed by their interaction. They grow in their insights of just who this person Jesus is. The Samaritan woman after her encounter with Jesus leaves him and goes back into the town to tell others: "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" (John 4:28). In the Gospel of the man born blind Jesus makes mud paste and tells him to go wash. Then his eyes are opened he begins to see and grow in his knowledge of who Jesus is. Lazarus is called out of the darkness of the tomb and Jesus commands them, "Untie him and let him go".

We have so many things in our lives that hold us bound or keep us from seeing the glory of Jesus and what possibly can be. The call for our repentance and change of heart has been offered and Jesus does all he can to call us to that deeper relationship. Yet we find in our lives the things which blind us and hold us in the darkness of sin, and aloneness keep us from true life-giving relationships.

This can be the husband who cannot give emotional support to his wife and family, because he never experienced it or is so burdened with work pressures that he is not present to them even when he is home. A wife who finds it easier to be present to her friends than to her own husband and family. These people are in need of the healing that Jesus can offer.

It is this healing that can come in various ways and through various people. Part of the way God has to work is through others who can be his instruments. It could be a friend who tells them what they need to hear and introduces them to Christ again. It could be a person in a helping profession who provides the healing balm to open their eyes to the pain and difficulty in their life. It may be the badgering of the loved one who helps to unbind and set you free.

All of the Scriptures that we hear during the Lenten Season point to the unbelievable work that Jesus has done in our world and continues to do with and through each of us. We are invited once again to experience the wonderful things Jesus is working in our world. This work we are doing in our lives during Lent makes this season of Lent our way to "Holyness" all year.

Father John Schneider is pastor at Saint Barnabas Church in Arden.

Archbishop Rigali speaks at Senate reconciliation breakfast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis told a Washington audience "the Gospel of Jesus Christ is crystal clear: the person who has received mercy cannot refuse to grant mercy." "The one who has been forgiven must forgive," he told nine U.S. senators attending a "Call to Reconciliation" prayer breakfast on Capitol Hill Feb. 25. The archbishop said reconciliation has its origin in God's mercy and is a new way for people to live together.

Growing interest in social teaching seen among U.N. agencies

NEW YORK (CNS) — People working with U.N. agencies in Geneva and with government missions related to those agencies show increasing interest in church thinking on social issues, according to Brother Marcel Furic. A French member of the Missionaries of Africa, Brother Furic represents Caritas Internationalis in Geneva, and is the one-man staff for the International Catholic Center, an office supporting U.N.-related work carried out there by Catholic nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs. In an interview Feb. 24, he said an "evolution" in the outlook of governments represented in Geneva had made them more interested in the activities of the NGOs, including the Catholic NGOs.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Austria avalanche

A monk kneels at the coffins of avalanche victims inside Innsbruck's Wilten Basilica Feb. 27. An ecumenical service was held for 38 people killed when two massive avalanches hit the ski resorts of Galtuer and Valzur in Austria early that week.

Bishop McHugh installed as coadjutor of Rockville Centre

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. (CNS) — Promising "a shepherd's care" and asking for prayers and support, Bishop James T. McHugh was installed as coadjutor bishop of Rockville Centre Feb. 22 at St. Agnes Cathedral. As he addressed a packed cathedral that included Catholics and non-Catholics, Bishop McHugh promised to proclaim the message of Christ and to "work to build up the unity of the church." At the installation Mass on the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Bishop McHugh formally took on the role of coadjutor, in which he will assist Rockville Centre Bishop John R. McGann and then succeed him when Bishop McGann retires or dies.

Louisiana bishop advocates genuine Catholic dialogue

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Dialogue within the Catholic Church should be characterized by truth, humility, respect for one another and love for the church, said Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of Lafayette, La. The polarization and harshness that frequently characterize dialogue between Catholic groups over church teachings and other religious issues damage church unity and peace, he said. The bishop is a member of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative begun by the late Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago in 1996.

Bishop says 'ill-advised' U.S. donations fuel hatreds in Ireland

ATCHISON, Kan. (CNS) — Peace in Northern Ireland is possible, Bishop Raymond J. Boland said, but the centuries-old hatreds that still exist will continue to defy simple solutions. In a speech in Atchison, the Irish-born bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., said "third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation" Irish-Americans make the prospects of peace dimmer through ignorance of the realities of Ireland, and "ill-advised" monetary assistance that has fueled the conflict.

Nun urges Michigan lawmakers to reject death penalty

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean asked a crowd at the state Capitol in Lansing if the only way "to do justice" in murder cases "is to imitate the action and kill the killers?" The Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, a longtime death penalty opponent and author of the best-selling book "Dead Man Walking," made the comments at a Feb. 23 press conference. The death penalty could end up as a ballot issue in Michigan in 2000. The state abolished capital punishment in 1846 but efforts to reinstate it have begun with the introduction of two Senate joint resolutions.

We are thankful and proud
to have been a part of the new
St. Vincent de Paul addition

WHELCHEL
WHELCHEL & ASSOCIATES, INC.
General Contractors
(704) 377-1334

Bonitz
Contracting
Company, Inc.
Charlotte office:
(704) 598-0094

We're happy to have worked on the St. Vincent de Paul addition.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

K OF C
Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Texas community tries to heal in wake of trial for racial murder

By KAREN GILMAN
Catholic News Service

JASPER, Texas (CNS) — Inside the courtroom, 12 men and women deliberated on a man's life; outside, the courtroom square was ringed with satellite trucks, cameras, media and law enforcement from many areas.

And the rest of the town of Jasper was just trying to get past the torture-murder of James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man who last June was beaten, chained by the ankles to the back of a pickup and dragged two miles down a paved county road to his death.

> **"As we continue to work together with one voice to build unity in our community, let us continue to sing together with one voice to show everyone who doubts that we are united and always striving to end any racism or prejudice or disunity in our midst."**

The first of three white men arrested and charged with the crime, John William King, was convicted of capital murder Feb. 23 and two days later was sentenced to death.

The two who must still face trial are Lawrence Russell Brewer and Shawn Berry.

In the wake of the murder and during the trial for what prosecutors said was a racially motivated murder, the people of Jasper have made an effort to keep the peace, with the Byrd family a catalyst behind that effort.

Family members have not clamored for revenge but have simply asked for justice, according to La Salette Father Ron Foshage.

"They have wanted no hate, no violence," said the pastor of St. Michael Parish, one of 40 churches in a town of just over 7,100 people.

The three men arrested for the murder have all served time in prison before. Two of the accused are suspected to have ties to the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nation white supremacist groups.

Evidence presented at King's trial included racist, satanic and anti-Christian tattoos on the defendant's body and items he had that were laced with expletives and racial epithets.

But Jasper residents have tried to understand what happened and not let it cause racial problems that many say they do not have.

Two days after the murder took place, law enforcement officials handling the case went to the Jasper Ministerial Alliance.

"They came and asked us to be a part of whatever the community needed," Father Foshage said in an interview with the East Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Beaumont Diocese.

The Ministerial Alliance responded immediately by holding an ecumenical prayer service on the courthouse lawn. Alliance members have continued to work together, as they have for years, Father Foshage said.

The priest used the occasion of the alliance's annual Christian unity service Jan. 26, held this year at his church, to urge the congregation to illustrate how just united the community is.

The service just happened to coincide with the second day of jury selection for King's trial. More than 600 crowded the church that seats about 450, including media from across the nation.

"This night is a blessing for our community," Father Foshage said in his welcome.

"As we continue to work together with one voice to build unity in our community, let us continue to sing together with one voice to show everyone who doubts that we are united and always striving to end any racism or prejudice or disunity in our midst," he continued.

The service included choirs from churches in the town with the last hymn sung by the Jasper Ministerial Alliance.

Jasper is also responding to the situation through its Mayor's Task Force 2000, a committee formed within a week of Byrd's death.

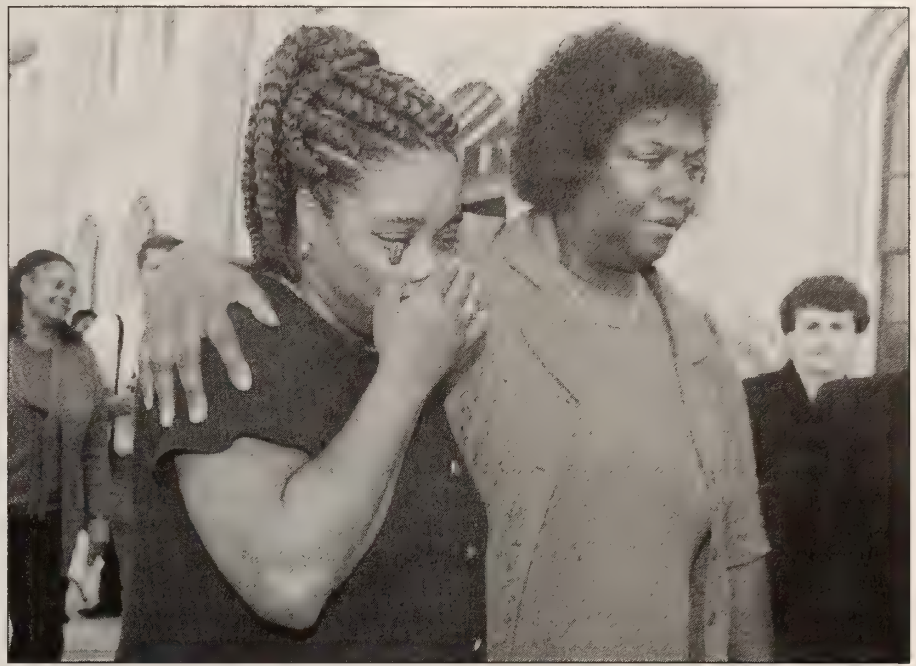
Father Foshage, who is on the committee, told the East Texas Catholic that the task force is an active body, holding town meetings where residents are invited to attend and say what they feel is wrong and right in Jasper and what needs to be done.

The task force says four areas need attention — spirituality, economic improvement, educational improvement, and social responsibility. It has come up with concrete actions in each area.

One such action was the tearing down of a fence at the cemetery that separated blacks and whites.

Father Foshage said he was told the fence was not originally put up as a separation, but that when the blacks in town needed a cemetery, a landowner gave them part of a pasture and put up the fence to keep out the cows. Years later, the cemetery grew larger, taking in more pasture land and the whites began to be buried on the other side of the fence.

"In present history it has come to mean a deep division in our community," Father Foshage said. So in an 8 a.m. prayer vigil, the fence came down Jan. 20. ▼



CNS photo from Reuters

Renee Mullins (left), daughter of James Byrd Jr., wipes tears from her eyes while leaving the Jasper County Courthouse in Texas with her aunt, Mary Verrett, Feb. 23. John William King was found guilty of murdering her father, who was chained to a pickup and dragged to his death last June.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

We're thankful to have been a part of the new St. Vincent's addition

Murr & Laney
ROOFING AND SHEET METAL
(704) 523-1530 Charlotte, NC

An invitation to

Visit Southern Italy and Sicily
Sept. 22 - Oct. 5
$2,750 per person
(based on double occupancy)
With Fr. Carl of Sacred Heart in Brevard

Escorted Tour includes:
Motorcoach to Charlotte
Round-trip airfare
Professional guides
8 glorious cities
Superior first-class hotels
Most meals
Deluxe motorcoach

CFC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Genni Roper can once again hold on to the joys of her life.

At Presbyterian Hospital, we work in collaboration with specialists to restore our patients' quality of life.

Genni Roper loves a challenge. From sewing intricate dolls for her grandchildren and great grandchildren, to scaling mountains with her husband Keith. Anyone who knows her can tell you, Genni loves to seize the day, everyday.

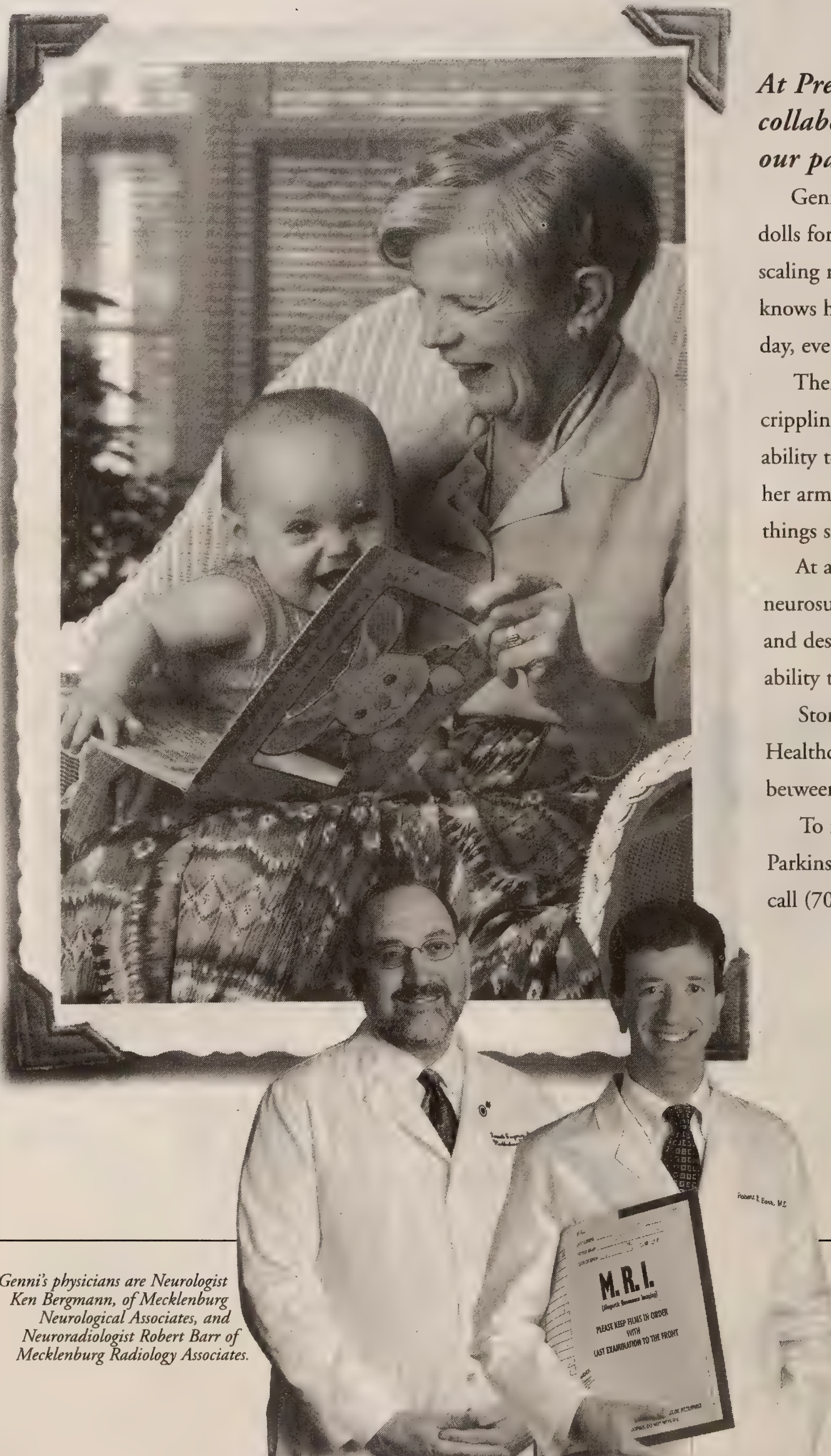
Then came Parkinson's disease, a progressive and crippling nervous system disorder that robbed Genni of her ability to live life to the fullest. The disabling shaking in her arms and legs made it nearly impossible to do the many things she loved.

At age 69, Genni underwent a pallidotomy – a precise neurosurgical technique which allows doctors to pinpoint and destroy the trouble spot in the brain which affects the ability to move.

Stories like Genni's are not uncommon at Presbyterian Healthcare. After all, we believe there is a difference between being treated and being cared for.

To find out more about the innovative treatments for Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders, call (704)384-CARE.

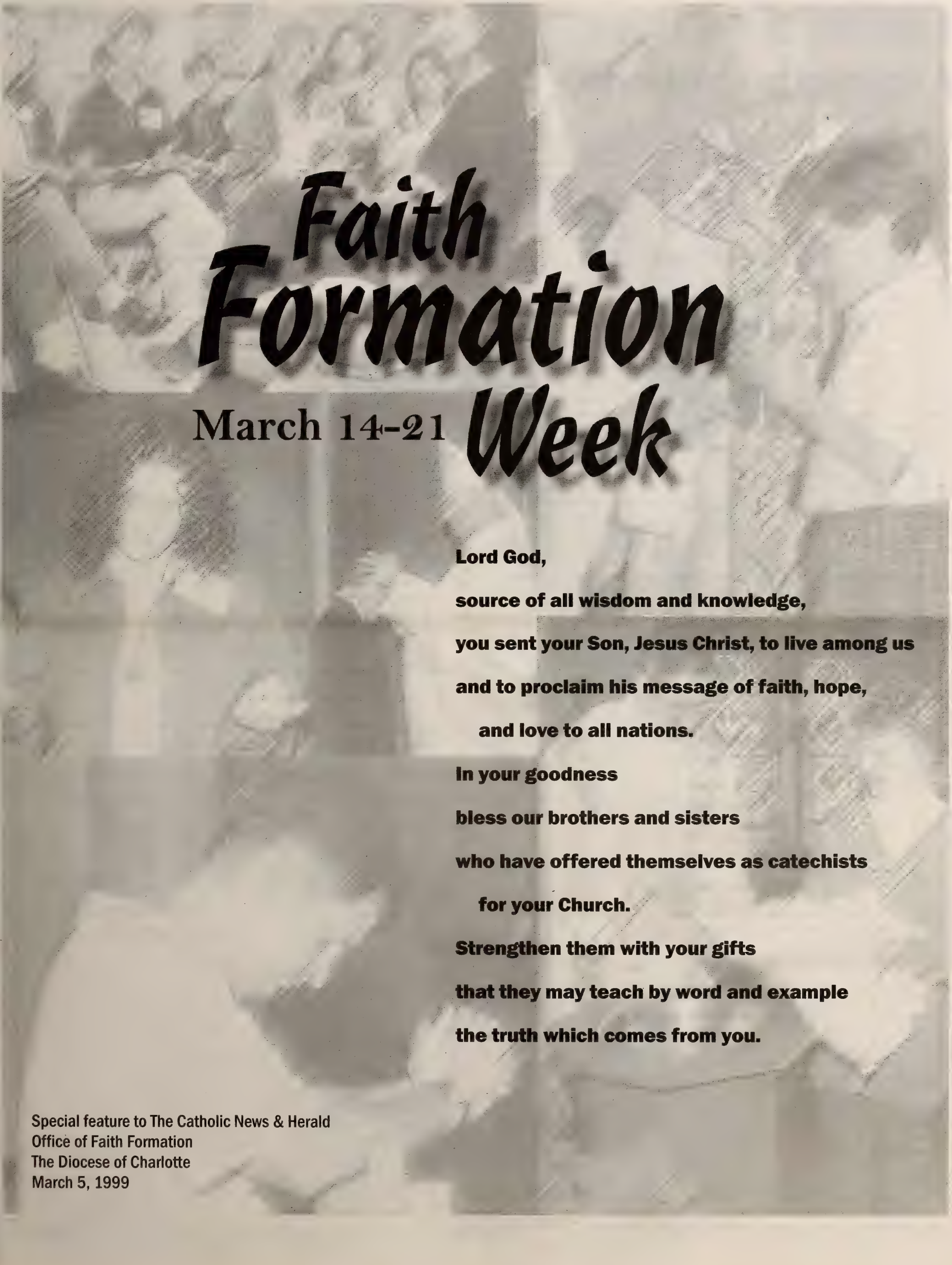
Presbyterian Healthcare
NOVANTHEALTH


M.R.I.
PLEASE KEEP FILMS IN ORDER WITH LAST EXAMINATION TO THE FRONT

Genni's physicians are Neurologist Ken Bergmann, of Mecklenburg Neurological Associates, and Neuroradiologist Robert Barr of Mecklenburg Radiology Associates.

Shaping the future of Caring

Presbyterian Hospital
200 Hawthorne Lane • Charlotte, NC 28233



Faith Formation Week

March 14-21

Lord God,
source of all wisdom and knowledge,
you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us
and to proclaim his message of faith, hope,
and love to all nations.
In your goodness
bless our brothers and sisters
who have offered themselves as catechists
for your Church.
Strengthen them with your gifts
that they may teach by word and example
the truth which comes from you.

Special feature to The Catholic News & Herald
Office of Faith Formation
The Diocese of Charlotte
March 5, 1999

Faith Formation Week: A Reason to Celebrate

By FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Vicar for Education

It was February 12, 1963. I had been ordained only a week. Yet, upon having arrived at my first assignment the pastor of Our Lady's parish in Waltham, Mass., welcomed me with the words, "Father, you are in charge of the CCD" In an instant I was thrust from being a learner in the seminary to a leader in the parish. During my time of training, I had been steeped in theological studies. As far as being prepared for the art of catechetics, however, I really "didn't know from nothing." Nonetheless it was presumed and expected that I, as the neophyte director of the program, would organize, coordinate, evaluate, motivate and inspire. Amazing as it may seem, I was convinced that I could do the job even though I wondered where to begin. Placing my trust in the Lord, somehow or another I landed on my feet.

Father James Hawker

Step by step I implemented the challenge of guiding a catechetical program that served eighteen hundred children on the elementary level and five hundred high school youth. As one who knows the meaning of on-the-job training, I look back with gratitude to the exciting experience of having participated personally in the catechetical mission of Our Lady's parish. Then too, thirty-six years after the fact I express my appreciation once again to the one hundred and fifty catechists with whom I shared that truly memorable moment.

> **"In that spirit of active anticipation (for the Millennium) the Holy Father has designated this period as the Year of the Father. Appropriately, then, as we celebrate Faith Formation Week in the diocese our theme is Abba: Father."**

On the mount of the Ascension, the risen Lord shared an invitation, a command and a promise. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Know that I am with you always." (Mt 28:18-20)

Throughout the centuries the Church has implemented faithfully the mandate of Jesus to catechize, to teach. Integral to her identity has been the mission to share the Person and message of Jesus Christ with the maturing believer. Who should be catechized? Children and youth, parents and families, clergy and religious; none are exempt. All who have been baptized have the right and the responsibility to be touched and transformed by the Teacher and His Truth.

Pope John Paul II wrote in "On Catechesis in Our Time" that "the aim of catechesis is not simply to assist believers to know about Jesus but to become intimate with Him." At its heart our Faith is about a relationship. Through the gift of grace we are invited and enabled to be and to become friends, disciples and witnesses of the risen Lord. Through the gift of catechesis, the maturing believer comes to understand more deeply and to fulfill more enthusiastically the meaning of the relationship. Catechesis assists us to appreciate the significance and ramifications of our being rooted in God as persons who are related, dependent and responsible.

During these days, Catholics throughout the world, together with their brothers and sisters, are preparing to celebrate the Millennium. In that spirit of active anticipation the Holy Father has designated this period as the Year of the Father. Appropriately, then, as we celebrate Faith Formation Week in the diocese, our theme is Abba: Father.

As people of faith we hear and heed the words of the Savior when He proclaims, "I and the Father are one." The care and compassion, faithfulness and forgiveness exemplified by our Lord signify the personal, passionate presence of the Father within the human condition. It is not surprising, then, that when responding to the plea of the apostles, Jesus taught them the prayer that has been echoed throughout the centuries: the Our Father. Isn't it true, however, that the faithful follower of Jesus not only speaks the words, but lives the spirit of the Lord's prayer. In that context the challenge of appropriating, assimilating and sharing the Kingdom is integral to the mission of the believer.

In this diocese, numberless persons have accepted the call to teach as Jesus did. Parents exercise that privileged role as an essential component of their vocation. Pastors and other catechetical leaders formulate and oversee the implementation of a viable catechetical program for children and youth within the parish. Hundreds of catechists, strengthened in the Spirit, share God's Word as timely and relevant. Sessions related to sacramental preparation, the RCIA and other experiences of adult education, vital to the mosaic of catechetical ministry, are being conducted by committed and competent persons on the regional and local levels.

The staff at the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, with whom I am privileged to collaborate, exemplifies a selfless spirit of generosity that is truly exemplary. Among their seemingly endless responsibilities, they fashion and form programs and services to assist and enable catechetical leaders and catechists throughout the diocese. Although they sacrifice the joy of being rooted in a parish as ministers, their contribution to the regional and local communities is a blessing.

During his recent visit to St. Louis, Pope John Paul II spoke about the responsibility of the believer to be light. Having caught the spark from the One who is the Light of the World, the person of Faith is sent by the risen Lord to share the brilliance of His love and truth. Those who participate in the catechetical mission of the Church are gifts to those whom they serve even as they strive to teach as Jesus did. ▼

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 5, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the week of March 14, 1999, Faith Formation Week will be celebrated in the Diocese. I am pleased to write on this happy occasion.

One of the most sacred and serious responsibilities of the Church is to ensure that the baptized hear the enlivening and enriching Word of God. Maturing believers have the right and responsibility to be comforted and challenged by the Person and teachings of the risen Lord. Catechesis is the ministry within which that timely task is fulfilled.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the parents, pastors, catechetical leaders and catechists who are so attentive to the spiritual growth of children and youth. Their goodness in that regard exemplifies their commitment to participate personally in the mission of Jesus.

It is essential, however, that adults themselves take advantage of the opportunities to be catechized. When speaking to the young people at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis about training in devotion, Pope John Paul II stated, "Your training will never be finished. Christians are always in training." All believers at each stage of life are to be fashioned and formed by the teachings of Jesus and so converted continually to His way.

As we prepare for the feast of Easter, I am aware of the many men and women participating in RCIA programs throughout the Diocese. Their involvement in catechetical activities during this period of preparation is a truly valuable gift as they stand at the threshold of entrance into the Catholic community.

In preparation for the Jubilee of the Millennium, this year has been designated as the Year of the Father. My prayer is that we will come to know Our Heavenly Father more intimately in this time of grace. Asking His Son, Jesus, to bless you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I am

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Southern Region

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults becomes family affair

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

HAMLET — Last Easter, John Chandler watched four members of his family enter the church. Yet this self-described "cradle Catholic" says he can't take credit for what happened that day.

"I wanna give that credit to my wife," says Chandler, a member of St. James Catholic Church in Hamlet. Kim Chandler and their children, Ryan, Adam and Kerri, were baptized last Easter and received their first Eucharist. Kim and oldest child Ryan were also confirmed.

"It was kind of a heart-fluttering time," recalls Kim, 33. "Watching the children go through it first ... and knowing this was their choice was a tear-jerker itself."

For the Chandlers, the search for a church began more than a decade ago. John Chandler, 33, had been baptized at Belmont Abbey, but by the time he was 17, this Charlotte native had begun to stray from the church. Kim was raised as a Baptist in her hometown of Lexington, Ky.

"We had tried several different churches throughout the last 15 years," says John. "Nothing really sank in."

Then a mutual friend told them about St. James. And, for Kim in particular, the search was over.

"It was just instantaneous from that point. The community was very warm. And the priest (Father Bill Evans, who's now in Maggie Valley) was exceptional ....

Ann Peters credits the Chandlers with "trying to interest other people in coming to the church."

"This has been a struggle for 15 years. I was just ready ..." says Kim.

Adds John: "Kim got real enthused. And her enthusiasm sort of rubbed off on the kids . ... I don't think I was real surprised, the way she just took to it."

The Chandlers, who live on a farm seven miles from Mt. Gilead, began the 35- to 45-minute commute to St. James for Masses, RCIA and 26 weeks of catechism classes.

"It was just a wonderful, warm experience," Kim says fondly. "Of course, with Christ's help, it just opens your heart. From there, it's just been a snowball effect."

Although "the three kids had never had any faith at all up until (catechism and baptism)," says Kim, they were willing to embark on this spiritual journey with her.

"I figured it was good for me," says Ryan, 16, but he admits his training was a challenge.

"I didn't think I was ever gonna learn it," he says. "Mostly my parents (kept him going)."

Fourteen-year-old Adam "thought it was neat, like, because we had never really done anything like this ..." He didn't think the training was difficult.

"If you wanna do it, then anything's easy," says Adam, now an altar boy.

Kerri pronounced the training "kind of easy but not that easy." Now that it's over, says the 13-year-old altar girl, "I liked it 'cause I liked going to church and our church has a lot" of children's activities.

Since last year, Kim and John have been heavily involved in St. James' youth ministry. Kim teaches fourth- and fifth-grade catechism classes and sixth- to-eighth-grade youth ministry. John teaches sixth- and seventh-grade catechism classes.

Ann Peters, the church's director of faith formation, has nothing but praise for the Chandlers.

"They really, really do excellent work," she says. "They really have the respect of the kids and they're well prepared."

She credits the Chandlers with "trying to interest other people in coming to the church." And she's impressed by their level of enthusiasm.

"It's still with them," she says. "It hasn't changed." ▼

Western Region

Leisurely retirement waits as parish involvement takes center stage

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

DILLSBORO — The lure of the Great Smoky Mountains is irresistible. No small wonder that many are drawn to its beauty, especially for retirement living.

Railroad enthusiast Bob Harcourt and his wife, Belle, found an extra incentive in Dillsboro, home of the Great Smoky Mountains Railways. Pair the spirit of the mountains with the charm of a railroad, and you have a match made in heaven.

Bob was fully retired and Belle's desire was to become 'partially' retired as they moved to this Smoky Mountain community five years ago.

In her quest, Belle felt God's calling to do something for the church. As she continued her employment search, she became an active volunteer at their new parish home, St. Mary in Sylva. This was a natural extension for Belle, who spent 13 years involved with their former New York parish before their move to North Carolina.

When she saw a position available at St. Mary parish in Sylva, she had found her niche. She accepted the 20-hour-a-week faith formation coordinator position. A perfect match: Fulfilling work within a parish setting.

"Belle moved beyond volunteering to coordinate the childrens' classes to involvement with youth ministry, confirmation planning, community events, and retreats," says Richard Wolf, regional Faith Formation coordinator for the Western Region of the diocese. If there's a faith formation event, chances are good Belle Harcourt is involved.

It doesn't stop there for the Harcourts. Bob volunteers at the parish with maintenance; he's an usher and a recently appointed member to the parish council.

With specific programs in place, St. Mary parish is on the lookout for ways to further involve its members. Soon the parish youngsters will perform living stations of the cross. On the heels of the performance, they will participate in a walk-a-thon to raise money for students in the Central African Republic.

"Instead of retirement, they have found life enriched and blessed by the faith formation community of St. Mary's parish."

On occasion, the parish pulls volunteers from nearby Western Carolina University and its campus ministry program. In fact, college students are slated to perform the music for the upcoming living stations.

What is lacking? Belle wishes they had the parish kids involved more hours each week. "There's so much for them to learn." What is not openly visible is one of the strongest — yet subtle — lessons for any member of the parish: The example of service and commitment.

"Instead of retirement, they have found life enriched and blessed by the faith formation community of St. Mary's parish," says Wolf.

"It's busier than expected," says Belle. "But I enjoy it." ▼

Rite of Election brings hundreds closer to Catholic Church

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Bishop William G. Curlin recently presided over three regional celebrations of the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion, an important step in the faith journey of those preparing to become members of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Curlin celebrated the rite Feb. 20 at St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville, Feb. 23 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, and Feb. 24 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"It was a time of great enthusiasm for all who attended," Bishop Curlin said after the celebrations. "The joy of the moment was so evident, and I was privileged to gather with so many men and women across our diocese as they continue to anticipate the Easter mysteries."

The Rite of Election is part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which people enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. The process includes a period of inquiry, a time of formal instruction, immediate preparation, reception and a period of extended formation.

A total of 131 people preparing for baptism, Communion and confirmation — called catechumens — participated in the three rites last month. Also in attendance were an additional 395; called candidates, who will be confirmed and will receive the Eucharist.

The names of catechumens, now known as "the elect," were presented in books to Bishop Curlin, while the candidates presented their names on scrolls.

The catechumens and candidates will be received into the Catholic Church at their respective parishes during the Easter vigil Mass celebrated April 3.

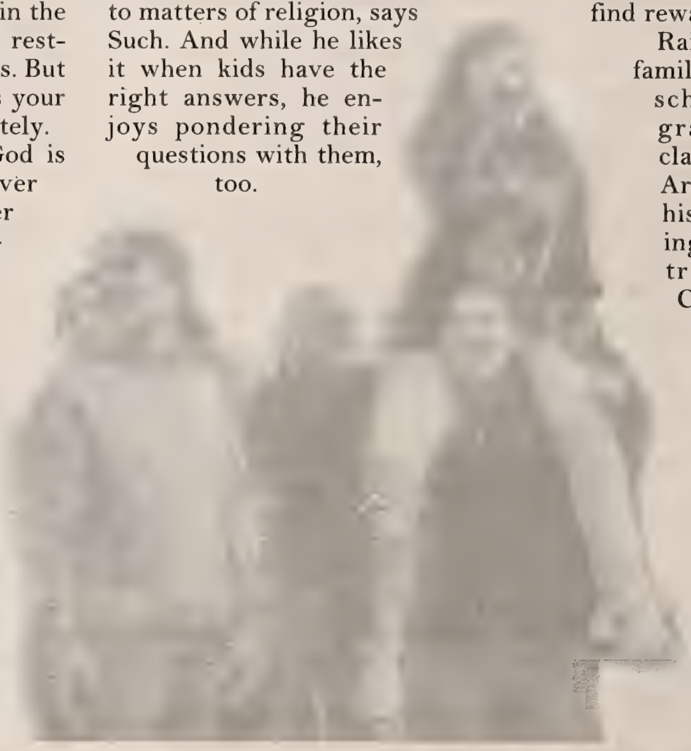
Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, said that in addition to the clear sense of community, the rite carries great theological significance, too.

"Initiation is not just entry into a given parish," he said. "It is the insertion of the individual into the larger church community — the Catholic Church in its universal dimension." ▼

Northern Region

Asheboro parishioner promotes process of faith formation

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor



ASHEBORO — Imagine yourself in the fifth-grade faith formation class at St. Joseph Church.

You're a student, it's early in the year, and perhaps you're a bit restless as teacher Tom Such begins. But the statement he makes sparks your attention and interest immediately.

"Your relationship with God is the most important you'll ever have," he says. "Do whatever you can to work on that relationship, and you'll make yourself a better person."

Such's missive is both a personal creed and a teaching tool. Teacher of the fifth-grade faith formation class at the Asheboro parish for the past five years, he witnesses dozens of young people develop in their faith journeys. The experience helps him grow spiritually, too.

"I'm learning along with the kids most of the time," he says. "This is a continual learning process for life, and I think, too, it's a maturing of the faith."

Young people are quite capable of maturity when it comes to matters of religion, says Such. And while he likes it when kids have the right answers, he enjoys pondering their questions with them, too.

"Sometimes, I can't answer their questions," he says. "As long as they're thinking about the class, the material they're going over, their relationship with God — that's what I find rewarding."

Raised in a devout Catholic family, Such attended Catholic school through the 12th grade. He taught CCD classes while serving in the Army in Maryland. He and his wife, Bernadette, are raising their four children in the tradition of the Catholic Church.

He says he has always experienced elements of faith in his life, but his participation in faith formation has yielded an even deeper sense of commitment.

"I went into this five years ago because there was a need," he says. "I was asked to teach the fifth grade, I went in and I did it."

Now, he says, his commitment to teaching young people about the faith has evolved with his love for God and the church.

"I just feel like there's a real need to expose them to whatever I can," he says. "Anything that I can do to help them realize that this relationship with God is very, very important is what I try to do."

The fifth-grade faith formation class is part of a larger parish program that includes about 150 students in kindergarten through grade 9. In addition to those students, others gather at the church for post-confirmation, adult education and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes.

Such points out that in addition to the parish, the home is a primary place for faith formation. "We only have a little over an hour every Sunday," he says of the parish program. "That's not much, so if the kids can get something during the week from their parents, that's going to help." ▼

Central Region

Spruce Pine catechist says faith formation a group effort

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

SPRUCE PINE — Maggie Haskell was busy coordinating an out-of-town retreat for the faith formation program of St. Lucien Church when a former student happily volunteered to chaperone.

Getting involved in parish life here...reminded Haskell of the importance of a sense of family. She says that sense is felt in the faith formation program especially.

"It was wonderful," she says of the volunteer's stewardship. "He didn't ask why or how. He just said, 'Wherever you want me to be, I'll do it.'"

Not only glad to see a familiar face, Haskell was reaffirmed in her belief that faith formation is an ongoing process that promotes parish support and involvement.

As a mother of three, Maggie Haskell has a vested interest in strong programs of catechesis. As the faith formation coordinator for her Spruce Pine parish, she shares that interest with the entire church community.

"I believe we have a Christian duty to inform our children, to share our faith," says Haskell. She emphasizes that witnessing students' growth and curiosity is a truly rewarding experience.

For four years, she and her family have been parishioners of St. Lucien Church, a small mountain parish in the Diocese of Charlotte's Boone Vicariate. A native of Michigan, a quarter of whose population is Catholic, Haskell says she wasn't used to the intimate parish setting in a state where less than 4 percent of its inhabitants are Catholic.

Getting involved in parish life here, however, reminded Haskell of the importance of a sense of family. She says that sense is felt in the faith formation program especially.

"The students here, because it is a small community, feel it strongly," Haskell explains, adding that parish support is "100 percent" important to the success of the program.

Haskell credits Father Aloysius D'Silva, pastor of the Spruce Pine parish and St. Bernadette mission in Linville, with promoting the program as an integral part of parish life.

"That is very positive," she says.

She adds that the pastor is planning to take students to the chrism Mass in Charlotte during Holy Week. He regularly leads other activities that illustrate various manifestations of faith as well.

Haskell says that while the half-dozen catechists at the parish are key figures in faith formation, parents, parish leaders and congregants are important teachers, too. Again, she stresses the need for community.

"In a small parish such as ours, everybody feels very much a part of that process," she says.

About 35 students in grades kindergarten through 12 compose the faith formation program at St. Lucien Church. Each fourth Sunday they lead the parish in liturgy — first by leading a pro-life rosary, then by ushering, lectoring and participating throughout the Mass.

"That's one way of covering the worship message in their preparation for confirmation," Haskell explains.

Students also host Lenten suppers for the parish, keep up with landscaping chores around the church, and provide a variety of other contributions.

Haskell says the students are enthusiastic when it comes to learning about and living their faith. And as a post-Vatican II emphasis has shifted away from rote memorization toward a personal journey, she says persons being catechized are given even greater opportunities for freedom and acceptance.

"The more we know, the more we realize we don't know anything," Haskell says with a chuckle. "Our personal journey is going to change every day."

Calling the elementary-level faith formation process "just the beginning" to a life of faith, she notes the significance of a hunger to learn more. "An open mind leads to open heart," she says, "and if you don't have an open heart, then you're in trouble." ▼

For more information

about the programs

of the Office of

Faith Formation,

Diocese of Charlotte,

call (704) 370-3244.

They're talking about us...

"One of the biggest, highest-profile organizations in the world — the Roman Catholic Church — is responsible for one of the most low-profile, yet most popular, conference centers in the United States: The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, N.C."

"Conference Centers: Corporate and Campus Alternatives"
Meeting Professional Magazine, February 1999

Come find out for yourself what all the fuss is about!

The Catholic Conference Center

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(888) 536-7441 www.catholicconference.org

Books & Gift Items

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
(704) 342-2878
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm
Special/Mail Orders Welcome

Serving The Carolinas For 17 Years

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Little Corina lives in a small mountain town in Honduras. Her mother is blind and her father abandoned them. Your concern can make a difference in the life of a child like Corina. Become a sponsor today!

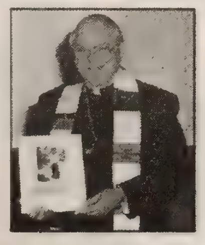
Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Through CFCA you sponsor a child for the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most. *You can literally change a life!*

And you can be assured your pledge has its greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long-standing commitment to the people they serve.

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!



"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsorship . . . and I invite you to join me."

Archbishop James P. Keleher, Kansas City, Kansas – who recently sponsored nine-year-old Jose Munos of Honduras.

Yes, I'll help one child:

☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need

My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _______

I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually

☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ _______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)

☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ____________________ Exp. Date _______

☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ _______.

☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.

FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ____________________
(please print)
Address ____________________
City/State/Zip ____________________
Phone (_____) ____________________

CNH3/99

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship

414

Priest donates annual salary to favorite charity

By MAURA ROSSI
Catholic News Service

PATERSON, N.J. (CNS) — Using the model of The Christophers, the national organization he headed for many years, Father John Catoir is lighting a bright candle in a dark corner of his world.

It's a $25,000 candle, his annual salary as executive director of Eva's Village, a comprehensive, nationally recognized anti-poverty program in the Diocese of Paterson.

His contribution will go toward the $1.2 million needed by Eva's Village to redesign, equip and furnish the donated warehouse that will become the Msgr. Vincent E. Puma Shelter for Women and Children.

The shelter is named for the Paterson priest who began the ministry as a daily hot lunch program in 1983 and gradually expanded it to include shelter and treatment for substance abuse. When Msgr. Puma retired in 1997, Father Catoir succeeded him.

Shortly after he took the job, Father Catoir called it the "best job I ever had. I see God here."

He recently told The Beacon, Paterson's diocesan newspaper, that his donation puts his money where his mouth is. He hopes it will be seen as one of the good deeds Jesus said should not be hidden under a bushel basket and will inspire others to aid the fund drive.

"The need is great and the donors are few," he said, citing the huge increase in the need for shelter over the last year that will require Eva's to double, or even triple, its capacity.

The veteran Catholic columnist, who led The Christophers from 1978 to 1995, said welfare reform and cuts in rent subsidies have added 500 people, including many women and children, to Passaic County's homeless population.

Almsgiving is "an important part of Christian life," said Father Catoir, but he admitted worrying about going public with his donation.

After prayerful reflection, he said, he decided not to take the "giving in secret" approach this time, because of the importance of spreading the word about helping those in need.

"What I'm hoping is that people will be moved to give to any charity they like, even if it's not Eva's," he added.

Although a diocesan priest's salary is not that much, Father Catoir continued, "we do not have kids' tuition to worry about or mouths to feed." He said he was financially able to make the gift because he's been a saver all his life and the stock market doubled his savings in the past 15 years.

"I wanted to give back to the poor a share in my good fortune," he said. "God blesses the cheerful giver."

The 68-year-old priest said the new shelter at Eva's — legally known as Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs, Inc. — will help women needing emergency shelter and short-term as-

SEE CATOIR, PAGE 12

Book Review

"This Our Exile" tells experience of living and working in East Africa

REVIEWED BY MARY KENNY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As part of his formation to become a Jesuit priest, Father James Martin spent two years in Nairobi, Kenya. There he worked helping refugees from war-torn parts of East Africa: Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia. Driven from their native lands, often unwelcome in their new host country, they are among the most destitute people on earth.

"This Our Exile: A Spiritual Journey with the Refugees of East Africa"

By Jesuit Father James Martin. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 1999). 205 pp., $16.00.

In "This Our Exile" Father Martin writes simply of his experiences living and working in East Africa. The people he worked with through Jesuit Relief Services had moved out of refugee camps into the slums of Nairobi. With a master's in business administration and experience in the financial world, Father Martin was to help them get funding and start small businesses.

Father Martin writes with a beautiful, simple transparency. Unafraid to let his own fears and foibles show through, he presents himself as very human. For example, his fellow Jesuits have a practice of making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament each evening after dinner. Father Martin dislikes the idea as "outdated piety" — until he tries it and finds otherwise.

Even more striking, in writing about the people Father Martin does not interject himself but lets his subjects shine through. You will meet Agostino Alikutepa, skilled woodcarver from Mozambique; the elegant Gauddy, refugee from the Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda and an accomplished weaver of baskets; and the ever-smiling Alice Nabwire, refugee from Uganda who not only ran her own tailoring business but employed other refugees as well. And you'll meet the hapless John Mutaburunga, who tried to use his only skill, raising cattle, but who had no grassland on which to graze them. Father Martin advised that he sell them before they died. "But, Brother, what will I do then?" the unfortunate man asked. Father Martin had no answer. He still has none.

Father Martin learns — and shares with us — what it means to be a missionary in today's world:

"(This book) is also very much the story of a 'missionary' — a word that before my time in Africa I disliked intensely. A word that conjured up images of the Great White Father dispensing God, as a sort of prize, to docile, uneducated natives.

"In the end, though, I came away with a new understanding and appreciation of the word. 'Mission,' after all, comes from the Latin 'missio,' meaning 'to send.' A missionary is simply one who is sent, and while in the past a missionary may have believed he or she was sent to bring God, I knew, like most of the people with whom I worked in East Africa, that my mission was more complex: to find God among the people — and to learn who God is for them."

Father Martin's book is a can't-put-it-down page-turner. It is as compelling as the best of fiction, but it is true. In reading it, in meeting the people he comes to know and love, you will learn about parts of the world which are no more than names on a map for most Western people. You will learn abut sorrow and injustice on a scale you can scarcely imagine. But you will also witness the triumph of faith and love and the human spirit. ▼

Mary Kenny is co-author of the Catholic News Service column "Family Talk."

Word to Life

March 7, Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A Readings:

1) Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
3) John 4:5-42

A few years ago there was a potato chip commercial that taunted consumers with the phrase, "Bet you can't eat just one!" The idea was that the product was so tasty that the snacker could never be satisfied with just one chip.

Of course, this wasn't a problem — until the bag became empty. Similarly, stories abound of people who strive to reach their goals and succeed, only to feel an emptiness that persists until a new challenge presents itself.

The victory of achievement soon gives way to a renewed quest for whatever completes the phrase, "I'll be happy when ..." The Scriptures from this third Sunday of Lent speak to that pervasive, persistent void in the human heart that is never satisfied, no matter how deluded we are into thinking that the solution is just around the bend of personal effort or sheer good luck.

— Moses encountered it in the nomadic children of Israel, who lost perspective on God's saving acts of deliverance and became focused on satisfying their thirst.

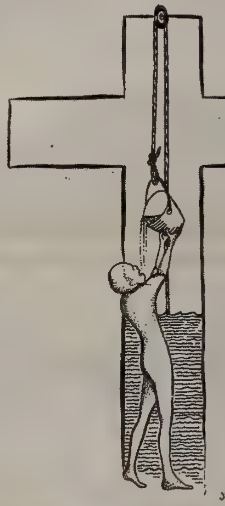
— The disciples whose mission was to find food and the woman whose quest was to draw water were both perplexed by the notion of food, water and worship that far exceeded their limited expectations.

In contrast to the immediate but short-lived gratification that is the object of human striving, Jesus offers something more: the living water of his own Spirit, springing forth abundantly as a gracious, unmerited gift. In exchange for the hardness of heart that accompanies unmet expectations, God gives, as St. Paul says, the kind of hope which "does not disappoint."

Just as God promised to stand in front of the rock at Horeb, he is standing in front of the heart hardened by disillusionment and frustration. The choice has been given to us to remain thirsty or, through thanksgiving and worship, open the floodgates of peace with God.

Questions:

Have you ever wished for something you thought would make you happy, only to find yourself disappointed? What hardness of your heart needs to be softened through thanksgiving during this Lenten season?



"But whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty."

— John 4:14a.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 7 - 13, 1999

Sunday, Exodus 17.3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; **Monday**, 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday**, Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday**, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday**, Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday**, Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

May 5-14

A Marian Pilgrimage

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

The beginnings of Western civilization presented in series

By HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A refresher course on the beginnings of Western civilization is presented in the six-part series, "Rome: Power & Glory," airing Sunday-Tuesday, March 7-9, 9-11 p.m. EST each night on cable's The Learning Channel.

The series' first episode, "The Rise," begins with an introduction to the cultural accomplishments and political sophistication of ancient Rome, a past glory which has been admired ever since.

"Rome: Power & Glory," March 7-9, The Learning Channel

But this was achieved, it's pointed out, by a state built on military conquest and a society amused by the arena's bloodshed.

Having established the context of power and glory, the program turns to the history of Rome written by Livy during the reign of the first emperor, Augustus.

The history was intended to bolster the emperor's demand that Romans abandon their present decadence and return to "the family values" of their ancestors.

By the time he finished, Livy had compiled 142 volumes beginning with Rome's founding in 753 B.C. by two brothers who resolved the question of which was to be king when Remus was slain by brother Romulus.

Roman history, Livy found, consisted of wars against neighboring peoples and internal power struggles, but had precious little to do with the virtues of family life.

There is a rich section on the art and culture of the Etruscans, who helped the early Romans settle down, then were exterminated after the Republic was established in 510 B.C.

The episode ends with the story of Cincinnatus, a citizen made dictator during a crisis, who returned to his farm when it was over.

The second episode Sunday night is "Legions of Conquest," which examines the military prowess of the Roman army, as seen primarily in the Punic Wars against the North African empire of Carthage.

It's the familiar saga of Hannibal crossing the Alps with one elephant, his victory at Cannae in 216 B.C. and ultimate defeat by the Roman general, Scipio in 202 B.C.

Also covered is the transformation of the Roman legion from a citizen militia to a professional standing army whose loyalties were to the generals rather than the state.

The army became a political force which weakened the later Empire by civil wars and insurrections, opening the way for the barbarian incursions and Rome's downfall.

Narrated by actor Peter Coyote, the series was produced by Ed Fields and Joel Westbrook and employs a number of American and British history professors as on-site, on-camera commentators.

The first two episodes used extensive location photography as well as paintings and two kinds of re-creations, one with newly filmed scenes of people in Roman garb and the other using black-and-white excerpts from a silent movie epic that fits in perfectly with the TV subject.

The result is very watchable and filled with interesting segments, but it's a general survey of Rome's past that clearly doesn't want to lose anyone by getting too deeply involved in the details.

Still, those who do watch are likely to spend the time doing some reading to fill in the gaps left by the show. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

New at the box office

"Just the Ticket" (United Artists)

Dreary romantic melodrama in which a New York ticket scalper (Andy Garcia) intends to win back his lost love (Andie MacDowell) by making a fortune selling outrageously priced tickets to see the pope at Yankee Stadium, but things don't work out the way he planned. Writer-director Richard Wenk fails to work up much human interest in these thin proceedings about street hustlers and scam artists, but the biggest disappointment is Garcia's shrilly unlikable performance which sours the romantic angle and curdles the picture of commercial greed surrounding the papal visit. Stylized violence, a sexual encounter, tasteless treatment of Catholic matters, frequent rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Other Sister" (Touchstone)

Sentimental romance follows the struggles of two mentally challenged young adults (Juliette Lewis and Giovanni Ribisi) to live productive independent lives despite the woman's overprotective mother (Diane Keaton), who opposes their marriage plans. While director Garry Marshall poignantly conveys the difficulties of mainstreaming, the often awkward humor in the story makes the movie seem more manipulative than intended. A discreetly suggested pre-marital affair, an implied lesbian relationship and brief alcohol abuse. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Get
DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive
EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Vatican Radio to increase programming for Holy Year pilgrims

By JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To reach Holy Year pilgrims with spiritual messages, commentary and practical advice, Vatican Radio plans to increase programming in five languages during the year 2000.

Church officials plan to encourage pilgrims to arrive in Rome carrying a portable radio — even a cheapie — so they can tune into one of two special channels for news and other programs in English, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese, said Jesuit Father Pasquale Borgomeo, Vatican Radio's general director.

"Naturally, this entails a very serious organizational effort, but it's the way to make sure that the messages we produce and send can reach their destination" — the mobile population of pilgrims, Father Borgomeo said in a Vatican Radio interview March 2.

Father Borgomeo said the radio's reports would include explanations and spiritual reflections on the jubilee, cultural and touristic suggestions, and even reports on logistical problems during major events.

During the biggest jubilee liturgies and celebrations, Vatican Radio will broadcast programming in 10 languages on five channels, in effect offering a "radio Pentecost," he said. ▼

Catoir, from page 9

sistance, homeless or battered women with children, and women in Eva's long-term substance abuse recovery program.

"By God's grace our dedicated staff has turned around the lives of thousands of needy people over the last 16 years," he said.

In a recent column in The Beacon, Father Catoir urged people to "consider remembering their favorite charity in their will."

But, he added in a special appeal for Eva's Village, "Giving to the poor while you are alive is even more fun, because charity overcomes a multitude of sins." ▼

Letter, from page 3

We pledge to work toward a greater degree of unity in North Carolina. We call upon our leaders, lay and ordained, diocesan, synodical and parochial, to work toward the fulfillment of the vision of the Convenant.

Our relationship as sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ is never without tension and pain. However, the hurt of disunity-moving-toward-unity is to be preferred to the division of the Reformation and post-Reformation era. When we finally celebrate the Eucharist together it will help form the bonds which will strengthen us in a common ministry of koinonia in our communion and diaconia in our world.

As we work for the fulfillment of the Covenant, we will continue "to pray for each other as we celebrate the Eucharist in our respective communion and, in anticipation of the time when we will celebrate the Eucharist together, asking God to hasten our complete reconciliation." Toward this goal we beg the guidance of God's Holy Spirit and the commitment of God's People.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Leonard H. Bolick
Leonard H. Bolick, Bishop
North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

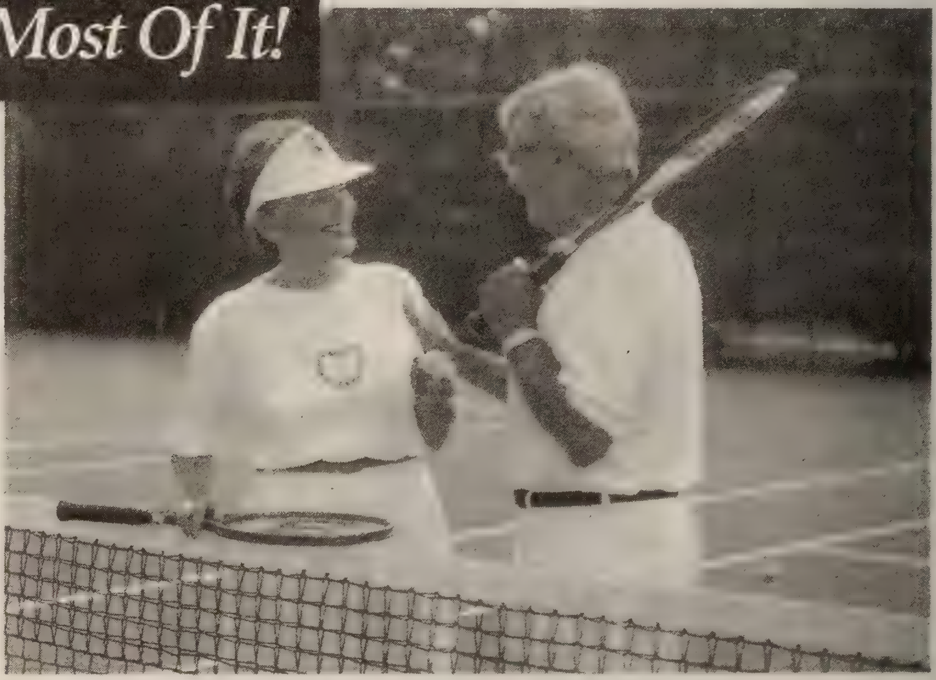
+William G. Curlin
William G. Curlin, Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

F. Joseph Gossman
F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL
MORTGAGE
STORE,
INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Visit
IRELAND
with Fr. Martin Schratz, O.F.M.Cap.
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte
July 12-19
A Pilgrimage of Faith
Our Lady of Knock, St. Kevin's,
Trinity College, St. Patrick's,
Dublin, Knock, Galway, Limerick,
Killarney, Blarney, Waterford
and more...
Leaving from Charlotte.
For a brochure, application or
more information call:
(704) 549-1607

It's Your Life.
Make The Most Of It!



Perhaps you've heard about Belle Meade Retirement Resort, currently under development near the beautiful villages of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. When completed in 1999, it will be the premier full-service Life Care community in the Southeast.

Proposed Belle Meade Clubhouse

Learn more about Belle Meade's casually elegant lifestyle, attractive amenities, secured environment and extensive health care services including the resort's unique Life Care Plan. Simply call 800-343-7463 and ask to speak with Marketing Counselors Beth Corning or Myra Couch. They'll give you all the details.

BELLE MEADE
Retirement Resort
Member: Catholic Health East

95 Aviemore Drive • Pinehurst, NC 28374
800-343-7463 • 910-215-4535

Sponsor: St. Joseph of the Pines, Inc. · Pinehurst • Architectural services: Thompson, Hancock, Witte & Associates, Inc. · Atlanta • Feasibility consultant: KPMG Peat Marwick · St. Petersburg • Construction consultation: The Holcomb Group · Roanoke • General contractor: Rodgers/Hardin · Charlotte/Atlanta • Financial services: First Savings Bank of Moore County · Southern Pines & Wachovia Bank NA · Southern Pines • Marketing consultation: Premark, Inc. · High Point • Senior Managing Underwriter: Merrill Lynch & Co. · New York • Certified member: Association of Retirement Resorts™ International

CN&H 99

Pope urges nations to sign global anti-land mine treaty

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The day before a global ban on land mines was to take effect, Pope John Paul II urged nations that had not signed the document to do so.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square after his noon prayers Feb. 28, the pope said the ban was "a milestone that signals a victory of the culture of life over that of death."

Pope John Paul noted that the Holy See was one of the signatories to the treaty, which bans the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel mines and requires identification and destruction of mines already deployed.

More than 130 countries signed the document after it was finalized in Ottawa in December 1997. Then began a process of ratification. Canada was the first state to ratify the treaty; the Holy See was fifth.

The United States is among the 58 countries that did not sign the treaty.

The U.S. government says it needs mines to help protect troops stationed in South Korea, and therefore it does not plan to support the ban. The Clinton administration has said its policy is to have the United States stop using antipersonnel land mines outside Korea by the year 2003 and find alternative to the mines within Korea by 2006.

Pope John Paul has spoken on several occasions against land mines. In his Feb. 28 remarks, he said "there is, unfortunately, a long way to go before the world is free of these terrible and underhanded devices.

"I pray to God to give everyone the courage of peace," he continued, "so that the countries which have not yet signed this important instrument of international humanitarian law do so without delay."

Churches worldwide rang their bells for three minutes at noon March 1 to commemorate the start of the ban.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, president of the Italian bishops' conference, asked in a late-February letter to parishes throughout the country that the demonstration be made to show that mines were "universally deprecated."

On Feb. 23 Archbishop Louis-Marie Bille of Lyon, France, head of the French bishops' conference, called on "the citizens of the whole world" to "continue to make themselves heard so that the treaty will become universal ... and so that the states which have signed it are made to respect their commitments."

In the United Kingdom, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, the official aid and development agency of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, supported the bell-ringing demonstration, but noted that "the campaign against land mines is not over."

When the land mine treaty was signed, the Vatican announced that it would contribute $100,000 to the International Red Cross for its program of aid to land mine victims.

Congratulations!

McCulloch England Associates Architects are proud to have shared in fulfilling the dreams and goals of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

McCULLOCH
ENGLAND
ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

March 5, 1999

"Promoting the unity of the human family is the task of the whole Church."
— *U.S. bishops, Called to Global Solidarity, 1997*

Dear Friends in Christ,

In November 1997, the bishops of the United States issued a statement inviting parishes to look beyond their local communities and national borders in solidarity. We have been charged to build global bridges. Appropriately, the theme for the 1999 American Bishops' Overseas Appeal is "Answer the Call to Global Solidarity."

Each dollar given to the appeal translates into international development projects, aid to refugees and victims of disasters, and the creation of just social policies. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has told us to "spare no effort in advancing authentic freedom and in fostering human rights and solidarity."

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers; through our response to this appeal, we have an opportunity to join our suffering sisters and brothers in solidarity — a solidarity that knows no boundaries. We can help make a difference in the world.

Please be generous in your response to the 1999 American Bishops' Overseas Appeal when the collection is taken on the weekend of March 13-14.

Wishing you the blessings of this holy Lenten Season, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

RECORE
Electrical Contractors, Inc.
— Commercial —— Industrial —
P.O. Box 1972 Gastonia, NC
(704) 867-1647
(704) 853-1008 fax
State Licenses NC, SC, VA

We're proud to have been a part of
the St. Vincent de Paul building team!

DSA: Lay Ministry

Feeding the spiritual needs of the diocesan laity

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

If knowledge is power, Catholics in the Charlotte diocese's lay ministry program are gaining strength all the time.

In the 10 years since the program began, 497 people, representing 70 parishes in 33 counties, have completed the course. Another 117 are studying now.

Let your light shine! DSA '99

They're getting more involved in their parishes, and they want to know more about their faith.

"I wanted to get a personal reflection on my beliefs, my path," said Cathy Robertson, who is on the liturgical commission and in bereavement ministry at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden. "It's something I've always wanted to study, but I never knew there was such a class as this. I just wish I had done it earlier.

"This is something that, when we were growing up, we had no knowledge that lay people would be so involved in the church; you were just part of the organization. (Lay ministry) is helping me to be more involved in my church and in the community."

Lay ministry students attend classes from August to May for two years. Each person receives a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

All gain a well-rounded base of knowledge in their faith. Courses are introduction to ministry, five hours; 20 hours on introduction to Scripture; church and church history, 20 hours; Christology, 15 hours; prayer, five hours; and 10 hours each on Vatican II documents, liturgy and sacraments, and Christian morality.

"Whatever you're studying, it just takes hold of you," Robertson said. "I wish it were more."

"I really find that the Bible study so far has been my favorite, partly because I hadn't ever read it all the way through and now I plan to do that," said Wanda Fagge, also a parishioner at St. Joseph of the Hills.

The lay ministry program developed as a result of the diocesan synod. Planning began in 1988 when the Office of Lay Ministry was established, and Sister Mary Timothy Warren, R.S.M., was appointed director.

The reason for such a program, Sister Timothy said, is "that people are educated and brought up to date with the teachings of Vatican II."

These are people who also want to grow in confidence and competence in order to minister to their families, their church and in their workplaces; and who want to be upgraded in their certifications as catechists and religion teachers. Lay ministry training also is a prerequisite for those planning to enroll in training for the permanent diaconate.

Students do see themselves gaining confidence.

"This is the Bible Belt," Robertson said. "When other people talk about their religion, they could tell you you're wrong to believe what you believe. This helps you — not to doubt — but to be able to say what you believe."

Classes began in 1990, with sessions in Hickory, Maggie Valley, and Greensboro. Winston-Salem had a fourth site, directed by a lay minister hired by the vicariate. Now, sessions are held at St. Gabriel, Charlotte; St. Barnabas, Arden; and Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro. Classes meet about one Saturday a month (September to May) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch.

Cost is a $20 registration fee, payable at the beginning of each year; $5 per session. Cost of books varies.

The cost is minimal, considering what is gained.

"I was really hesitant about it at first," Fagge said, "but two people who were in it the last session really spoke highly of it and about how much they enjoyed it. It's really brought me closer in my relationship with Jesus." ▼

Lay Ministry is one of the 35 life-giving ministries partially or fully funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Pope applauds laity council's efforts to encourage lay involvement

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged efforts to get lay people more involved in the church.

When members of the Pontifical Council for the Laity met the pope March 1, he also spoke of a special meeting for the laity scheduled for the year 2000.

Pope John Paul praised recent international church gatherings in which the laity council had played a central role, including the 1997 World Youth Day and special year-2000 commemorations.

The meeting for the laity, known as the World Congress for the Lay Apostolate, scheduled for Nov. 24, 2000, will help "deepen the profile and the scope" of lay people's activities, the pope said, and it "cannot help but point out to the lay faithful the duties that await them in diverse areas of mission and service to man at the start of the third millennium."

Pope John Paul noted that the laity council meeting's theme this year was "The Lay Faithful, Confessors of the Faith in Today's World," and he asked, "Is this not perhaps a providential invitation for the lay faithful at the dawn of the third millennium of the Christian era?"

The pontiff pointed to a number of "signs of hope," such as increasing numbers of the faithful worldwide, and their greater participation in church activities. ▼

New Owners! New Hours!
Nine Choirs
Catholic Books & Gifts
474 1/2 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905
Mon.-Fri.: 9-5pm Sat: 10-3pm

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
▶ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
▶ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
*And order next year's uniforms before March 30th for 10% off any order over $75.
Uniforms DIRECT 2U
Free shipping on orders over $75! 1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Catholic Heritage Society
Could You Be Eligible For Membership?
The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.
For more information on the Catholic Heritage Society, contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Telephone 704-370-3301 or 370-3320.

The Song of Mark

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ARDEN — "Everybody wants to get into the act," as comedian Jimmy Durante used to say. At St. Barnabas Church here everybody who wanted to did get into both acts of "The Song of Mark," presented in two performances in February.

"I think the most interesting fact about the musical is, it's written for a cast of eight," Rita Pisano, the director said.

"But yet she managed to find parts for everyone who was interested in being in it," added Kate Russell, who played the part of the woman with the sick child. Russell's daughters, Bridgett and Colleen, danced in the musical and played daughters of two of the apostles.

"As a parent, it's nice to see them," Russell said. "They go around the house humming these songs and the songs stay with them. It's a fun way to learn the Gospel."

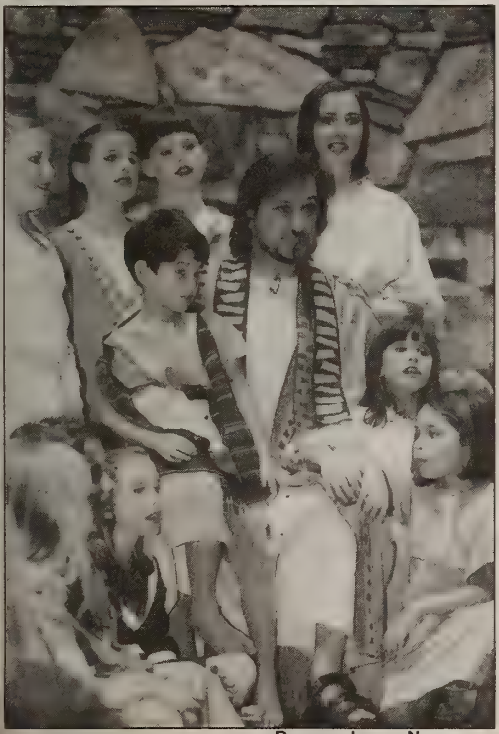


Photo by Joanita Nellenbach

Jesus, played here by Richard Kovacs, is surrounded by children.

In fact, Pisano created 55 parts for the church's staging of the Marty Haugen musical, which is based on the Gospel of Mark.

Indeed, even the audience was drawn into the production. Judas and Matthew the tax collector were roundly booed. During the scene depicting the miracle of the loaves and fishes, members of the production crew distributed small bags of goldfish-shaped crackers to everyone in the audience.

"I had seen parts of this play and was in love with it," Pisano said. "Since we didn't do 'Godspell,' we did this."

Cost of obtaining the rights to produce "Godspell" was prohibitive, so St. Barnabas decided to do "The Song of Mark," which was written for the characters of Jesus, Peter, James, John, John the Baptist, and three women. Pisano added Jesus' mother, the other nine apostles, wives and children for the 12, the angel at the tomb, various people whom Jesus cures, and a trio of women dancers representing temptations to wealth and to priestly and military power.

The musical was presented in the sanctuary. The altar was removed for the Friday night performance, replaced before the Saturday evening liturgy, then removed for the Saturday night performance. Since there was no curtain, all scene changes were conducted in full view of the audience.

"It's a wonderful community building and a wonderful proclamation of the Gospel; the Gospel comes alive," said Father John Schneider, who portrayed Judas.

> **"It's a wonderful community building and a wonderful proclamation of the Gospel; the Gospel comes alive," said Father John Schneider.**

Former parishioners Betty and Charlie Moore, who now live in Florida, donated the money for the "Mark" production. Betty had fond memories of singing in the St. Barnabas choir.

"When I joined the church and joined the choir I had a wonderful experience," she said. "It was like one big family."

She played the part of the woman with the hemorrhage. Pisano sent the music to her so she could learn the part in Florida. She arrived in Arden two days before the first performance and rehearsed with the cast.

Frank Sutton was an enthusiastic St. Peter.

"I hope I add life to the play," he said. "Peter could be very energetic, then down low, but he was always the first to jump in."

Richard Kovacs, a staff psychologist with the North Carolina Department of Corrections, jumped at the chance to play the lead.

"I want people to see the humanity of Jesus — that he laughed, that he was frustrated, that he got angry," Kovacs said. "If Jesus was around today, how would I like him to be?"

We had a number of people who, vocally, could do this part, but not everyone could devote the time," Pisano said. "Richard was at a crossroads in his life where he could do the part."

"I came to her and said, 'I want to do this part and give it top priority.'"

"And that's what convinced me to let him do the part," Pisano said.

"Two years ago there was no way I could do this," Kovacs said, "but singing in the choir and taking more and more responsibility for singing roles, I said, 'Hey, I can do this.'"

"I feel like, when I turn to Richard and I'm holding his hand, I really feel this is the way Jesus was, this is how he would look at you," Moore said.

"It's so much fun," Pisano said of the production. "Some of these kids start off so tentative, and they just grow and grow and grow."

"She has an incredible ability to allow people to be who they are," Frank Sutton said. "She's great fun to work with."

"Never once," Kate Russell said, "did she make us feel like it wasn't going to happen." ▼

Elementary Principal Needed

Summerville Catholic School, with 400 students in grades K-4 through 8, is seeking a principal beginning with the 1999-2000 school year. Now in its fourteenth year of operation, Summerville Catholic School has an excellent reputation, a dedicated staff, outstanding parental support, three supporting parishes, and an enthusiastic and energetic student population. We are seeking a student-oriented, community-minded leader to build on our past accomplishments, help devote, refine and implement long-range plans. and be an integral part of our spiritual and academic development as we move into the twenty-first century. Desired qualifications:

- *Master's degree in administration or education.*
- *Eligibility for SC elementary principal's certificate.*
- *Five years experience in administering a Catholic school.*
- *Active and practicing Catholic.*

Please send letter of interest and resume to:
Rev. Msgr. Christopher Lathem
28 Sumter Ave., Summerville, SC 29483

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Receptionist: Bi-lingual (Spanish and English) person; part-time, (25 hours/week) M-F 12:00-5:00; friendly, comfortable with people; minimal office skills required with willingness to learn more. Send resume to B. Bazluki, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or Fax to (704) 370-3377.

Community Outreach Worker: Immediate position for experienced Community Outreach Worker to help identify and coordinate enrollment of eligible Latino/Hispanic children in new health care program. Bi-lingual, college degree, computer skills and comfortable working with diverse groups of people. Send resume to: Geri King, Director, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax to 370-3377.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: March 15, 1999.

High School Football Coach: Bishop England High School, a coeducational Catholic High School in Charleston, S. C., is accepting applications for the position of Head Football Coach. The school has an enrollment of 875 students and has just relocated to a new campus. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume and a statement of educational philosophy to: David Held, Bishop England High School, 363 Seven Farms Dr., Charleston, SC 29492-7534.

Susan G. King *(800) 786-7860*
Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor *(336) 727-8900*
- *Retirement Planning*
- *College Savings Plans*
- *Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds*

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1998 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Bishop asked to participate in sainthood testament to Mother Teresa

By **JOANN S. KEANE**
Editor

CHARLOTTE — In life, people called Mother Teresa a living saint. In death, talk of elevation to sainthood buzzed immediately.

An outpouring of requests from all over the world prompted Pope John Paul II to waive the standard five-year waiting period normally required for investigating sainthood causes.

"There's worldwide acclamation of her holiness and the desire for her sainthood," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

> "She was extremely humble with a driving spirit."
>
> *— Bishop William G. Curlin*

It was such international response that prompted the Holy Father's decision to proceed. The go-ahead gives permission for an investigation into the life of Mother Teresa to begin immediately.

Church sources in Rome said it was apparently the first time such an exception had been made.

In Calcutta, where Mother Teresa ran a home for the dying and where her cause is being initiated, Archbishop Henry D'Souza said he had been informed of the waiver by the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

Locally, Mother Teresa's longtime friend Bishop Curlin has been asked to participate in the investigation by providing testimony that will help substantiate sainthood.

"The first process is to gather information on her, her life, her commitment; to give an overall view of Mother's life," said Bishop Curlin. Mother Teresa and Bishop Curlin struck up a friendship nearly three decades ago in Washington, D.C., where the bishop was then-pastor of an inner-city parish in the nation's capital. At their first meeting, the bishop recalls, "I knew I was in the presence of a truly holy person. There was a serenity that just permeated everything she said."

Bishop Curlin received his request from the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse in Calcutta in mid-January. Now he will carefully prepare answers, "being careful to be as objective as possible."

In 1995, Mother Teresa visited Charlotte, where, at the Charlotte Coliseum, she was keynote speaker for an ecumenical prayer service. While here, she established a convent, and left four of her sisters to work with the poor.

"She practiced heroic virtue," said Bishop Curlin, who had traveled to India to give retreats to Mother Teresa and her sisters. "She was extremely humble with a driving spirit."

Shortly after Mother Teresa's death in September 1997, the pope said that he thought it was "necessary to follow the normal way" of deliberating sainthood causes, even in the case of Mother Teresa, whom many had considered a living saint. The rules foresaw an interval of five years before any official consideration.

But the pope changed his mind over the last 18 months, in part because people from many countries and walks of life wrote to the Vatican to support sainthood for Mother Teresa, according to Vatican officials.

Vatican sources noted that the pope, as the church's supreme legislator, can always decide to waive a rule like this. One of the reasons he did so in this case was that the rule seemed superfluous for Mother Teresa.

The waiting period was established as a norm to make sure there is a true reputation of holiness before the church begins working on a sainthood cause, but Mother Teresa was someone who "had a reputation for holiness throughout her life," said one official.

Even with the dispensation, the road to "official" sainthood may not be short for Mother Teresa, because local church experts and Vatican officials will have to pore over the documentation and testimony available. Because Mother Teresa was an international figure who founded a religious order and established centers and hospitals all over the globe, there is a lot of evidence to consider.

The sainthood process involves several steps:

— Declaration of a person's heroic virtues.

— Beatification, in which a person is declared "blessed" following certification of a miracle attributed to the person's intercession.

— Canonization as a saint, after another certified miracle, in which the church declares that the person's life is worthy of honor and imitation by all the faithful.

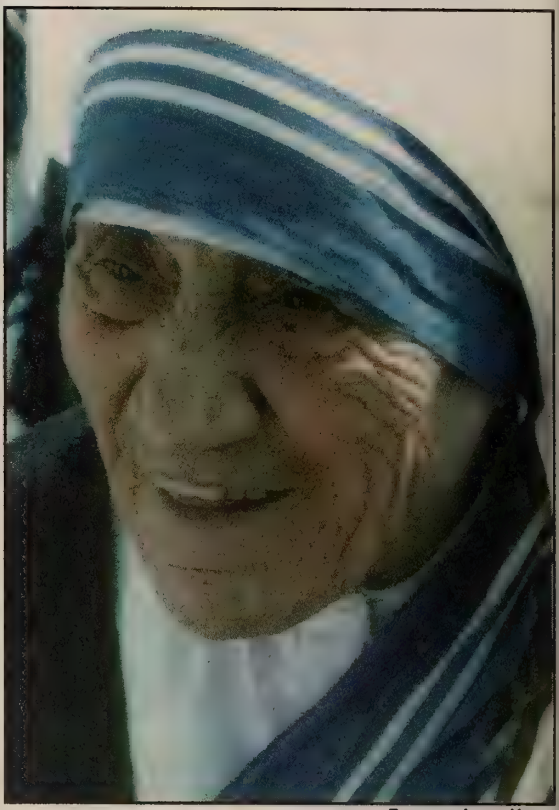


Photo by Joann Keane

Since her death, Mother Teresa has been cited several times by Pope John Paul as a model of holiness in action. In a talk Feb. 27 to medical and church experts on the topic of dying, the pope said Mother Teresa, along with many saints through the centuries, had given the kind of care and attention needed by people in the last phase of life.

"I do believe she is a saint in heaven," said Bishop Curlin. ▼

Catholic News Services' John Thavis contributed to this article.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen —Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

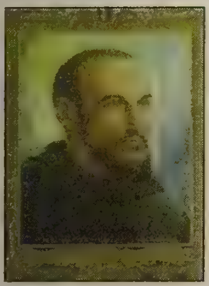
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S296 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 12, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 27

Inside



Pope John Paul II beatifies 10 people ...PAGE 3

Pro-life leaders gather for conference ...PAGE 7

Priest remembers baseball hero ...PAGE 16

Local News

Diocesan Support Appeal to close March 20-21 ...PAGE 14

New members appointed to MACS board ...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

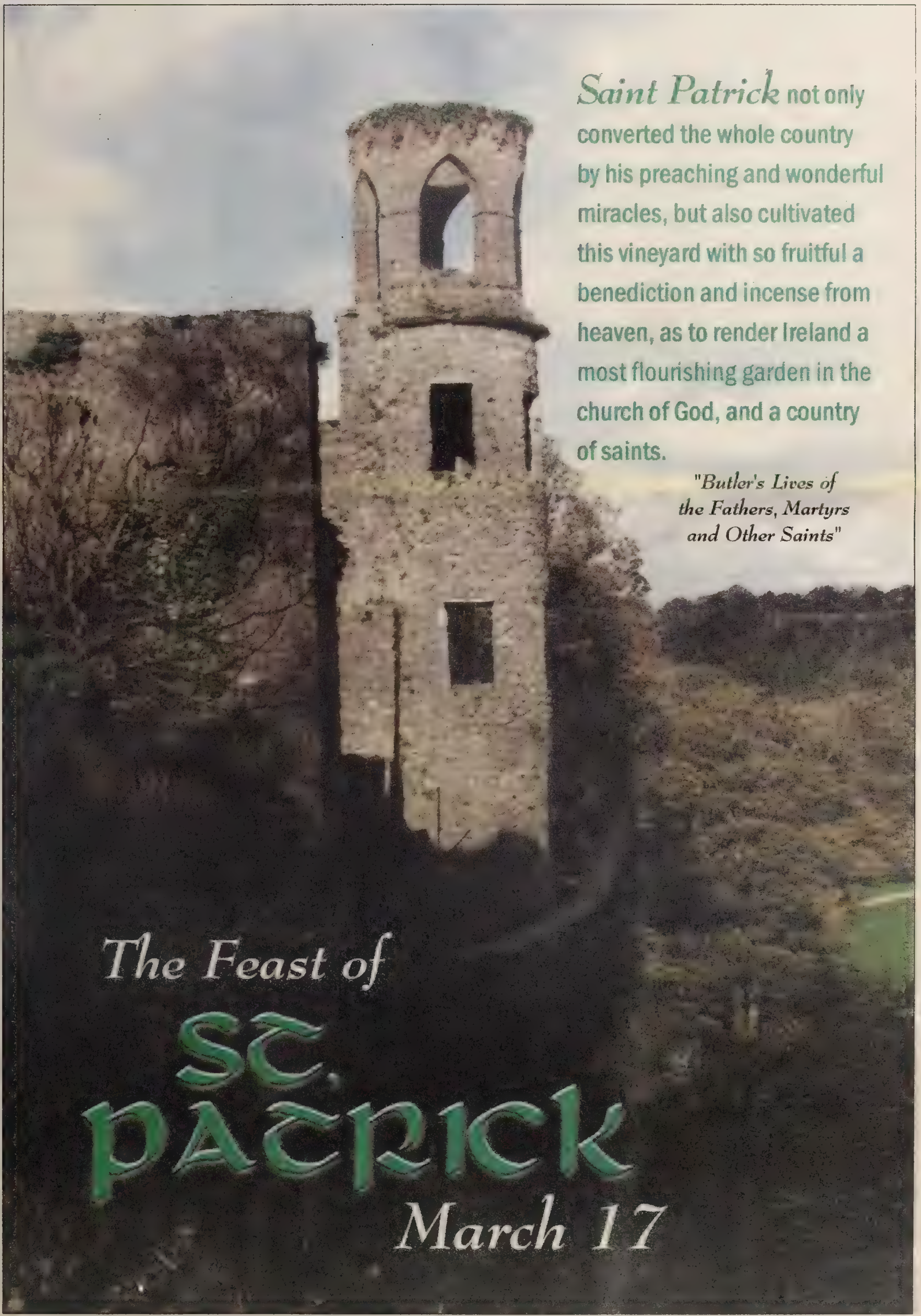
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Ireland is different

A commentary

...PAGES 8-9

PHOTO, RIGHT, BY JOANN S. KEANE



Saint Patrick not only converted the whole country by his preaching and wonderful miracles, but also cultivated this vineyard with so fruitful a benediction and incense from heaven, as to render Ireland a most flourishing garden in the church of God, and a country of saints.

"Butler's Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs and Other Saints"

The Feast of ST. PATRICK

March 17

The World in Brief

U.S. mother church to undergo historic restoration

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The mother church of Catholicism in the United States will undergo a major historic restoration that archdiocesan leaders say will bring the old cathedral back to its original, 19th-century design. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore announced that the archdiocese has selected two New York-based architecture firms to develop a master plan for the restoration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in downtown Baltimore.

CRS begins joint effort to stave off starvation in North Korea

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services and other charitable groups have joined forces to oversee emergency food distribution in famine-stricken North Korea. A consortium made up of CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, as well as CARE, Mercy Corps, World Vision and Amigos International will oversee distribution of 75,000 metric tons of wheat donated by the United States. North Korea has been suffering from a chronic food shortage as a result of floods, drought and a failing economy.

Vatican, Vietnamese officials to discuss diplomatic relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican delegation was traveling to Vietnam in mid-March for talks on establishing diplomatic relations, a step that would open a major communications channel with Vietnam's communist government. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls confirmed March 4 that a delegation headed by Msgr. Celestino Migliore, Vatican undersecretary of state, would meet Vietnamese officials in Hanoi to discuss diplomatic relations and other church-state issues.

Missionary news agency says millions fleeing Indonesia violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 2 million Indonesians were fleeing an island in panic amid violent clashes between Christians and Muslims, a Vatican agency reported. Local dioceses and the apostolic nunciature to Indonesia had donated $50,000 to assist the refugees, but further funds were needed, the news agency Fides, operated by the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, reported March 2.

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Holy Door Hammer
A young visitor to the Vatican Museums looks at a hammer used by a pope to open the Holy Year Door of St. Peter's Basilica. Pope John Paul II will open the door on Christmas Eve this year to mark the start of the Jubilee Year 2000. The last time the ceremony took place was in 1983.

Hispanic ministry directors promote dialogue

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — About 70 diocesan directors for Hispanic ministry from around the nation met in Los Angeles to discuss the process that will lead to Encuentro 2000 in Los Angeles next year. Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs, said that "this is not going to be a Hispanic Encuentro, along the lines of the last three 'encuentros' for Hispanic ministry." Instead " this is an appeal from all the bishops of the United States to all cultural and ethnic groups to initiate a multicultural dialogue at the parish level" leading to Encuentro 2000, he added.

Bishops call on Salvadorans to vote in presidential elections

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Bishops called on Salvadorans to vote responsibly and asked for a good turnout in the March 7 presidential election, the second since the end of the Central American nation's civil war seven years ago. "As Christians we must not only fulfill our obligations with God, but also our civic duties," said the Feb. 27 message from the Salvadoran bishops' conference. "But it is not sufficient just to place our vote. It is also necessary to exercise and fulfill this obligation with a conscience and as an act of responsibility," the bishops said.

Philippine army permits clergy to negotiate officers' release

DAVAO CITY, Philippines (CNS) — The Philippine army issued safe conduct passes to two bishops and two priests to work out the release of army officers abducted by communist rebels near Davao City. "Our primary role is to serve as a communication channel. The official communication has been suspended, so there is no link in place," Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, March 1. A pass was also issued to Bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz of Tagum, in whose diocese the communist-led New People's Army is active.

Land-mine ban treaty takes effect, archbishop urges U.S. to sign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amid global celebrations March 1 for the treaty to ban land mines, a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops urged the United States to join the ban. At a meeting with journalists and land-mine survivors on Capitol Hill, Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., outlined new legislation he plans to introduce that would move the United States closer to treaty compliance even if it does not sign the treaty. Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., chairman of the bishops' International Policy Committee, welcomed the anti-land-mine pact as an "important step toward a more peaceful and humane world" and urged the United States "to join the 134 other nations that have already signed the treaty."

Vatican Radio to increase programming for Holy Year pilgrims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To reach Holy Year pilgrims with spiritual messages, commentary and practical advice, Vatican Radio plans to increase programming in five languages during the year 2000. Church officials plan to encourage pilgrims to arrive in Rome carrying a portable radio — even a cheapie — so they can tune into one of two special channels for news and other programs in English, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese, said Jesuit Father Pasquale Borgomeo, Vatican Radio's general director.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

March 12, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 27
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 13 — 11:00 am
Deacon Recommitment Celebration
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 15
Installing seminarians to
the ministry of Lector
St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, PA

March 17 — 12 noon
Supreme Court Justice Scalia,
Mecklenburg Bar Association

7:00 pm
Soup and Substance Program, St. Barnabas, Arden

March 18 — 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Day of Reflection for Parish Catechetical Leaders, Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

6:00 pm
Diocesan School Board Mass,
Commissioning, and dinner

Diocesan planner

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Singers are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass Choir. The chrism Mass is celebrated March 30 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop William G. Curlin and priests serving the diocese. Choir rehearsals are March 21 and March 28 from 4-5 p.m. at the cathedral. If interested, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, ext. 22.

March

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

15 CHARLOTTE — A Lenten retreat/mission is at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., today through March 18. Each day includes Mass and Scripture sharing at 9:30 a.m., and Liturgy of the Word at 7:30 p.m. Dominican Father Michael Burke of the De Porres House in Raleigh, facilitates. For details, call Carol at (704) 527-5277.

16 HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave., presents "The Passion of the Lord" today, March 20 and March 21 at 7 p.m. For details, call (828) 693-6901.

17 BELMONT — Melodye Micere Stewart, a featured speaker at the Million Woman March in Philadelphia in 1997 and a Charlotte Post columnist, discusses literature of the "Harlem Renaissance" at 7 p.m. today in Grace Auditorium, on the third floor of St. Leo Hall on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. For details, call (704) 825-6890.

18 HENDERSONVILLE — A series of natural family planning classes taught by the Couple to Couple League begins today from 7-9 p.m. The Sympto-Thermal method is

Pope John Paul II beatifies 10 people, including Spanish civil war martyrs

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified 10 people, including seven priests and a lay brother who gave their lives for the faith in the Spanish civil war.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica March 7, the pope said the new "blesseds" were men and women who had encountered Christ and thus found meaning in their own lives.

"Despite the trials of their lives, they did not harden their hearts, but listened to the voice of the Lord, and the Holy Spirit filled them with God's love," he said in a sermon.

> "Despite the trials of their lives, they did not harden their hearts, but listened to the voice of the Lord, and the Holy Spirit filled them with God's love."
>
> — *Pope John Paul II*

The pope presided over the two-hour liturgy in front of some 20,000 people from various parts of Europe and beyond. The newly beatified included a German lay woman known for her faith in suffering and a French priest who taught among the poorer classes in the 17th century.

The ceremony brought the number of beatifications by Pope John Paul II to 819, which represents more than one-third the total number beatified since the church established saint-making rules in 1588. The pope has also proclaimed 280 saints, compared to about 300 canonized by all his predecessors since 1588.

Since his election in 1978, Pope John Paul has turned new attention to the martyrs of the 20th century. Among those declared blessed have been more than 200 killed for the faith during the Spanish civil war, when more than 7,000 priests and religious were slain.

In beatifying Spanish Father Vicente Soler and companions, the pope said they had died not for any ideology but for the glory of God. In 1936, Spanish republicans forces rounded up the group and executed most of them in the street. Blessed Soler was held for a time, during which he ministered to other prisoners before his own death by firing squad.

The pope also beatified Anna Schaffer, who died at age 43 in Bavaria after a life marked by a succession of physical accidents and disease. She had wanted to be a missionary, but in the end accepted her infirmity as a way of sanctification. Her grave has been a pilgrimage site since her death in 1925.

CNS photo from Reuters

A tapestry depicting French Father Nicolas Barre hangs over Pope John Paul II as he celebrates the beatification of Father Barre and nine others in St. Peter's Basilica March 7. Father Barre, a 17th-century priest, advocated the right to education for all.

Also beatified was Father Nicolas Barre, who set up small instructional programs for children in low-income areas of 17th-century France. He promoted the principle of the right to education for all, based on human dignity, and respect for the profession of teaching. He also convinced authorities to create flexible school schedules, so working-class children could continue to help out at home.

The pope, speaking to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square after the Mass, said the newly beatified showed how to conquer selfishness and transform one's life into a gift for God and others.

"May their example encourage us to take solid steps toward that holiness to which we are all called through baptism," he said. ♣

Pope names Mexican archbishop new nuncio to Cuba

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named an experienced Vatican diplomat, Mexican Archbishop Luis Robles Diaz, as his new apostolic nuncio to Cuba.

As nuncio, the Vatican's equivalent of an ambassador, the 61-year-old Archbishop Robles is expected to play a key role in ongoing negotiations with the communist government of Fidel Castro on church rights and freedoms in the Caribbean country. The Vatican announced the appointment March 6.

The pope made his first pastoral visit to Cuba in January 1998. Since then, Cuba's government has freed some political prisoners and made other concessions on religious activities, but has not altered its policy of complete control over the church's public role.

Archbishop Robles, who succeeds Italian Archbishop Beniamino Stella as papal envoy to Cuba, has been nuncio to Uganda since 1991. Before that, he was nuncio to Sudan, a country where the government has been frequently accused of discrimination against Christians.

After joining the Vatican's diplomatic corps in 1967, he worked in Vatican embassies in Honduras, South Africa, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Sri Lanka and Colombia.

The Vatican did not say when Archbishop Robles would arrive in Havana. ♣

---

taught. For details and location, call Mary Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357.

HICKORY — A day of reflection for parish catechetical leaders, with Bishop William G. Curlin as the featured speaker, is today from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. The gathering also includes prayer, Mass and discussion of next year's retreat. Participants are encouraged to bring Bibles. To register, send name, address, parish, and phone number to Faith Formation Office, Attn. Pat Onaindia, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003. Include $5 (checks payable to Faith Formation Office) if you wish to purchase lunch.

HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

19 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a homeschool support group, meets today at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., for a potluck dinner. Art will be on display to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. For details, call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990.

CLEMMONS — A children's spring and summer clothing sale is today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and March 20 from 9-11 a.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Items available include maternity, infant and children's clothing, toys, and baby equipment. Select items will be offered at half-price March 20. Proceeds will benefit parish and children's programs. For more information, call (336) 945-4948.

GREENSBORO — The Family Life and Liturgy commissions of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., hosts a family Lenten meal today at 6:30 p.m. followed by stations of the cross or a prayer service. Children's activities are also available. For details, call (336) 294-4696.

HICKORY — The annual Catholic Camporee for all Catholic Scout troops, Cub packs, and individual Scouts or units is at the Catholic Conference Center today through March 21. Bible-based activities and Mass are included. For details, call Jim Nass, (704) 542-7083, or Joe Vari, (704) 846-5155.

SYLVA — A support group for persons who are widowed, separated, divorced, or with new or unresolved grief meets today in the Fellowship Hall of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Call (828) 586-9452 for details.

20 CHARLOTTE — Catechist training covering five certification modules is today at from 8 a.m.-7:15 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Also offered are two youth ministry training sessions. Cost for catechist training is $2.50 for one or two sessions, or $5 for three or more. Cost is $2.50 for one youth ministry session, or $5 for two. For details and to register, call Mary Beth Feeser, (704) 370-3247.

CLEMMONS — Rehearsals for the band and choir that will perform at the closing liturgy of the diocesan youth conference in April are held today at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 1:30-4 p.m. Singers and instrumentalist are welcome. For details and to R.S.V.P., call Carolann Darling at (336) 998-9842.

21 MAGGIE VALLEY — Organizers of the 52nd Women's Cursillo Weekend invite interested persons to attend the closing today at 4:30 p.m. Finger foods and paper plates are requested for quick clean-up. For details, call Teresa Sanctis at (704) 541-6850.

23 GREENSBORO — "Reading the Bible with the Fathers of the Church" is the theme of an adult education presentation today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Jim McCullough, the parish's director of religious education, facilitates. For details, call (336) 274-0415.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, encourages end to Ethiopian-Eritrean dispute

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope John Paul II encouraged Ethiopia and Eritrea to put a definitive halt to their bloody border conflict and abide by the terms of an accord drafted by the Organization of African Unity.

The pope, speaking at his weekly general audience at the Vatican March 3, welcomed the news that after weeks of fighting, both countries indicated they would agreed to the peace plan, which was formulated last fall.

"I applaud this wise decision, and I accompany it with fervid prayers. This is the only way to bring an end to this fratricidal war, to calm souls and to promote a new style of government and harmony on the African continent," the pope said.

The most recent wave of fighting began in early February. Although news organizations have not been able to verify events on the border, Ethiopia claimed to have gained substantial territory, which it considers its sovereign land. Eritrea has asked the United Nations to condemn Ethiopia for aggression.

An estimated 1,000 people have been killed over the past year in flare-ups along the Ethiopia-Eritrea border.

In his regular audience talk, the pope spoke of the unique father-son relationship between Christ and God, one that was evidenced in Christ's own frequent invocations to God the Father.

Thanks to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, all people can share in an intimate relationship with God, the pope told some 25,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"Our filial relationship with the heavenly Father depends on our courageous faithfulness to Christ, his beloved Son," he said.

Pope urges U.S. Christians to work against attacks on life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a strongly worded pro-life message, Pope John Paul II urged U.S. Christians to take educational and political action against increasing attacks on human life. "The choice in favor of life is not a private option but a basic demand of a just and moral society," the pope said in a letter to Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. Cardinal Keeler, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, was presiding over a March 3-5 conference in Washington on emerging technologies involving life and death. The conference was co-sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family.

On the Lighter Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Yet another book on prayer — from me

I believe it might have been St. Augustine, or possibly Oprah, Bill Gates or Sears, who first observed that prayer is like a gift from God — and you not only don't have to have a receipt to return it, you can use it your whole life and still get your original investment back even if you are entirely satisfied. And it was a gift to begin with.

All warranties — implied or written — as well as coupons accepted.

The same is not entirely true for books on prayer which are selling like hotcakes, some actually being better digested if you pour maple syrup and butter on them.

There are so many brands of prayer out there now it boggles the imagination: centering prayer, Taize prayer, meditation, labyrinth walks, Scripture-based prayer, "lectio divina," contemplation, devotional prayer, movement prayer, chanting prayer, musical prayer, charismatic prayer, blue-plate special prayer (OK, OK, I made that one up).

Reflecting deeply, this leads one to a clear theological, sociological and even logical conclusion: There are a lot of people out there writing books about prayer.

This, in turn, makes you realize it is a great time to jump on the bandwagon and write one while the market is hot — unless, of course, one is gainfully employed and has responsibilities.

As we all know, Catholics are a great market because we like to name, categorize, subdivide, methodologize and in general plant the flowers in a very straight row. (If Jesus and the apostles showed up at a parish liturgy, we'd probably pepper them with questions about Vatican Council II.)

Yes, I admit it. I do have an idea for a book on prayer.

Admittedly it would need illustrations to fill a lot of the pages. And it would be good to use huge print and put only a few words on each page to create the wonderful effect that the words are, therefore, more meaningful. That alone is good for selling lots of books, I'm sure.

The title would be "Fire Engine Prayer: Recognizing That Life Is Full of Prayer All the Time, Even at PTA Meetings."

So far here are some of the preliminary chapter titles:

—"Call-the-Emergency-Room Prayer: It's 1 a.m., and That Kid Still Isn't Home."

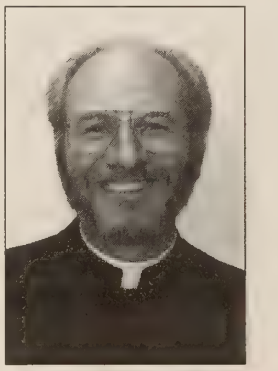
—"Panic Prayer: God, I Have Jammed on the Brakes, Please Don't Let Me Slam Into That Pickup."

—"Silent Prayer: Can You Believe How Beautiful My (Grand)Child Is?"

—"Prayers of Thanksgiving: Thank You God for Letting the Homeowners' Insurance Cover the Exploded Water Heater."

Granted, I am going to have to flesh these out a little and throw in a little Latin here and there. But with a good illustrator and the right typeface, I'm half-way there.

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.



Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Buying a Piece of the American Dream

In the showroom of my local rent-to-own (RTO) store sits the Heritage model Corolla classic dinette with two removable leaves and four white oak chairs. The ticket on the table reads, "Manager's Special, $11.99, 61 weeks." What usually sells in 78 weeks has been reduced to 61, because the dinette was previously rented and slightly scratched. The dinette, whose sticker price asks $365.70, will sell if purchased through 61 weekly payments for $731.39, but with sales tax and insurance the cost will jump to $833.42!

The RTO business represents a $4.5 billion industry with over 7,500 outlets. The industry claims it provides a valuable service by offering furniture, appliances, TVs, VCRs and stereos for short-term rental, many times to low income folks with bad credit or no credit at all. To its disadvantaged customers RTO sells a piece of the American dream one week at a time.

But, critics charge that RTO preys on the unsophisticated poor through exorbitant prices, unconventional contracts and "add-on" fees. Typically a low wage worker buying a TV with 78 weekly installments at RTO will pay twice or three times the original price. RTO structures its contracts as short-term leases to evade usury and most consumer protection laws. My local RTO contract reads: "This is a 'week-to-week' or 'month-to-month' rental agreement with option to purchase." Translated, this means the customer can return the merchandise and cancel the renewable one-week or one-month lease at any time. By making the last payment, or paying off the balance early with costly stipulations, the customer in effect exercises "the option to purchase." RTO argues this kind of transaction is not covered by the federal Truth in Lending Act, which requires disclosure of the annual percentage rate (APR.) The RTO trade group, the Association of Progressive Rental Organizations, revealed that only 25 percent of RTO customers manage to complete the course of payments to own the merchandise.

In addition, "add-on" fees increase the price of the merchandise. A liability damage waiver (LDW) added to the rental fee acts like insurance against damage from lightning, fire, smoke, windstorm, theft or flood. Charges at other RTO places might include processing and delivery fees.

The use of sophisticated advertizing and confusing tactics aimed at the most economically vulnerable people in society raises moral questions. Customers expect to own something in the end, but RTO gives no credit counseling or budgeting advice to help potential customers avoid losing money. Also, the denial that the bulk of the payments represents de facto interest distorts truth and supports a culture of the lie. "Ethics in Advertising," a statement issued by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, bluntly states: "It is morally wrong to use manipulative, exploitative, corrupt and corrupting methods of persuasion and motivation."

Besides legislation to regulate RTO transactions so usury and consumer protection laws apply, community groups are promoting consumer education. The Central Appalachia People's Federal Credit Union, which offers financial counseling and low interest loans, published an article in its newsletter entitled "The Rent-to-Own Scam." As a result, several folks were spared seeing the RTO truck loaded with their bed, dinette and TV, driving their piece of the American dream back to the showroom.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Dagger John" Hughes: On being Irish in America

From 1820 to 1920 five million Irish immigrants entered the United States. The infamous potato blight and famine of the 1840's turned a trickle into a flood. The overwhelming majority were young men and women, single and Catholic.

Many who would call America home experienced a "devotional revolution" — practicing their faith was, for them, a visible expression of all it meant to be Irish. It was only natural that they should search out church leaders for guidance and hope. For a full quarter of the nineteenth century, Irish immigrants looked to John Hughes, the first Catholic Archbishop of New York, as their champion. Indeed, Hughes was himself an immigrant from Annaloghan, County Tyrone, Ireland. He set his heart and his will on helping his fellow immigrants carve out a place for themselves by assuring them an equal share in the civil and religious freedoms promised by the United States Constitution.

This was no easy task. From his early days as a priest in Philadelphia to his death in 1864, Hughes used his considerable oratorical skills to assert a Catholic presence in what was then a profoundly anti-Catholic America. In this he became both beloved and controversial. According to his current successor John Cardinal O'Connor, "He was almost alone in recognizing the needs of the immigrants and the contemptuous treatment of them. He helped them integrate into society."

Archbishop Hughes was dubbed "Dagger John" because of his tactical skills in defending his flock. It was an age when nativism was strong and all immigrants suspect. In 1844 he responded to threats of violence against Catholic churches by stationing armed parishioners around the buildings. Hughes warned: "If a single Catholic church is burned in New York, the city will become a second Moscow!"

Stubbornly determined, aggressively opinionated, he was as capable of working with the political system as against it. When all soldiers were required to attend Protestant services, whatever their beliefs, Hughes negotiated changes. He was influential in secularizing the fledgling public school system, which had institutionalized anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic sentiment. Then, rather than haggling over government subsidies for Catholic schools, he created a separate, private system of parochial education. Again and again, Hughes encouraged naturalized citizens to exercise their growing political clout at the ballot box.

The story of "Dagger John" is a pointed reminder of how much has changed and how much hasn't over the years. Protestants and Catholics are no longer at each other's throats. In fact, despite faith differences, ecumenical pursuits are common. Signs that say "No Irish Need Apply" are long gone and Irish-Americans have dug their roots deep in this country of ours.

The trouble is that if you substitute different names and nationalities and beliefs you find that many of the old problems have not gone away. Fear, even hatred, remains for people who are different. The only thing that has changed is the "Them" and the "Us."

Historian Lawrence McCaffrey observes that the Irish "loved the United States because it had rescued them from poverty and oppression, and gave them freedom, dignity, and hope for the future." Everyone deserves hope.

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

When must confession come before communion?

Q. During the summer I drive Mexican migrant workers to Mass on Sundays. I noticed that only very few went to Communion. A fellow volunteer said it is part of their culture. If they haven't gone to confession, they don't feel "worthy" of the Eucharist.

Another volunteer said it's in the Catechism of the Catholic Church not to take Communion unless recently going to confession.

I could find no reference in the catechism to this kind of link between reconciliation (penance) and the Eucharist. Are many American Catholics bending church rules when they receive Communion without "suitably frequent" confession?

A. Let's look first at some church regulations about these two sacraments as we find them in canon law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

While Catholics are formally obliged to receive the Eucharist only once a year, during the Eastertime if possible, we are strongly urged to receive this sacrament each time we participate in the Mass (Catechism, 1388; Canons 919-920). This simply recognizes the significant place that holy Communion by all the faithful holds in the liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass.

Confession of grave (serious) sins in the sacrament of reconciliation is required at least once a year. This would follow, of course, from the obligation of annual Communion, since anyone conscious of grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist (Catechism 1457; Canon 989).

Thus, confession of nonserious (venial) sins is not strictly required in church law at all. I say "in church law" deliberately because reception of this sacrament with some frequency is clearly essential for our spiritual life and growth as Catholics.

It is not possible to discuss this at length here. The catechism spells it out thoroughly in its long treatment of "The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation."

Then what explains the frequent, though not universal, belief you describe in Mexico, which can be duplicated in other Latin American countries and other parts of the world?

Many reasons contribute. A major one, however, seems to be that much of the colonization and evangelization of these mission countries took place during the time when a heresy (or set of heresies) called Jansenism had enormous influence on European Christianity.

Centuries earlier, a strong movement toward frequent, even daily, Communion had begun to expand in the church. By 1562, the Council of Trent was urging people to receive Communion at every Mass they attended.

During the 1600s, however, Jansenism, which affected France in particular, took a puritanical, extremely rigoristic attitude toward Catholic spirituality and the sacraments. Frequent Communion was one of its targets. No one, it was said, should receive Communion without perfect contrition, which a confessor would guarantee by delaying Communion at least a week.

Only the urgent appeal of Pope Pius X in 1905 for frequent, daily Communion gave a death blow to this attitude. Unfortunately, by this time the Catholic people of Mexico were suffering a ruthless persecution which continued well into the 1900s. Many were martyred.

For this and other reasons, education in matters of faith was all but impossible, and Mexican people were isolated from these kinds of developments that were enriching other areas of the Catholic world. Inevitably, this affected the Catholic culture of the country and the way of viewing eucharistic Communion.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER JOHN ALLEN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Alongside Christ on a journey of faith

The Stations of the Cross have been part of Catholic tradition for centuries. St. Francis of Assisi, who lived in the 13th century, is credited with starting this practice. On a trip to Jerusalem, in an effort to bring peace between Christians and Muslims, he was admitted to an audience with the Sultan who governed the area. He tried his best to convert the Sultan to Christianity. Despite his great respect for Francis, the Sultan did not convert and sent Francis on his way.

In the months that St. Francis was in Jerusalem he liked to walk the path that Jesus had walked centuries before on his way to the cross. Since Francis knew the New Testament almost by heart, he would recite the passages that had to do with Jesus' crucifixion. He prayed deeply over those scenes as he went from spot to spot in what we call the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Suffering.

On his return to Italy he began the practice of setting up wooden crosses along the paths where he walked so that he could still meditate on the way of suffering. He may have erected 25 to 50 crosses. As other people adopted his way of meditating they settled on 14 crosses, from the Judgment before Pontius Pilate to the Burial in the Tomb.

Over time the Franciscan Friars were entrusted with the privilege of erecting the Stations of the Cross in all the churches throughout the world. The custom continues to this day of prayerfully meditating on the passion and death of our Lord while walking the way of the cross.

One of the most vivid memories of my childhood is the Stations of the Cross made on the Fridays of Lent in the parish where I grew up. The words prayed on those Fridays were the ones written by St. Alphonsus Liguori more than 250 years ago. His meditations continue to guide us in our prayer to Jesus as we accompany him to Calvary each Lenten season. They can remind us again this Lenten season of the call of our Holy Father in preparation for the new millennium to "undertake a journey of authentic conversion" and a return to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. With St. Alphonsus we can pray as we follow Our Lord in the mysteries of his suffering, death and resurrection:

My Lord, Jesus Christ, You have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love; and I have so many times ungratefully abandoned You. But now I love You with all my heart; and, because I love You, I am sincerely sorry for ever having offended You. pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany You on this journey. You go to die for love of me; I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of You. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to You.

Father John Allen is Parochial Vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Indian archbishop names postulator for Mother Teresa

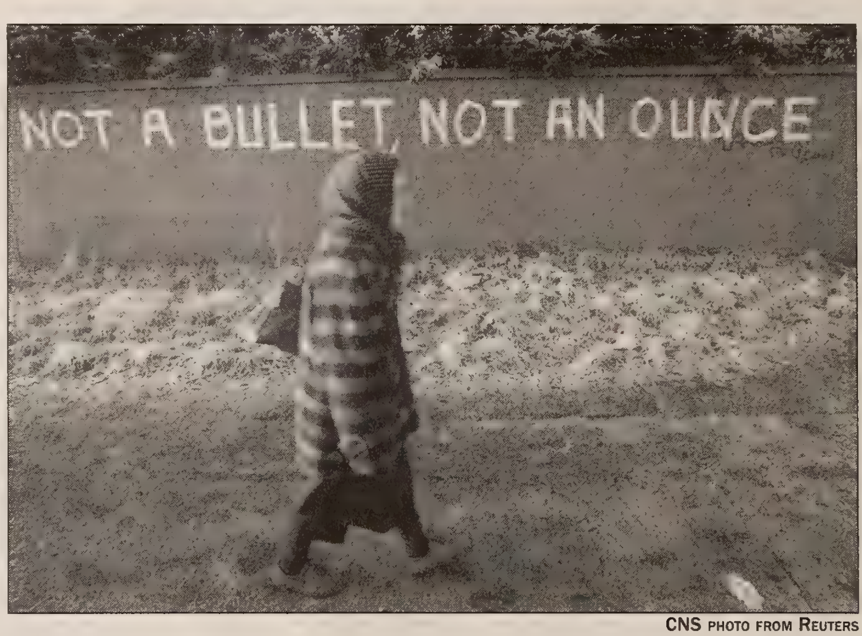
CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta has appointed a postulator for the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa. Earlier, the pope waived the five-year waiting period before the process can begin. Archbishop D'Souza told Vatican officials that Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk was scheduled to reach the eastern Indian metropolis of Calcutta in mid-March to begin the process, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Father Kolodiejchuk is the superior of a Missionaries of Charity house in Rome.

Boston College to rename education school for benefactors

BOSTON (CNS) — Boston College's School of Education will be renamed the Peter S. and Carolyn A. Lynch School of Education to recognize a more than $10 million gift to the Jesuit-run school from the financier and his wife. Peter Lynch, a 1965 graduate of Boston College and a member of its board of trustees, is vice chairman of Fidelity Management and Research Company. Carolyn Lynch is president of the Lynch Foundation, which funds innovative programs in education and social services.

Pope encourages communications council to prepare ethics document

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged the Vatican's top communications officials to draw up a document on "ethics in communication" to offer moral guidance to media professionals. "In a field where cultural and financial pressures can sometimes blur the moral vision which should guide all human realities and relationships, this task represents a challenge," the pope told members of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications March 4. The pope said the mass media are potentially very creative, but without ethical reflection they can "spread destructive countervalues."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Irish arms

A woman strolls past a wall of graffiti showing support for Irish Republicans in west Belfast in January. The graffiti is an IRA response to the turning over of weapons as spelled out in the peace accord. Britain was to hand over home-rule powers to Catholic and Protestant Northern Irish parties March 10, but issues over disarming IRA extremists have yet to be resolved.

Former editor gets Jesuit communications post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Jesuit Conference USA in Washington has named Jesuit Father Thomas Widner as its new director of communications. He will oversee the communications ministry of the Jesuits in the United States, including the National Jesuit News, America magazine, Company magazine and the Sacred Heart Program. Father Widner, 56, is currently on the staff at the Milford Spiritual Center in Ohio and has been a priest for 30 years and a Jesuit for 13 years.

Group helps Hispanic youths put Christ at center of their lives

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Julio Cesar Ibarra is eager to learn about his friend Jesus. "I like to be here," he said, gesturing around the room where his church youth group meets. "I want to learn more about my faith." The 12-year-old parishioner of the Sagrado Corazon community at St. Stephen in Minneapolis is a member of the parish youth ministry team, called Friends of Jesus. Its purpose is to help young people put Jesus at the center of their lives, said Adrian Hernandez, part-time youth ministry coordinator.

Father Norman Perry of St. Anthony Messenger dies

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Franciscan Father Norman Perry, award-winning columnist and editor of St. Anthony Messenger, died March 1 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. He was 69 years old. He died of diabetes, kidney and heart complications. He had undergone surgery for colon cancer in mid-February. His funeral was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 5 at St. Clement Church, a Franciscan parish in Cincinnati, with burial the following morning at St. Mary's Cemetery behind the church.

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Special announcement!
We will allow your church the price you paid (per book) for your old Hammond organ (pre-1960) as a trade-in on a new Johannus or Hammond organ.
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC 28115
(704) 663-7007
(800) 331-0768

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.
For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.
Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.
DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

Conference participants get crash course in life issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diocesan and national pro-life leaders from around the country got a crash course in life issues ranging from in vitro fertilization to pain management for the dying March 3-5 in Washington.

With talks by six cardinals, the leadership convocation at the law school of The Catholic University of America had a strongly Catholic flavor. But speakers and participants also included Jewish leaders and representatives of other Christian denominations.

Convened by Cardinals John J. O'Connor of New York and Bernard F. Law of Boston in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Family, the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities and the law school, the convocation had as its theme, "In God's Image: Called to Build a Culture of Life."

"When the law says it is all right to kill infants, and when the law in some places says it is all right to kill the feeble, the dying, that's teaching a set of moral values," Cardinal O'Connor said in one of the conference's first talks.

"This is a demon; this is diabolical, what's happening in our country, this culture of death," he added. "And it can only be driven out by prayer and fasting."

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Vatican's council on the family, called the culture of death "a disturbing and spreading phenomenon" that is especially "manifest in the legal execution of the unborn child in the womb."

In a message to the gathering, Pope John Paul II hailed the conference as "another sign that in the United States of America the Gospel of life has found fertile ground in which to grow and bear fruit."

Critic and radio talk show host Michael Medved blamed television for much of the deterioration in American culture, saying that even if its content were cleaned up, "it would still undermine moral values, it would still threaten the very existence of the family."

But a pair who often appear on television as the "God Squad" told the leadership convocation that the culture of death can be defeated with collaboration rather than competition.

Msgr. Thomas Hartman, director of radio and television for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who appears with Rabbi Marc Gellman, senior rabbi at Temple Beth Torah in Melville, N.Y., said organizations promoting life should be "not monuments to ourselves, but monuments to God's gift of life."

Speakers on the conference's first day traced the history of feminism and abortion, as well as the impact of the sexual revolution on today's teens.

Historian Elizabeth Fox-Genovese of Emory University said that despite the feminist movement's claims that easy access to abortion would liberate American women, it has "degraded the status of women more than it has elevated it."

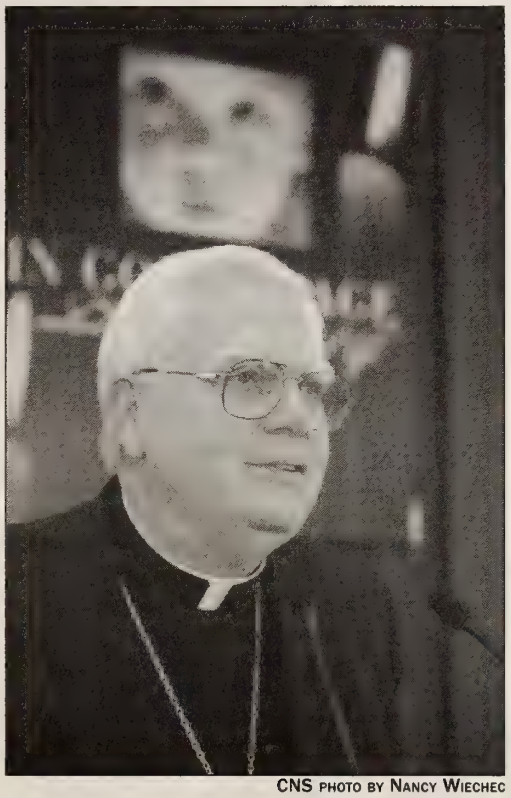
Patricia Funderburk Ware, an expert in teen pregnancy and AIDS, said adults who are buying into the culture of death are failing the next generation.

"The greatest tragedy of the sexual revolution has been the breakdown of the family, the breakdown of marriage," Ware said. Adults who accept the tenets of the sexual revolution "are placing not only themselves but their children at risk," she added.

But many of the convocation's sessions were devoted to very specific and sometimes quite technical aspects of the spectrum of life issues — from the vast array of new reproductive technologies to U.S. efforts to spread their family planning agenda worldwide to effective palliative care in end-of-life situations.

A Jesuit genetic researcher called on the Catholic Church and the pro-life community to help spread the word about advances in reproductive technology that do not diminish the sacredness of the human person.

"The church is not against science, it's against science being used badly," said Jesuit Father Kevin T. Fitzgerald, a research associate at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago. "It's against medical advances being held out as available only to those who can afford them."



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Boston Cardinal Bernard Law addresses a gathering of life ministry leaders in Washington March 4. Speaking about euthanasia and assisted suicide, Cardinal Law said pro-life efforts should include "medically sound and morally acceptable treatment of pain."

On the international front, speakers said the world faces a population problem, but not one of overpopulation. "It is a problem in many parts of the world ... of underpopulation, of looming depopulation," said Steven W. Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute.

And, he said, pro-life advocates can help end the population control movement "by taking its money away."

Mosher said the total population already has begun declining in 16 European nations. In 55 other countries, population is increasing only because of lengthening life spans.

Convocation participants devoted a half day to the dangers of euthanasia and assisted suicide, the role of doctors as patients near death, and the need to expand hospice care and improve pain management at the end of life.

"All too often, the availability of pain control is not sufficiently known or utilized," said Cardinal Law. "Appeal for compassion for the pain-ridden patient is often the most compelling reason why some misguided but well-intentioned people support euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. Pro-life efforts should certainly include a medically sound and morally acceptable treatment of pain."

Dr. Walter R. Hunter, associate national director of VistaCare and a nationally known expert on hospice care, urged those concerned about the dangers of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia to work in their own communities "to change the way we care for the dying."

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago closed the meeting by calling on participants "to create a culture worthy of people made in God's image and likeness."

"If we decry the tension between the culture of death and the culture of life, we can't simply point to it and despair," he said. "We have to work as best we can to change it."

At the meeting's close, Cardinal Law told Catholic News Service that he found the convocation "very encouraging."

"Everything we hoped for has been achieved," he said. The next step for those who attended, he added, is to take it back home and see "how something like this can be packaged for groups in our own dioceses." ♣

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

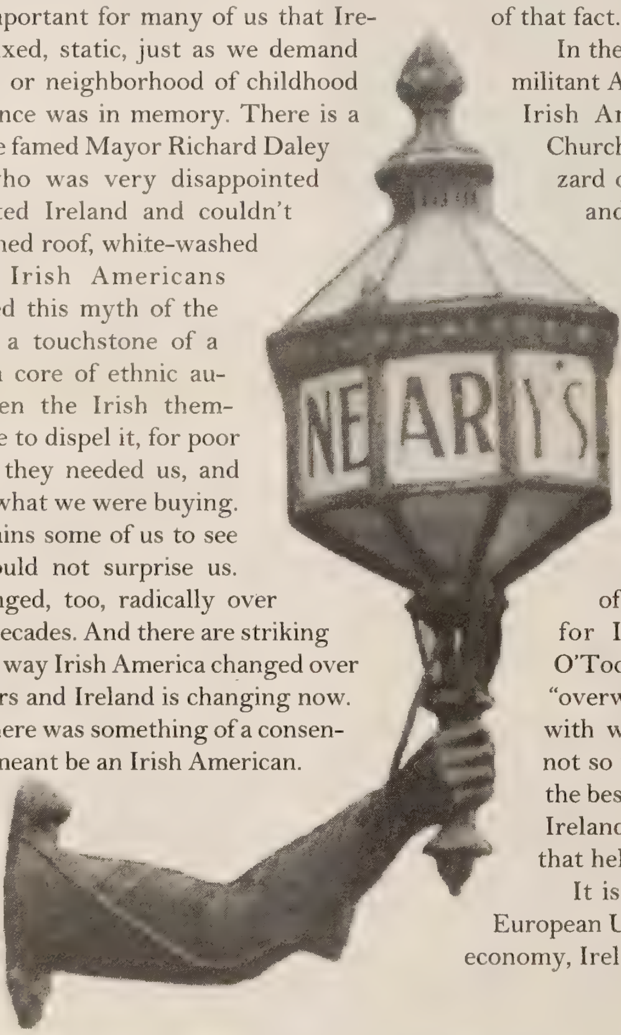
Irel
is dif

By TIMOTHY J. MEAGHER

Ireland is different now. The Irish are different too. It is not just the prosperity, the software explosion, the building boom in Dublin, the cafes replacing the pubs. It is something more. It is the other changes that the economic boom has helped cause: fundamental changes in the culture, even in the national identity of the Irish. It is not just a change in tone, a new confidence, or energy — though there is that.

It is changes in the meaning of being Irish. As Fintan O'Toole, columnist for the Irish Times suggested: "the fixed points on the compass of life — Church, nation, family — have "been unsettled."

For many Irish Americans this may be difficult. It has been important for many of us that Ireland remain fixed, static, just as we demand that the home or neighborhood of childhood remain as it once was in memory. There is a story about the famed Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago who was very disappointed when he visited Ireland and couldn't find any thatched roof, white-washed cottages. If Irish Americans seemed to need this myth of the rural idyll as a touchstone of a certain past, a core of ethnic authenticity, then the Irish themselves did little to dispel it, for poor as they were, they needed us, and tradition was what we were buying.



Yet if it pains some of us to see change, it should not surprise us. We have changed, too, radically over the last three decades. And there are striking parallels in the way Irish America changed over the last 30 years and Ireland is changing now. In the 1950s there was something of a consensus of what it meant be an Irish American. As in Ireland through much of the 20th century, it was a consensus anchored in the two important poles of Church and nation. Irish Americans were fiercely "militantly," as they liked to say, Catholic, just as in Ireland. But here, the nation was the United States of America. Irish Americans were fierce American patriots, verging, their critics claimed on jingoes.

If they were American Catholics, however, Irish Americans understood that they were a special kind of American Catholics. They were Irish in their own way. They had their own songs, many of them written in New York's Tin Pan Alley: "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder," "Mother Machree." They took out green ribbons and buttons on St. Patrick's Day. They lined the streets of South Boston, New York City and Chicago and other cities and towns to watch lines of police and firemen and high school bands and Irish club men march by, and they ate corned beef and cabbage that evening.

Ireland is now wealthier, on a per capita basis than England. Suddenly to the people of the Republic of Ireland, England no longer seems so important, and the defining contrast of Irishness and Englishness has lost much of its meaning.

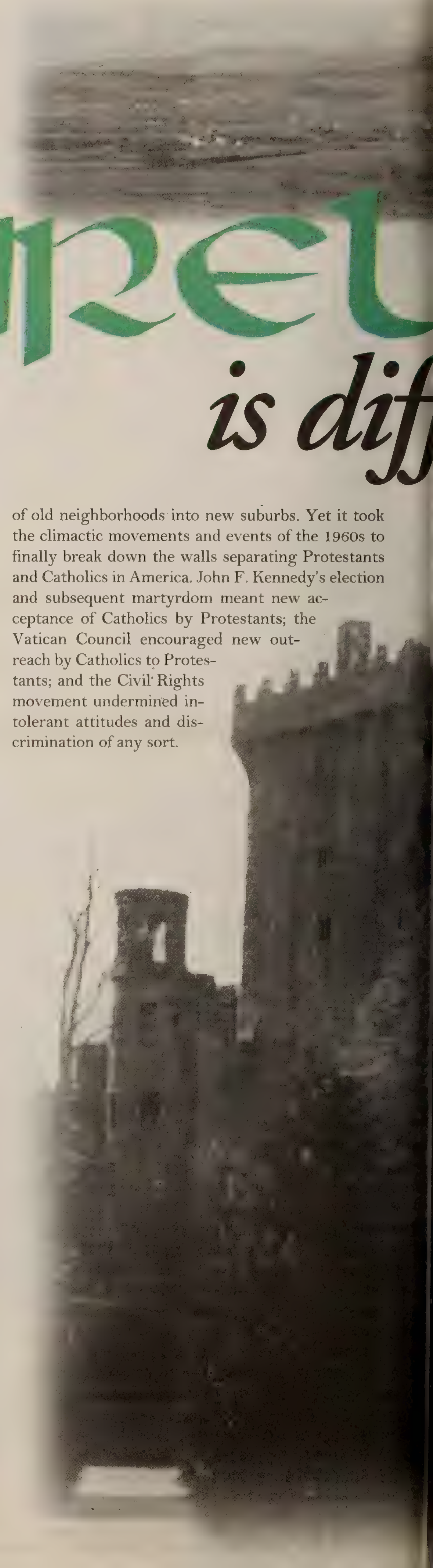
And they saw themselves on stage or in the movies: Pat O' Brien as "Fighting" Father Duffy or Jimmy Cagney as George M. Cohan. As those movies made clear, they were special in another way. The Irish knew they were different from other American Catholics because they were, they believed, the best American Catholics, the most faithful to the church, the most loyal to the nation. They were models, exemplars of being American and Catholic to the "newer races," to use James Michael Curley's phrase, like the Poles, the French Canadians and the Italians. And as any people of these groups, especially the Italians, can remember, the Irish never tired of reminding them of that fact.

In the 1950s this Irish American world, this militant American Catholicism reached its peak. Irish Americans presided over a Catholic Church booming with construction, a blizzard of new yellow brick churches, schools and hospitals. And few doubted Irish Americans' commitment to the nation at the high point of the Cold War. In the next decade, the 1960s, the consensus on what it meant to be Irish American cracked and crumbled.

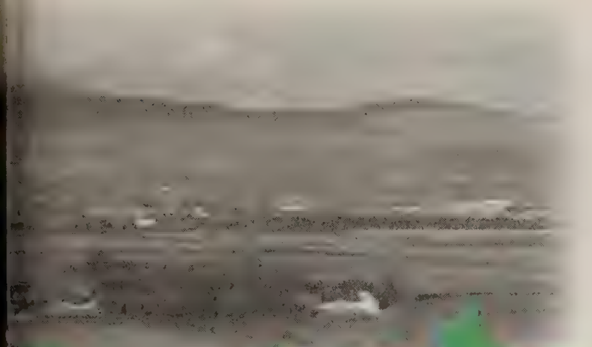
One of the most important reasons for this was the decline of Catholic Protestant tension and rivalry in America. There are parallels with the Ireland of today. One of the most important recent changes for Irish identity in Ireland, Fintan O'Toole points out, is the demise of the "overwhelming other 'England' by contrast with which Ireland could be defined." It is not so much the new agreement that affords the best prospect for a just peace in Northern Ireland in decades, maybe centuries, though that helps.

It is that, as a full-fledged partner of the European Union and an active trader in the world economy, Ireland is free from economic dependence on Britain. Even more, perhaps, Ireland is now wealthier, on a per capita basis than England. Suddenly to the people of the Republic of Ireland, England no longer seems so important, and the defining contrast of Irishness and Englishness has lost much of its meaning.

In America, too, the defining contrast between Catholics and Protestants has also disappeared in most places. Irish American upward economic progress helped undermine that opposition. This upward mobility picked up enormous momentum in the 1940s and 1950s with the broadly distributed prosperity brought by the war and government programs like the GI bill. Irish Americans moved up occupational ladders into new jobs and out of old neighborhoods into new suburbs. Yet it took the climactic movements and events of the 1960s to finally break down the walls separating Protestants and Catholics in America. John F. Kennedy's election and subsequent martyrdom meant new acceptance of Catholics by Protestants; the Vatican Council encouraged new outreach by Catholics to Protestants; and the Civil Rights movement undermined intolerant attitudes and discrimination of any sort.



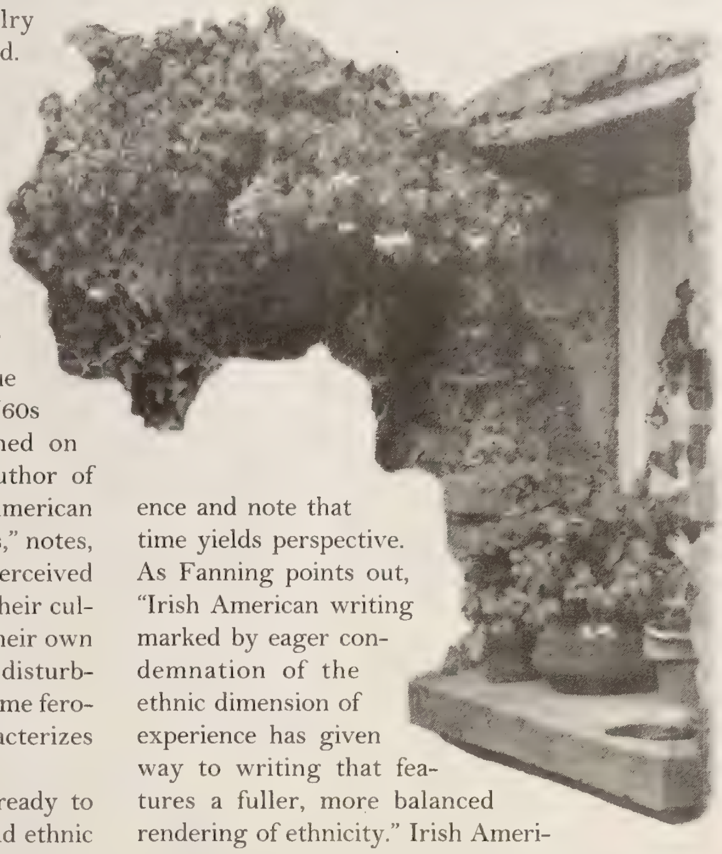
PHOTOS BY JOANN KEANE



and

rent

In some northeastern and Midwestern cities where banks or corporations had been closed to Catholic Irish, it now became harder, even impossible in most cases, to hold the line of Anglo Saxon Protestant privilege. Irish Americans are now one of the most successful groups in the nation and are well represented at the top levels of companies such as those great old icons of American business, Coca-Cola and General Motors. This demise of Catholic and Protestant rivalry meant that Catholics no longer felt embattled. Many, even devout Irish Catholics, no longer felt the need to identify so fiercely with Catholicism just as many Irish in the Republic of Ireland today no longer feel the need for an intense, anti-British nationalism.



And so the old consensus on Irish American identity shattered in the 1960s as the old consensus of Irish identity in Ireland has become "unsettled" today. In America in the '60s some Irish American writers turned on their past. As Charlie Fanning, author of "The Irish Voice in America: Irish American Fiction From the 1760s to the 1980s," notes, "spurred by anger and bitterness at the perceived oppressions, distortions, and injustices of their culture," they wished "to exorcise aspects of their own upbringing and family life that they found disturbing and embarrassing." Something of the same ferocious rejection of an older Ireland characterizes writing by some Irish in Ireland today.

Yet many Irish Americans were not ready to dispose so quickly of their ancestral past and ethnic identity. Some clung to the old fixed poles of militant American Catholicism, more convinced than ever of its relevance to their lives. Others, however, sought new meanings for their Irish American identity or combined these new meanings with older ones. They found their Irishness in a discovery of Irish culture. Irish traditional music became big business in the 1960s and after, vastly expanding its audience beyond the few, hardy, largely immigrant Irish patrons, who kept it alive here in the 1940s and 1950s. Today Irish plays flourish on Broadway; Irish movies in American theaters; Irish novels and books of poetry in American bookstores. Classes in step dancing or the Irish language are packed. Recently, at The Catholic University of America, hundreds of students turned out on a Friday night for a poetry reading in Irish by the famed Irish poet Nuala Ni Domhnail — and this is Washington, D.C. where there is plenty to do on a Friday night.

> *Today Irish plays flourish on Broadway; Irish movies in American theaters; Irish novels and books of poetry in American bookstores. Classes in step dancing or the Irish language are packed.... For a nation so poor so long, hemorrhaging its youth in streams of migrants overseas, the new prosperity and the confidence and the freedom that it has produced, are long overdue.*

So can Irish Americans learn anything from their own past to help them understand the changes taking place among their cousins across the sea? They can learn first that the meanings of group identities change. The decade of the 1960s was not the first time that Irish American culture and identity had changed. It had changed at the turn of the century when a new generation of American-born Irish first forged the militant American Catholic culture and identity, an identity more comfortable to them, American natives, than the Irish culture and identity of their immigrant parents. And it had changed in the early 19th century, when a torrent of poor Catholic Irish immigrants fleeing famine and the revival of widespread anti-Catholic nativism overwhelmed the efforts of Protestant and Catholic ex-rebels of '98 to forge a non-sectarian Irish American identity.

Irish America might also ponder its own experience and note that time yields perspective. As Fanning points out, "Irish American writing marked by eager condemnation of the ethnic dimension of experience has given way to writing that features a fuller, more balanced rendering of ethnicity." Irish Americans writers today, Fanning continues, understand their ethnicity not as a "destructive alienation" that they must condemn and escape, but as a source for the "creative expansion of possibility" that they can explore.

This isn't just a return to the past. It is an acceptance of change but with a searching, probing and, ultimately, an appreciation of what in our identity, culture and older story enriches our present. With the old antagonisms between Protestants and Catholics now gone in America, we are free to make that search with confidence. And so, now, too can the Irish.

For a nation so poor so long, hemorrhaging its youth in streams of migrants overseas, the new prosperity and the confidence and the freedom that it has produced, are long overdue. Brian Friel's play, "Dancing at Lughnasa," evokes the tragedy of that earlier poverty and its cruel constraints in heartbreaking fashion at the end of the play, as two of the five Mundy sisters, Agnes and Rose, set out on a journey to a lonely existence as impoverished immigrants in London.

Yet if the Irish feel less embattled and less forced to cling to the old formulas of the past, they, nonetheless, understand the past's riches and search, probe and appreciate it as we do our own here. The title of Friel's play, after all, comes from the exuberant dance by all of the sisters at the heart of the play, at once both an assertion of Irish traditional culture and a thrilling testament to a kind of human defiance, courage and dignity midst hardship. Ireland is different now, and the Irish are different now, but they remember while they change. Maybe change is not such a bad thing, then. ♣

Timothy J. Meagher is director of the Center for Irish Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Books

Polish publisher releases 60-year-old poems by pope

By JONATHAN LUXMOORE
Catholic News Service

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish publisher has released a collection of poems written by Pope John Paul II as a university student six decades ago.

Leszek Sosnowski of Krakow's Bialy Kruk publishers said the 78-year-old pontiff consented to the publication privately after admiring the company's earlier work.

"Renesansowy Psalterz" ("Renaissance Psalter"), was launched Feb. 18 at a Warsaw press conference and includes five lengthy unpublished poems written by the then-Karol Wojtyla more than 18 months before the German invasion of Poland in September 1939. The publisher said the entire print-run of 10,000 copies sold out a day after publication.

A brochure from Bialy Kruk publishers described the poems, printed with pictures by photographer Adam Bujak, as a "sensational literary discovery" that revealed the young man's "stunning maturity of reflection" and "richness of language."

In one poem, "Morning Hymns," Wojtyla expresses his sense of foreboding before World War II.

"I am David, I am a shepherd/And I sing songs of entreaty,/That you might show compassion to a Piast/And allow our harvest to be brought in ... /And when the great Goliath rises up/To destroy my youth/Then I beg you, Sion, Moria:/Come down and help us!"

In another piece, the future pope reveals a struggle over the Christian faith.

"I came through the deepest trough of failure and doubt, through a vast well of denials. And then one of the spirits came down to me, an angel rich with the Word, and he said to me: Believe!

"And people came to me, and spells came to me, and it was then I started to see. And my faith was strengthened so much, that today it's stronger than ever it was when I merely seemed happy, but was eaten from inside and consumed by insects."

In a Feb. 19 interview with Catholic News Service, Sosnowski said the pope had consented to the publication after seeing two earlier editions of his poetry issued by Bialy Kruk, "Songs of a Hidden God" (1997) and "Births of the Believers" (1998).

He added that the pontiff had sent a "letter of blessing" to the editor, Marek Skwarnicki, and "waited impatiently like any author."

"This is the poetry of a Krakow student — full of joy, enthusiasm, clarity and gratitude," Sosnowski said.

"Later, after his terrible burden of wartime experiences, he couldn't write the same way. Preparing for priesthood, he shut the collection up in a drawer and never returned to it. It was only at our proposal that he agreed to have it printed," he said.

Among other items, "Renaissance Psalter," includes a full version of Wojtyla's poem to his mother, Emilia, who died in 1929, when he was 8.

"Over your white grave/I kneel in my sorrow./Oh how long ago it was — /How small it seems today!

"Over your white grave/O mother, my extinguished love!/My mouth whispers powerlessly:/Grant her eternal rest."

In an editor's introduction, Skwarnicki said Wojtyla had not yet decided to become a priest when writing the poems.

However, his vocation was clear in the poetry's "divine, sacral style," Skwarnicki added.

"Reading the Psalter, we glimpse the spiritual history of a future archbishop of Krakow and bishop of Rome," Skwarnicki, a Catholic journalist, said.

"We should stress the exceptional depth of feeling revealed by this young poet, the richness of imagination and intensity of religious experience expressed in his sonnets, hymns and rhapsodies," he said.

Asked how he would use profits from the book, estimated at $170,000 on the first day, Sosnowski said the pope's personal secretary, Bishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, had recommended donating part to "some hospital or children's home," but stressed that Pope John Paul had laid down no conditions and was not expecting an honorarium. ▼

Word to Life

March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent. Cycle A. Readings:
1) 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Psalm 23:1-6
2) Ephesians 5:8-14
3) John 9:1-41

By DAN LUBY

He didn't know he was blind. He thought himself a sharp-eyed realist whose vision wasn't clouded by fuzzy logic masquerading as mercy.

Among the many things he saw with crystal clarity was the moral and emotional cowardice underlying divorce. He knew that some people had to grit their teeth to stay with a partner who was a drunk or unfaithful. But experience as a priest had led him to conclude that most people who got divorced were simply too lazy or too selfish or too immature to stay with it. At the first sign of trouble they ran home to mamma or off with a new partner.

It took a tragedy in his own family to show him his blindness. His sister came to him with news of her divorce. She had tried, she sobbed, but she simply couldn't take it any more. He was stunned.

His conviction that only moral slackers got divorced crashed headlong into his certainty of her courage and commitment, and in the impact, his eyes were opened. He saw in his sister's face the faces of others whom he had sternly admonished against divorce, regardless of the circumstances. He cringed to remember his harsh judgment, his scalding words.

His eyes were opened. He began to see not only vows dissolved, commitments undone, but also heartbreak and disappointment and loss. Seeking less to judge than to heal, he found himself looking more generously on other failures, including his own. His eyes were opened to the mercy of God in a new and deeper way.

Sunday's story of the man born blind is not only about an ancient miracle. It is also a call to recognize blindness in our own hearts and to seek the healing power of God's love.

Questions:

What are some "blind spots" in your life which others have helped you to discover? What is one thing to which our society is blind; how can you help heal that blindness?

"It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this man were not from God, he could never have done such a thing."
— John 9:32-33

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 14 - 20, 1999

Sunday, 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday**, Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday**, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday**, Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday**, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Saturday**, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at 1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Video Reviews

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Bridges at Toko-Ri" (1954)

Korean War melodrama from the James A. Michener novel about a lawyer (William Holden) recalled to active service as a jet pilot on an aircraft carrier (commanded by Fredric March) out to destroy the heavily defended target of the title. Director Mark Robson does equally well with the shipboard camaraderie (notably Mickey Rooney, Earl Holliman and Charles McGraw) as with the short visit of the pilot's wife (Grace Kelly), all of which strengthens the emotional impact of the pilot's final mission. Tense wartime action and a scene in a unisex Japanese bathhouse. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

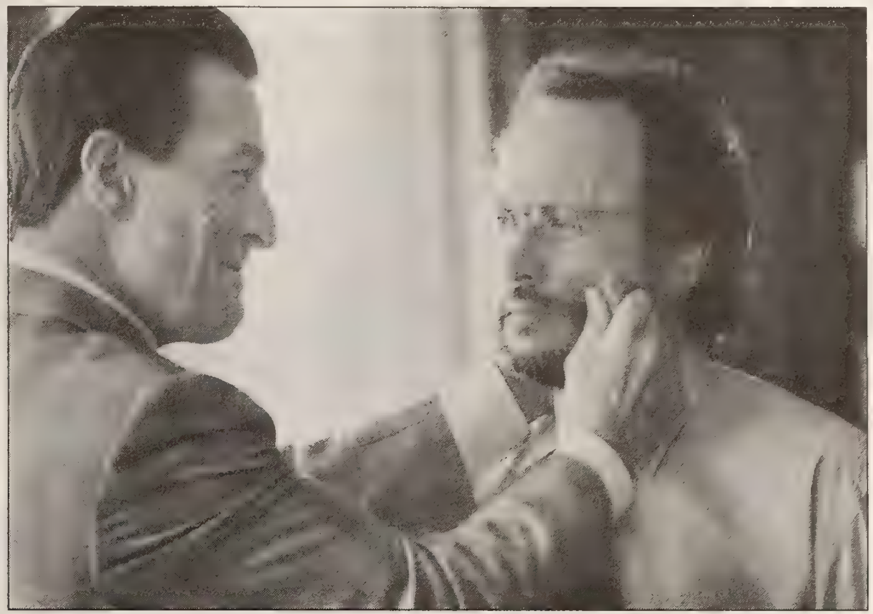
MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Ever After" (1998)

Medieval romance from the Cinderella story of a young Frenchwoman (Drew Barrymore) whose wicked stepmother (Anjelica Huston) has raised her as little more than a servant until her wit, beauty and intelligence win the heart of the bemused crown prince (Dougray Scott), though many complications intervene before the traditional happy ending. Directed by Andy Tennant, the 16th-century setting and costumes provide a fairy-tale atmosphere for proceedings built around a spunky, self-sufficient heroine who takes the lead in the action, with often amusing and, at times, heartwarming results. Some stylized violence, menace and crude language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Polish Wedding" (1998)

Muddled tale of a Polish-American family headed by a baker (Gabriel Byrne), his unfaithful wife (Lena Olin), their unwed pregnant daughter (Claire Danes), her cop lover (Adam Trese) and assorted other family members. Writer-director Theresa Connelly's thin script focuses on the wife's preoccupation with love, sex and motherhood as mirrored in the experiences of her daughter, with the rest of the clan serving mainly as comic relief and the ribald treatment of sexual scenes laboriously overdone. Numerous sexual situations, ethnic stereotyping, some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

"Analyze This"

Robert De Niro, as mob boss Paul Vitti, and Billy Crystal, Vitti's reluctant analyst, star in the comedy "Analyze This." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

TV programs of note

Monday, March 15, 9:30-10 p.m. EST (CBS) "Payne." Debut of a sitcom based on the British "Fawlty Towers" series starring John Larroquette and JoBeth Williams as married owners of a California coastline inn.

Tuesday, March 16, 6:30-7:40 p.m. EST (Cinemax) "The McCourts of New York." Documentary sequel about an impoverished Irish family immortalized in the best-seller, "Angela's Ashes," which follows the experiences of the four brothers when they settle in New York.

Wednesday, March 17, 8-9:30 p.m. EST (PBS) "Michelangelo: Self Portrait." Special offering a look at the supreme Italian Renaissance artist and his tremendous influence on the development of Western art as well as his life and artistic evolution.

Friday, March 19, 8-9 p.m. EST (Sci-Fi) "Farscape." Debut of an hour series from the Jim Henson Co. and Hallmark Entertainment in which a freak occurrence catapults a contemporary astronaut (Ben Browder) to the other end of the universe which is in the throes of an intergalactic conflict.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

For Easter & RCIA
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina
Catholic
Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road. Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www cssnc org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

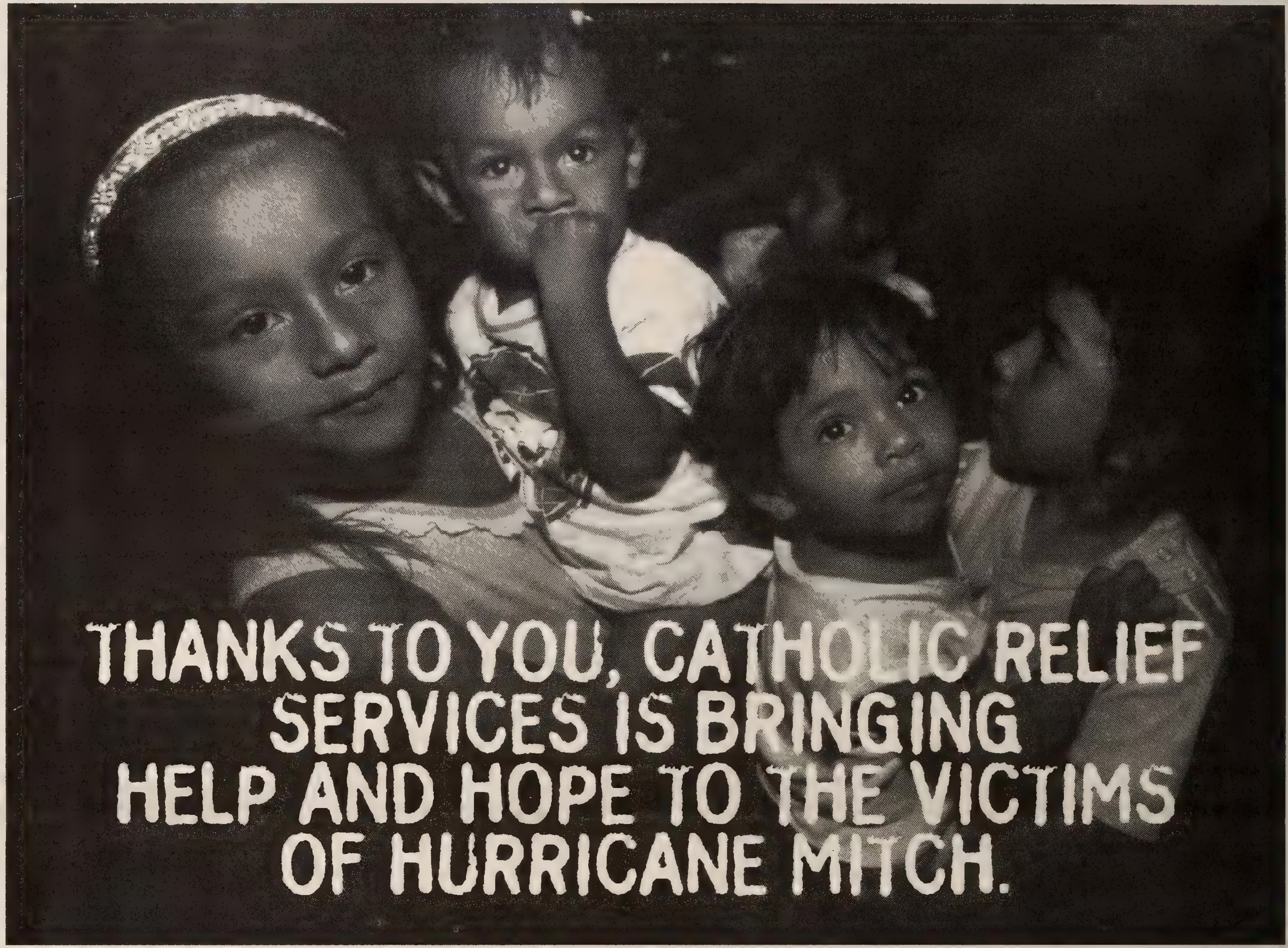
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

© 1998 Wachovia Corporation
Where are you?
IRA SOLUTIONS
ROTH IRA · TRADITIONAL IRA

Are you a bit uncertain about your IRA choices? Does it feel like there's no time to make an informed decision? Do you know who to turn to now for reliable direction? **Does anyone remember what the "I" in IRA stands for?** We are here. To help you make sense of all the IRA choices now available. To bring clear thinking to the implications of the latest Tax Relief Act. And to help identify the right IRA solutions for you. From the traditional IRA to the new Roth IRA, from insured bank deposits to more aggressive investment choices, we can help. Call us today.

We are here.

1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM
WACHOVIA
Let's get started.℠


THANKS TO YOU, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IS BRINGING HELP AND HOPE TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MITCH.

On behalf of the victims of Hurricane Mitch, Catholic Relief Services would like to take this opportunity to extend a most heartfelt thank you.

As a result of your generosity, more than one million people are receiving the emergency relief and rehabilitation they so desperately need.

Working in conjunction with local dioceses and parishes in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, Catholic Relief Services is providing families with essentials such as food, medicine and shelter. Families in these same communities have begun to rebuild their lives thanks to agricultural seeds and tools and small business programs. Communities have also begun to rebuild roads and schools.

With your continued support, efforts such as these will do more than save lives and sustain livelihoods. Catholic Relief Services — with the church and civil society in Central America and the United States — will begin to rebuild society through the development of long-term relationships. Without these new relationships, the inequality that existed before the hurricane threatens to recreate poverty and injustice in Central America.

If you would like to support Catholic Relief Services with its work in more than 80 countries around the world, please call Catholic Relief Services at 1-800-724-2530 or visit the new web site at www.catholicrelief.org.

Supplies from Catholic Relief Services are unloaded at the Augustin Alonzo School in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community.

Catholic Relief Services • 209 West Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201 • www.catholicrelief.org © 1999 Catholic Relief Services, Inc.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun dies at 90

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, 90, author of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion, died March 4 at Arlington Hospital in the Washington suburb of Arlington.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion legal, died March 4. Blackmun is seen here announcing his resignation April 6, 1994.

Blackmun, who had retired from the high court in 1994, died following complications from the hip replacement surgery he had undergone nine days earlier. He fell at his home and broke his hip a day before the operation.

Appointed by President Nixon in 1970, Blackmun wrote a number of significant opinions during his 24 years on the court, covering tax law, advertising by attorneys, parental rights and even baseball, but it is the abortion decision that will be his legacy.

"History will remember Harry Blackmun as the architect of the tragic U.S Supreme Court decision, Roe vs. Wade," said a statement from David O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee. "It is a tragedy for someone to go to his grave best remembered for denying unborn children the most basic civil liberty — the right to life."

The Roe vs. Wade opinion threw out most state restrictions on abortion, and its companion case, Doe vs. Bolton, permitted abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

Roe, which said women had a constitutional right to end their pregnancies, generated more than 20 years of judicial and legislative adaptation, in addition to vehement and sometimes violent debates and protests.

The Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops later that year described the court's decision as "erroneous, unjust and immoral."

"This opinion of the court fails to protect the most basic human right — the right to life," the bishops said. "Therefore, we reject this decision of the court."

They quoted Pope John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, "Pacem in Terris," which said that "if any government does not acknowledge the rights of man or violates them ... its orders completely lack judicial force."

The bishops also criticized the court for failing to understand "scientific evidence" clearly showing the fetus to be of "compelling value" as a person.

Each year on Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe decision, tens of thousands of pro-lifers rally at the Ellipse near the White House to protest abortion and then march to the Supreme Court.

And in the years since 1973, Blackmun said he had received more than 60,000 pieces of hate mail on the subject.

In 1983, on the 10th anniversary of the decision, Blackmun emphasized in an Associated Press interview that the decision to legalize abortion "was a decision of the court, not my decision. There were seven votes."

In 1994, when Blackmun announced his decision to retire, he reiterated his belief that the opinion was correct.

"I think it's a step that had to be taken as we go down the road toward the full emancipation of women," he said.

Upon Blackmun's retirement, Paige Cunningham, president of Americans United for Life, said that, as the author of Roe, the justice "leaves a legacy of the most radical abortion law in the Western Hemisphere."

In his last months on the court, Blackmun reversed his long-held support for the death penalty, saying he would oppose it in all cases because he felt it was being applied unfairly.

SEE BLACKMUN, PAGE 15

Want to re-finance your home at a better rate?
Need help with debt management?

Jeff Branstrator
(336) 370-4100
(888) 322-9503
Parishioner of St. Pius X Church

Call today.
FIRST HORIZON HOME MORTGAGE, INC.

Express Press Ltd.
FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS • ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) Member St. John Neumann

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.
Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

In brief...

Bishop Emeritus donates book collection to Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, has donated his personal book collection to Belmont Abbey College. About 20 boxes of books were received Feb. 27 from Bishop Begley, who served as Charlotte's bishop from 1972-1984. Now living in High Point, Bishop Begley has a long and supportive relationship with Belmont Abbey, and is a friend of many of the monks who have lived and served there, including Abbot Emeritus Walter Coggin. As Bishop Begley requested, the book collection will reside in the Abbot Vincent Taylor Library on the college campus of the Benedictine institution. The collection will be catalogued this summer.

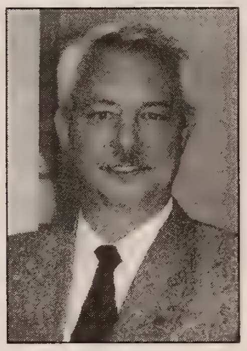
Maryfield employees honored at awards banquet

HIGH POINT — Sixty-seven employees of Maryfield Nursing Home and Maryfield Acres Retirement Community were honored Feb. 18 for their cumulative 821 years of service, commitment and dedication to the residents of the nursing home and retirement community. Also honored were five sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, the religious community that founded Maryfield. During the awards banquet, Maryfield administrator Sister Lucy Hennessey presented the Service in the Spirit of Love Award to Annie Quick, a 14-year employee credited for humility, dependability and a friendly smile.

Charlotte Catholic High School football coach receives award

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School football coach Jim Oddo was recently named one of Delaware's all-time top 50 athlete. He was invited to a celebration commemorating the 50-year anniversary of Delaware's former athletes of the year. Oddo was an all-state offensive guard and linebacker at Wilmington High School in Delaware. In 1957, he was named Delaware's athlete of the year. Later that year, he was a member of North Carolina State University's championship football team. He plans to return for his 26th season as Charlotte Catholic's football coach this fall.

Good Shepherd Home Health names new hospice manager


Ernie Zapetis

HAYESVILLE — Ernie Zapetis has been named the new hospice manager for Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency. He has served as a medical social worker for Good Shepherd for the past 3 1/2 years. He has also volunteered with C.J. Harris Community Hospital's Hospice Program, and served as hospice coordinator for Martin-Tyrrell Washington District Health Department's Roanoke Home Care Hospice. Zapetis received his bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, and earned his master's at East Carolina University in Greenville. He is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc., and received the 1997 Medical Social Worker of the Year Award from the North Carolina Association of Home Care. He serves on the pastoral council at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville, and has taught social work classes part time at Western Carolina. He and his wife, Debby, have two children and one grandchild. "Hospice workers are not hired but called," Zapetis said. "This is a true vocation for me. I look forward to serving as the hospice program manager, hopefully building hospice awareness in our community and expanding our services." ♣

Diocese lets light shine as annual appeal nears closing

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Let your light shine!
DSA '99

CHARLOTTE — A late-winter mix of precipitation grayed the skies over most of the Diocese of Charlotte in recent days, but parishioners across the 46-county region are letting their light shine through enthusiastic support of the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

The appeal, which funds 35 multi-cultural, educational, social service, and vocational ministries of the diocese, began Feb. 7. It ends March 20-21 with Appeal Sunday Weekend. The theme of this year's appeal is "Let Your Light Shine!".

As of March 9, $1.43 million of the $2.94 million goal had been pledged by parishioners in the diocese.

"I am encouraged; that's 7 percent ahead of where we were at this time last year," said Barbara Rohrman, director of the Diocesan Support Appeal and associate director of the diocesan Office of Development. "This year's theme is certainly one that people could relate to, and by giving to the Diocesan Support Appeal, people are in many ways giving to Jesus by being a light for others."

Since Feb. 5, The Catholic News & Herald has presented readers with various stories of how the Diocesan Support Appeal affects the lives of many: The permanent diaconate, campus ministry, Catholic Social Services, Hispanic ministry, faith formation, Retrouvaille, seminarian training, and lay ministry are but a few of the life-giving ministries providing rays of light to those in the diocese with some type of spiritual or material hunger.

In his column in the Feb. 5 issue, Bishop William G. Curlin noted the importance of the annual appeal, from a spiritual as well as a practical standpoint. "On the day of our baptism we received the light of Christ, and were challenged to 'walk always as children of the light,'" he said.

"The DSA gives us a way to live out that challenge in our lives," the bishop added. "It is a way to be Jesus for others and to see and help Jesus in our midst."

Parishes who exceed their assessed Diocesan Support-Appeal goals retain that extra funding. Those who do not meet their goal are required to pay the balance through parish funds.

With 49 percent of the goal already pledged, Rohrman said Appeal Sunday Weekend is a powerful reminder of the good that comes from the works of the campaign. "Parishioners will have an opportunity to hear from a lay witness from their parish, who will speak about the Diocesan Support Appeal on a very personal level," she explained.

Pledge cards will be available in the pews for parishioners who have yet to give. "Appeal Sunday Weekend is a final opportunity to encourage people to prayerfully look at their call, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to be a light for others and to contribute in whatever way they can," Rohrman said. ♣

Contact Jimmy Rostar, associate editor, by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Visit
IRELAND
with Fr. Martin Schratz, O.F.M.Cap.
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte
July 12-19
A Pilgrimage of Faith
Our Lady of Knock, St. Kevin's, Trinity College, St. Patrick's, Dublin, Knock, Galway, Limerick, Killarney, Blarney, Waterford and more...
Leaving from Charlotte.
For a brochure, application or more information call:
(704) 549-1607

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary!
On Time — Every Time.
United Mailing Service, Inc.
UMS
(704) 392-2805
(704) 392-2807, fax
Our modern 50,000 square foot facility allows us to offer you complete, state-of-the-art mailing services— with our emphasis on service!

1999
A time for fun, prayer and family closeness at the beach!
Catholic Summer Family Program
June 13-18 Family Week
June 20-25 Family Week
June 27-July 2 Family Week
July 4-9 Hispanic Week
July 11-16 Family Week
July 18-23 Single Parent Week
July 25-30 Family Week
August 1-6 Family Week
August 8-13 Family Week
August 15-20 Family Week
August 22-27 Family Week
August 29-Sept 3 Family Week
Other Weeks:
June 6-11 Adult Week, Centering Prayer
Sept. 6-10 Adult Week
The summer program begins Sunday afternoon at 5 with Mass and concludes Friday afternoon. The cost includes food, room and program fees. Each family has separate A/C room.
2006 Wicker St., North Topsail Beach, NC 28460
Strengthening Christian family values
Daily Mass
A place to get away & recharge
Fun at the beach
Making friends with others who think spirituality is important
Contact the Center Director for more information & application
(910) 328-1584

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools greet future, new members

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — When the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Board meets in May, a new membership will be introduced along with a new board structure.

The change in constituency is a natural progression as boards go; the structure change is part of the long-range strategy for the school system launched at the onset of the 1991-92 school year.

Since the inception of MACS, it was determined that a review would take place in five years. This analysis would examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the school system, half a decade into its operation.

As MACS approached its five-year mark, Dr. Mary Ann Schuttloffel, a faculty member of the Catholic University of Americain Washington, accepted a diocesan invitation to review the Catholic education structure and organization serving Mecklenburg County.

Through a consultative process with pastors, principals, teachers, parents and diocesan personnel, Schuttloffel became fully immersed into the intricacies of the rapidly growing school system.

"Dr. Schuttloffel's report incorporated both comfort and challenge," said Father James Hawker, Vicar for Education. "There is comfort in acknowledging so many persons on various levels who labored selflessly so that the MACS regional system might grow and develop," he said. "The contributions of these generous people have enabled MACS to realize so many enviable achievements. Their dedication has borne fruit." The challenge, he said, allows MACS to adapt in a manner ensuring a timeless vision will be implemented in a timely manner.

The summation of Schuttloffel's report "stressed an adaptation within structure and organization," said Father Hawker. One conclusion called for a revamped school board.

This reconstituted MACS board would serve as a consultative body to Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

After the decision to restructure the board, Mercy Sister Lourdes Sheehan, from the National Catholic Educational Association, was invited to share expertise regarding the composition of a consultative board. "In addition to helping us draft a new constitution and bylaws for the MACS board, Sister Lourdes returned on several occasions for further consultation," said Skube.

This past Saturday, the newly appointed MACS board met for the first time, gathering for an all-day workshop conducted by Sister Lourdes. "She took the board beyond MACS in scope," said Skube. "We wanted to introduce the board to national issues and organizations, and show how we — on a local level — can benefit with resources beyond our own diocese."

The current MACS consultative board is an 11-member group selected from diverse backgrounds. Seven represent each of the MACS schools. "They come with the understanding of issues facing their specific schools," said Skube. Four members are appointed at-large. "In this instance, three of the positions were filled by people from the previous board who reapplied," added the superintendent.

Board members were appointed to staggered terms of one, two and three years. The returning board members will fulfill one-year terms as they assist in the transition, said Skube.

Appointed to the MACS board beginning in 1999 are: Cynthia Beamon, Anne Carter, Patrick Hughes, Stephen Immel, Dennis Jacobs, Ralph McMillian, Richard Menze, Sheila Passenant, Joan Stretch and Kim Villarreal. ♣

Contact Joann Keane, editor, by calling (704) 370-3336 or by sending e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Catholics urged to sign jubilee pledge for justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics nationwide are being asked to sign a "jubilee pledge for charity, justice and peace" as parishes prepare to start the third millennium.

Kits titled "Jubilee Pledge for Charity, Justice and Peace: A Catholic Commitment for the New Millennium," designed to help pastors and parish staffs plan activities leading up to the year 2000, went to 18,000 parishes in February.

The pledge is being promoted by the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Third Millennium and several other bishops' committees to mobilize Catholics to act for justice.

Those who take the pledge will promise "as disciples of Jesus in the new millennium" to:

— "Pray regularly for greater justice and peace.

— "Learn more about Catholic social teaching and its call to protect human life, stand with the poor and care for creation.

— "Reach across boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, gender and disabling conditions.

— "Live justly in family life, school, work, the marketplace and the political arena.

— "Serve those who are poor and vulnerable, sharing more time and talent.

— "Give more generously to those in need at home and abroad.

— "Advocate public policies that protect human life, promote human dignity, preserve God's creation and build peace.

— "Encourage others to work for greater charity, justice and peace."

Suggested uses of the jubilee pledge include distributing it at Masses, through religious education programs and in parish schools and through other activities.

The kit contains a poster in English and Spanish and color and black-and-white brochures and information on ordering more copies of the materials. It also includes resources for parish councils, educators, social concerns committees, liturgists, homilists and others to help them incorporate the pledge into their efforts.

"The jubilee pledge aims to help Catholics think beyond Y2K computer problems and look at where their faith leads them as they near the third Christian millennium," said Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., chairman of the millennium subcommittee. ♣

Come enjoy
Seniors'
Spring Fling '99
At the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Come from 9-10am for coffee and danish

Your day will be filled with fellowship, Mass with Fr. Ed Sheridan, music, lunch with friends, games, crafts, bingo, door prizes, and more...

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Seniors' Spring Fling, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name **Phone**
Address
City **Parish**

$7.50 per person. Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services.**
Registration deadline: April 15
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Blackmun, from page 13

In several death penalty appeals reviewed by the court during his final term, Blackmun voted to overturn sentences, but was overruled each time by a majority of the justices.

"The death penalty experiment has failed," he wrote. "I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death."

Blackmun was born in Nashville, Ill., and was raised in St. Paul and Minneapolis. He won a scholarship to Harvard, where he earned highest honors as a mathematics major before going to Harvard's law school.

He returned home to Minnesota to practice law in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis for nearly 20 years. He served for nine years as general counsel of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed him to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Blackmun is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and three daughters. ♣

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is hiring certified teachers in Math, PE/Health, English, Religion, Part-time Spanish, and a school-certified counselor for the 1999-2000 school year. For an application, please send resume to school at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Office Assistant: Personal financial planner needs responsible, articulate person interested in investments. Variety of tasks from customer service to filing to updating computer records. Part-time, flexible schedule of 25 hours per week in Charlotte (SouthPark) office. Fax resume to Cynthia Anderson, CFP @ (704) 556-0445.

Receptionist: Bi-lingual (Spanish and English) person; part-time, (25 hours/week) M-F 12:00-5:00; friendly, comfortable with people; minimal office skills required with willingness to learn more. Send resume to B. Bazluki, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or Fax to (704) 370-3377.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: March 15, 1999.

High School Football Coach: Bishop England High School, a coeducational Catholic High School in Charleston, S. C., is accepting applications for the position of Head Football Coach. The school has an enrollment of 875 students and has just relocated to a new campus. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume and a statement of educational philosophy to: David Held, Bishop England High School, 363 Seven Farms Dr., Charleston, SC 29492-7534.

One good Joe recalls another

By PAUL QUIRINI
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Reuters

Italian-American baseball legend Joe DiMaggio, whose 56-game hitting streak endures as one of the most remarkable records in baseball, died March 8. He was 84. DiMaggio is shown tossing out the first pitch at Yankee stadium April 10, 1998.

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Joltin' Joe DiMaggio is gone, and one of many fans who will miss him is Father Joe DiMaggio, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Johnstown, N.Y., in the Albany Diocese.

Following the death of the Yankee Clipper March 8, the priest spoke with The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese, about what it has meant to have the same name as one of the greatest baseball players of all time — and to have met the legendary center fielder with the 56-game hitting streak.

"Hopefully, there will be nobody who's going to break the streak," Father DiMaggio said. Growing up with the name Joe DiMaggio was an honor, but it put a great deal of pressure on him whenever he stepped inside the batter's box.

"Every time I went up to bat in high school, if I struck out, which I usually did, people would say, 'Joe DiMaggio struck out,"' Father DiMaggio said. As he got older, Father DiMaggio found out just how cool it was to share Joltin' Joe's name.

"Every time I called for tickets to a show in New York City or a ball game at Madison Square Garden, I would get the best seats in the house," he said.

Father DiMaggio saw Joltin' Joe play ball in person, but he later would get much closer to him. During a basketball game at the Garden, the two Joes actually sat next to each other, and Father DiMaggio recalled the surprise on the Yankee Clipper's face after he said, "Hi, my name's Joe DiMaggio. What's yours?"

Father DiMaggio pulled out his Visa and American Express cards to prove that he wasn't kidding about his name, and the priest and the ballplayer shared many laughs and shook hands after the game.

"He was wonderful, always a gentleman," Father DiMaggio said. Sharing a name with the Hall of Famer is quite a thrill for Father DiMaggio, and he owes his sporadic moments of celebrity to the man known as Joltin' Joe.

"I've had a great life and a lot of fun with my name because of him. He was truly a gentleman, and I don't think there will be another like him," he said.

> "I've had a great life and a lot of fun with my name because of him. He was truly a gentleman, and I don't think there will be another like him."
>
> — *Father Joe DiMaggio*

Joseph Paul DiMaggio, the baseball player, was born in Martinez, Calif., on Nov. 25, 1914 to Giuseppe Paolo and Rosalie DiMaggio, who immigrated to the United States in 1898 from Sicily.

The DiMaggios moved their family, which eventually included nine children, to the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco the year Joe was born.

Salesian Father Armand Oliveri, former parochial vicar at San Francisco's Sts. Peter and Paul Parish from which it was reported DiMaggio would be buried March 11, remembered the baseball great as "a fine gentleman, rather reserved and very kind."

"Once when he was standing on the steps of Sts. Peter and Paul Church he was spotted by several children and they ran to him," Father Oliveri recalled. "He could not have been more gracious to them. His role model for the young was exceptional."

Father John K. Ring, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Francisco, DiMaggio's parish, said, "He was a terribly shy and terribly private man."

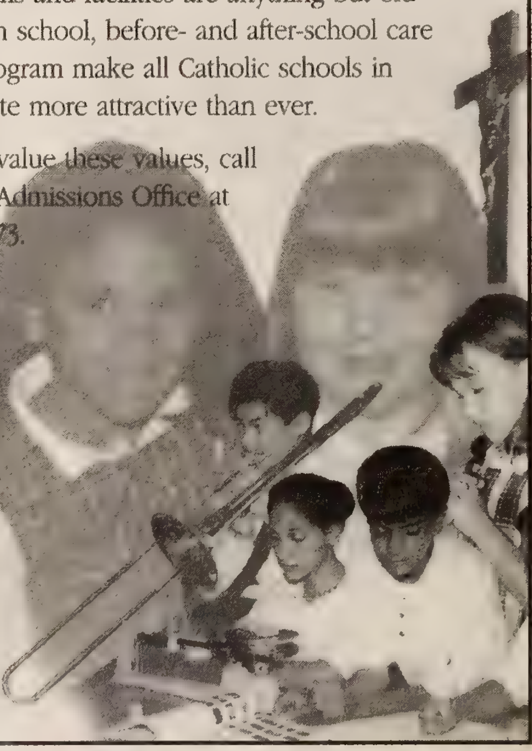
An example of his shyness, according to the New York Times, was how "in his rookie year with the San Francisco Seals baseball team in 1933, he was a sensation. He hit in an incredible 61 straight games. San Francisco had four newspapers then, and they all spelled his last name wrong. He was too shy to say anything about it."

DiMaggio's status in the Catholic Church remained unclear despite his planned Catholic funeral.

The last public announcement about his status came shortly after his Jan. 14, 1954, civil marriage to actress Marilyn Monroe. His earlier marriage to actress Dorothy Arnold in a Catholic ceremony ended in divorce in 1944.

The chancery office of the San Francisco Archdiocese said at the time of DiMaggio's marriage to Monroe that he had incurred automatic excommunication according to Article 124 of the decrees of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore. ♣

Contributing to this story was Dan Morris-Young in San Francisco.



Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

A Community of Believers

While Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools emphasize traditional Christian values in a secure environment, today's programs and facilities are anything but old school. A state-of-the-art high school, before- and after-school care and a new transportation program make all Catholic schools in Charlotte more attractive than ever.

If you value these values, call MACS Admissions Office at 370-3273.

All Saints Catholic School
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
St. Ann Catholic School
St. Gabriel Catholic School
St. Patrick Catholic School
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
Charlotte Catholic High School

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

May 5-14

A Marian Pilgrimage

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S296 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 19, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 28

Inside

Dialogue breakthrough?

Vatican sees hope in pope-Iranian meeting

...PAGE 7

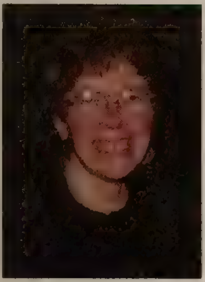
Conyers visionary separates from followers' group

...PAGE 3

New violence feared after bomb kills N. Ireland lawyer

...PAGE 14

Local News



CSS extends gratitude to social activist

...PAGE 16

Permanent deacons recommit to ministry

...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Faith Alive! ...PAGES 8-9

Lenten Reflection

The Raising of Lazarus

...PAGE 5

Bishop Emeritus celebrates 90th birthday

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HIGH POINT — Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley began his 90th birthday celebration just as he lives his priestly life: in the presence of the Eucharist and many friends.

"I am honored to be here as the grace of God is offered to all of us," said Bishop Begley during a Mass celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home on March 11, the day before his birthday.

The Mass and reception that followed was a time not only to honor a man devoted to priesthood in North Carolina for more than six decades. It was also an invitation to remember, in the context of a sacred liturgy, the fruits of holy service.

"[Today we gather] to think of how we have been able to bring ourselves closer to our dear Lord," said Bishop Begley, who served as the Diocese of Charlotte's first bishop from 1972-84. "I've often said that much has been done over the years, but it was all of us together — I call it 'u-s and company.'"

The Diocese of Charlotte's third and current bishop, Bishop William G. Curlin, was principal celebrant of the Mass.

"Today is truly a wonderful time of thanksgiving, as we honor this person of such tremendous faith," Bishop Curlin said following the liturgy. Noting Bishop Begley's long-time devotion to the church and its people, Bishop Curlin called Bishop Begley a model of ministry, love and action.

"Bishop Begley has provided great comfort and encouragement to me and to so many people across the Diocese of Charlotte through the years," Bishop Curlin added. "His leadership and his kindness continue to be treasured."

Since 1997, Bishop Begley has resided at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point. The facility's administrator, Sister Lucy Hennessy, called the opportunity to host the bishop's 90th birthday party an honor.

"He's a very pleasant and prayerful man," said Sister Lucy, whose religious order, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, has operated Maryfield since 1947. "He's anxious to be at Mass every day."

Sister Lucy said Bishop Begley always has time for anybody. "But," she added with a chuckle, "he will not be interrupted while he's playing bingo," his favorite activity of leisure.

"We all know that he [has held] such an important post in the church, but is the most humble man you could ever know," she added.

Msgr. Joseph Showfety, who served as the diocese's first chancellor and later as its vicar general, concurred.

"I see him quite frequently, and I see in him what I always have — he is still the same man," Msgr. Showfety added. "His love for the priesthood is still there, his friendliness and kindness are still very evident."

"He enjoys life and he enjoys people," continued Msgr. Showfety, currently pastor of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro. "He's been so well blessed by God, and he's very grateful for all the blessings he has received. He's so unpretentious, so

SEE BIRTHDAY, PAGE 15

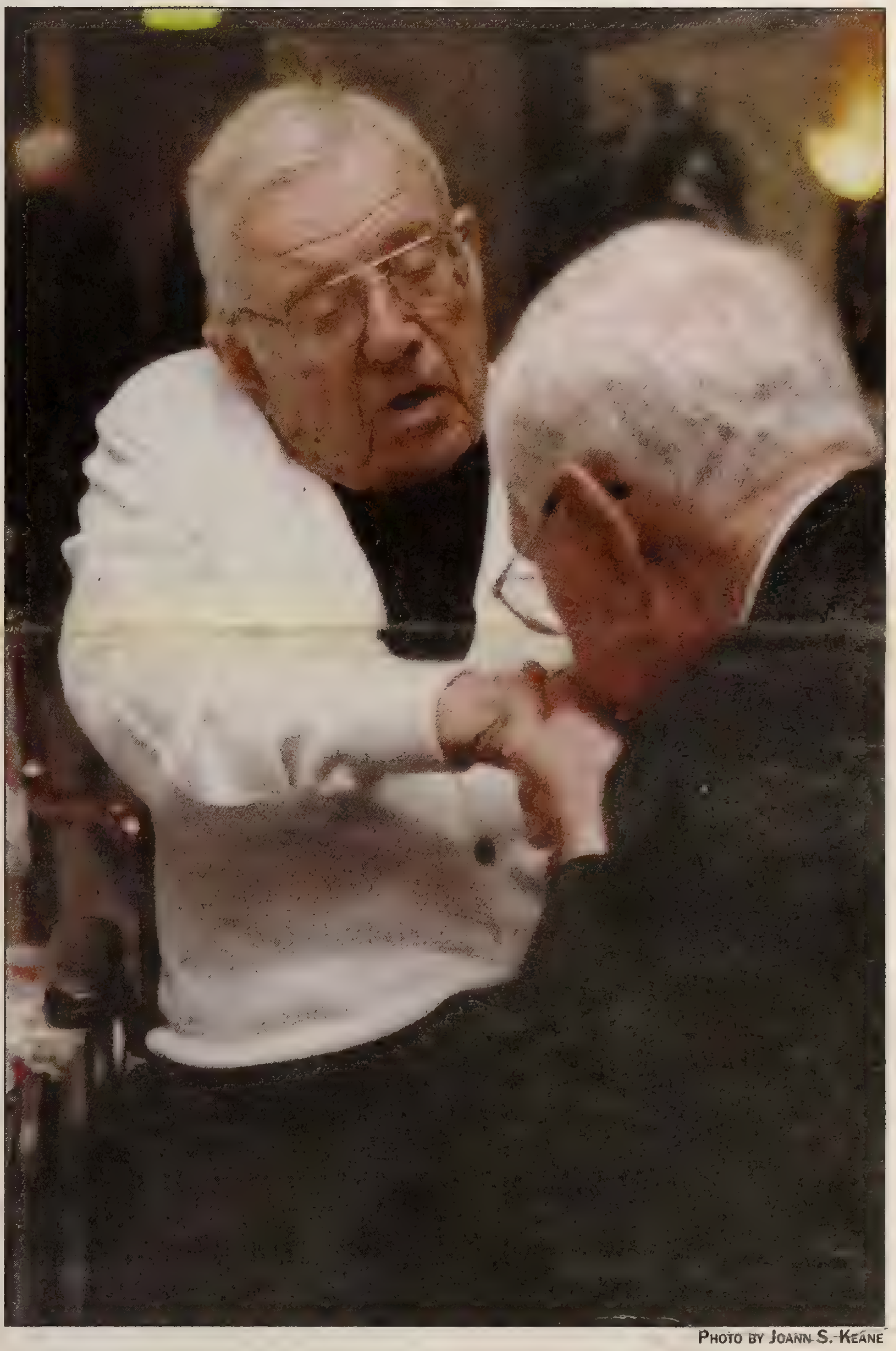


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

During the birthday celebration for Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, Bishop William G. Curlin kneels to kiss the hand of the retired bishop. Bishop Begley celebrated his 90th birthday on March 12, and was honored with Mass and a birthday party at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point where the retired bishop has lived for the past two years. Bishop Begley served as bishop — first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte — from 1972 until his retirement in 1984.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Ambon home burns

A military official stands by as a Christian home, set ablaze in continuing violence between religious factions, burns March 13 in Ambon, Indonesia. More than 200 people have died in Ambon since Christians and Muslims began fighting in January.

'Explosion of religious life' predicted in next 50 years

NEW YORK (CNS) — Father Michael J. Himes, a professor at Boston College, told the annual meeting of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious that he foresees "an explosion of religious life in the next 50 years." He said the forms of religious life will not remain what they are today. But he said people would be living "publicly vowed lives in community," and suggested they might return to something closer to the way religious life was expressed when it first began.

Speakers say Edith Stein challenges Catholics and Jews

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The sainthood of Edith Stein challenges Catholics and Jews to understand one another better, said speakers at a seminar March 14 honoring the recently proclaimed saint. A long history of Catholic mistreatment of Jews gives Jews cause to be suspicious about the church's motives in naming a Jewish woman a saint, said Eugene Fisher, secretary for Catholic-Jewish relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. St. Edith Stein's niece, Susanne Batzdorff, said Jews, including the Stein family, have mixed feelings about the church honors accorded her aunt.

Mexico treatment of rights observers continues to draw critics

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Although the Mexican government said it will ease restrictions on international human rights observers, its treatment of those observers continues to generate criticism. Several international ecumenical and human rights groups sent a letter to Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo criticizing the government's treatments of human rights observers. The letter, dated Feb. 23 and published March 7 in the Mexican newsmagazine Proceso, was signed by a number of organizations. Fernando Solis Camara, the subsecretary for migration issues in the Interior Secretariat, said in February that the government would ease restrictions so that foreign human rights observers could do their work. Regulations enforced since 1998 allowed representatives of human rights groups to visit for only 10-day periods.

Florida Haitian community grieves following sea tragedy

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Haitian-Americans in Palm Beach County were in shock following what has been labeled the most deadly immigrant smuggling operation in Florida. Scalabrinian Father Roland Desormeaux, administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission in Delray Beach, said his congregation was in "tears and disbelief" at a Mass after two boats full of Haitians allegedly bound for Florida sank somewhere between the Bahamas and West Palm Beach.

Mikhail Gorbachev urges U.S.-Russia partnership

LISLE, Ill. (CNS) — Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union, called for a stronger relationship between the United States and Russia, during a March 4 talk at Benedictine University in Lisle. "The fate of the world depends on the relationship of these two nations," he told 3,000 people attending the Catholic university's Great Ideas Lecture Series. "I would like our two countries to be partners today and in the future," he said. "America and Russia can be serious and responsible partners. ... A strong democratic Russia is exactly the partner that the U.S. needs."

Jesuit says little change expected under new Salvadoran president

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Little change can be expected from the new president of El Salvador, said the rector of Jesuit-run Central American University. "My impression is that there will be some superficial policy changes, such as more resources for farmers, and the appearance of more openings for dialogue. ... But these will be cosmetic modifications, (and) I don't know how (they) will last," Father Jose Maria Tojeira, university rector, told Catholic News Service. Francisco Flores, elected March 7 with 51 percent of the vote in a record-low turnout, "will continue to be tied down by interest groups, principally the financiers and bankers," as happened with the current administration of President Armando Calderon Sol, said Father Tojeira.

Tourists return fragment taken from damaged Assisi basilica

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — A fragment of the earthquake-damaged basilica in Assisi, Italy, taken as a souvenir in 1997 by a pair of Brazilian tourists, was returned in early March. The couple from Curitiba, Brazil, who had made a memento of the roughly 3 square inches of ceiling fresco, asked authorities not to reveal their identities because "they were embarrassed," Franciscan Father Nicola Giandomenico said. He spoke shortly after a brief ceremony marking the return of the fragment.

Vatican official seeks 'clarification' of U.S. policy on Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A top Vatican official visiting the United States said March 8 that he was seeking "clarification" from the Clinton administration of its military retaliation policy in Iraq. Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, told Catholic News Service that he was scheduled to meet March 10 with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other administration officials. "One of the points on my agenda will be to ask the American leaders what are the juridical motivations for such actions, because it is very difficult for a non-American to understand the dynamic of this operation," he said.

Revamped Odyssey cable channel to be launched Easter Sunday

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Odyssey, the religious cable channel which has struggled to win audience attention, will debut its new lineup Easter Sunday, April 4. Many of the new programs will come courtesy of the Jim Henson Co. and Hallmark Productions, which jointly hold a majority stake in the channel. The amount of hours allotted to religious programs will shrink to a minimum of 40 per week, according to an agreement reached with the Tele-Communications Inc. and the National Interfaith Cable Coalition.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

March 19, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 28
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 22 — 10:00 am
Proclamation of the Belmont Abbey church, Mary Help of Christians, as a Minor Basilica
March 23— 7:00 pm
Penance Service
St. John Neumann, Charlotte
March 24
Meeting with Catholic legislators in Raleigh
March 25 — 7:00 pm
Confirmation, Our Lady of Annunciation, Albermarle
March 26 — 10:00 am
MACS Mothers In Touch
Holy Trinity Middle School
March 27
Diocesan Youth Ministry
Spring Fling
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Singers are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass Choir. The chrism Mass is celebrated March 30 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop William G. Curlin and priests serving the diocese. Choir rehearsals are March 21 and March 28 from 4-5 p.m. at the cathedral. If interested, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, ext. 22.

March

21 ASHEVILLE — A free organ and handbell concert is today at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Jack Davis, organist, and the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir will perform. The public is invited.

23 GREENSBORO — "Reading the Bible with the Fathers of the Church" is the theme of an adult education presentation today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Jim McCullough, the parish's director of religious education, facilitates. For details, call (336) 274-0415.

24 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, and remarried outside the church meets today from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call Cindy Shortall at (704) 529-5080.

GREENSBORO — An ecumenical Lenten worship service is today at 12:15 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 438 W. Friendly Ave. A light lunch is available for $4.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women concludes its Lenten mini-retreat today at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St., with Mass and a covered dish luncheon. All are welcome. For details, call Lillian Leonard at (336) 299-0736.

Reputed Conyers visionary separates from followers' group

By GRETCHEN KEISER
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Reuters

Nancy Fowler speaks to thousands of pilgrims gathered on her Conyers, Ga., farm in October of last year. Fowler, who says she has received Marian apparitions, recently disassociated herself from the nonprofit group promoting the messages Fowler claims to have from Mary and Jesus.

ATLANTA (CNS) — Reputed visionary Nancy Fowler has publicly dissociated herself from Our Loving Mother's Children, the nonprofit group that owns the 90-acre pilgrimage site next to her home and publishes material based on the messages Fowler claims to have received from Mary and Jesus.

After meeting with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, Fowler, who is Catholic, issued a statement separating herself from Our Loving Mother's Children and its future activities.

In an interview with The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta archdiocesan newspaper, she spelled out the reasons for her actions, stemming from disagreements with Robert and Bernice Hughes of Fairfax, Va., top officers of Our Loving Mother's Children and close associates of Fowler since 1991.

Fowler, a housewife and mother of two, claims to have received Marian apparitions and messages from Mary and Jesus from 1990 to 1998 at her home in Conyers, a few miles southeast of Atlanta. She says Mary appeared to her monthly from Oct. 13, 1990, to May 13, 1994, and then each year on Oct. 13.

Last October an estimated 100,000 people gathered at the Conyers pilgrimage site, known as "the Farm," to hear what Fowler said was the last public Marian message and vision she would receive.

Archdiocesan authorities have neither endorsed nor repudiated her claims.

Her disagreements with the Hugheses surfaced only recently, Fowler said.

After that, a recitation of the rosary on the 13th of each month at the Farm was being transmitted live by satellite by Our Loving Mother's Children. However, Fowler said she has not attended the rosary, praying privately instead.

Fowler cited three concerns with the "new direction" taken by Our Loving Mother's Children that she said diverged from their past patterns and approaches and with which she disagreed.

One was a request for specific and potentially large financial donations in the November/December newsletter distributed to supporters. The newsletter, reproduced on the group's Web site, suggested a range of donations from $25 to $10,000 to help underwrite the cost of monthly satellite transmissions of the rosary from the Farm.

"It has been common knowledge that we need donations to help support the publishing of the books, but there was no pressure, just whatever they felt" until the donation request went out in the newsletter, Fowler said.

"There seems to be a more aggressive action to get people to come," she added. "I've always maintained that the Holy Spirit will inspire people's hearts and our Lord and Lady will bring them. It is not a human endeavor."

With the new direction, she said, her name and experiences were being used in a way she opposed.

Fowler said her second concern was that a book of compiled messages from Conyers, titled "Be Children of God," was being published without her final approval and included, against her wishes, references to the visions and messages of a reported Bolivian stigmatic, Catalina "Catia" Rivas.

Her third objection, she said, concerned attempts by Our Loving Mother's Children to link the events in Conyers with the Great Crusade of Love and Mercy, a Bolivian movement tied to Rivas' reported visions and messages.

The Conyers Web site includes a report that Rivas received the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ, during a pilgrimage to Conyers, and it provides links to other Web sites devoted to Rivas' writings and mystical experiences.

Fowler said she met with the Hugheses in February but they did not resolve their differences. She then asked to meet with Archbishop Donoghue and, after discussing the matter with him, announced her dissociation from the group.

"If they want to change the apparition site and promote something else, then I think I can only dissociate myself from that because I can only be held accountable or responsible for what I have received," she said.

Fowler's home, site of all her visionary experiences, also has a well pilgrims believe has blessed water and a prayer site known as the Holy Hill.

As more and more pilgrims began coming to Fowler's home each month, in 1991 the Hugheses bought the Farm — a 90-acre farm property that was up for sale nearby — to accommodate the growing crowds. They formed Our Loving Mother's Children as a nonprofit organization to maintain the Farm and coordinate other activities promoting the spiritual messages from Conyers.

Fowler said that she would no longer go to the Farm as a way to separate the events for which she feels spiritually accountable from any new activities she does not endorse.

"I have no objections to people publishing other people's messages per se. That is their right to do," she said. "I do object to the use (of) the apparition site for something other than what it is intended for."

See CONYERS, page 13

MONROE — A weekly series called "History of the Church" continues today and each Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, located on the corner of Franklin and Deese streets. Dean Hoffman, parishioner and former professor at Wingate University, facilitates the series, which includes Scripture, a film, and informal discussion. Call (704) 289-2773 for details.

26 BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College hosts an "Abbey Experience" today for prospective students. Included are opportunities to meet students and professors, tour the campus, attend classes, have lunch with the campus community, and attend a financial aid seminar. For reservations and other information, call (888) 222-6665.

CHARLOTTE — Living stations of the cross are presented with narrative, reflection and music today at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. For details, call (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — "Spirituality in our Catholic Schools" is the theme of Bishop William G. Curlin's talk to parents of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools students today from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Rd.

GREENSBORO — The Family Life and Liturgy commissions of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., hosts a family Lenten meal today at 6:30 p.m., followed by stations of the cross or a prayer service. Children's activities are also available. For details, call (910) 294-4696.

HICKORY — Stations of the cross are hosted today at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 5:15 p.m. for families and children, and again at 7 p.m. followed by Benediction. A Lenten meal is hosted at 6 p.m. For details, call (828) 327-2341.

28 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, hosts a "Mom's Evening" today at 7 p.m. For location and other details, call Sheryl Oligny, (828) 298-0336, or Denise Vish, (828) 645-6990.

CHARLOTTE — An Ultreya community meets today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action. For details, call Don or Cheryl Bohlen at (704) 542-1741.

29 CHARLOTTE — Professor Francis E. Peters of New York University discusses "Jerusalem: The Contested Inheritance," the 15th Annual Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture in Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, today at 7:30 p.m. in the Lucas Room of the Cone Center on campus. Peters will discuss religious attitudes toward and claims upon the city of Jerusalem by the traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The lecture is free and open to the public. An informal reception follows.

30 ASHEVILLE — Living stations of the cross are presented by grades 6-8 of Asheville Catholic School today at 7:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. For details, call Jan Zboyovski, (828) 252-7896.

April

10 GREENSBORO — A family ice-skating party is at the IceHouse today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is $5, which includes skates, a lesson, an ice hockey exhibition and an ice-dancing exhibition. Proceeds benefit the twin parish program of Our Lady of Grace Church, which sponsors a Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. Funds will help purchase a radio station there.

11 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

'God is love' helps explain God's nature, says pope

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope John Paul II said Christians can better understand the nature of God the Father and his relationship with human beings by remembering the simple affirmation: "God is love."

That was how St. John the Apostle described God, and it remains a valid key to grasping the mystery about divine nature, the pope said at a general audience March 10.

"In his very being, God is love. The loving Father generates the beloved Son. The Holy Spirit, who is personal love, proceeds from both, and is the bond of communion between them," he said.

The idea that God is love is seen in the fact that God gave completely of himself, especially in the saving sacrifice of Christ's death on the cross, the pope said.

"The infinite love of the Father for the world is revealed in the sacrifice of Christ. The capacity to love infinitely, giving oneself without reservations and limits, is a quality of God," he said.

The pope, continuing his series of talks about God the Father, said the great love shown by the Father helps Christians understand the nature of the Trinity. The Son and Holy Spirit are equal to the Father not on a level of autonomy, "as if there were three gods," but on the basis of receiving divine life from the Father, he said.

"The one God is three divine persons, distinguished from one another only in the diversity of their relations," he said.

The Trinity, however, constitutes a great and inexpressible mystery, he said. In the face of this mystery, "the word must give way to the silence of amazement and adoration," he said.

Pope appeals for greater awareness of environment

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed for greater worldwide awareness of the environment, along with increased efforts at sustainable development and environmental education. Speaking to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences March 12, the pope said "human behavior sometimes is the cause of serious ecological imbalance, with particularly harmful and disastrous consequences in different countries and the globe as a whole."

Pope appeals for end to Christian-Muslim violence in Indonesia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed for an end to Christian-Muslim violence in Indonesia that has left some 200 people dead since January. Speaking at a Sunday blessing at the Vatican March 14, the pope said he was particularly concerned that "cruel clashes" had erupted in an area that until now has experienced interreligious harmony. "To all, especially those who incite the disorders, I address a pressing appeal to abandon violence, which causes innumerable sufferings, and to rediscover the paths of peace," the pope said.

Strategic Planning

FATHER MAURICIO W. WEST
Vicar General & Chancellor

Growth plan in the Diocese of Charlotte

The Diocese is experiencing tremendous growth and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In just eight short years the Diocese has almost doubled, growing from 27,000 households in 1990 to almost 50,000 in 1999. As this western area of the state continues to grow we will need to minister to over 130,000 families within the next 20 years; these figures only include the registered households. Add to this the unregistered households and the large number of immigrants to our state, and the number of Catholics will be almost a million souls.

For the Diocese to properly prepare for the needs of the next millennium, Bishop Curlin requested that a group of individuals work with him in the establishment of a 20-year plan. Each subject area has been assigned to a particular task force made up of persons with expertise that is needed for the plan's successful completion. They have been selected from across the diocese and care was taken that all regions were represented.

In addition, the committees' membership is reflective of our increasing diversity as a people. Over 225 persons from your own parishes are involved in the largest planning effort since the Synod over 10 years ago. The formal plan should be completed spring of next year.

> In just eight short years the Diocese has almost doubled, growing from 27,000 households in 1990 to almost 50,000 in 1999. As this western area of the state continues to grow we will need to minister to over 130,000 families within the next 20 years.

There are eleven principle subject areas that are being addressed in this process: Worship and Liturgy, Facilities, Human Concerns, Social Concerns, Clergy and Religious, Laity, Ecumenism, Schools, Formational Ministries, Multi-cultural, and Financial/Development.

Starting next week there will be a series of articles reflecting the work of each individual committee, the issues they are dealing with, and how you can help them do their work. In addition, if you have access to the internet, please visit the planning Web site at www.charlottediocese.org\planning for more information and a complete listing of the committee chairs, vice-chairs, and staff.

I ask that you read these articles carefully and respond by writing to me or Mr. George Cobb, the Director Planning, c/o the Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. You can also e-mail Mr. Cobb at planning@charlottediocese.org.

I ask each of you to pray to the Holy Spirit that guidance may be given to those people working on the committees who have donated so generously of their time and talents so that the final plan will be in conformance with the will of Almighty God.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO - CNS Columnist

Holy Week and Mary

The image haunting me this year just before Easter is that of Mary standing at the foot of a cross, having to watch the life pour out of her son. How she must have agonized over her helplessness to save him.

She was the woman who had watched him take his first steps, making sure he didn't fall, who had no doubt later worried that he'd hurt himself with the sharp tools in the carpentry shop. She was his mother — and she couldn't save him.

The image of Mary holding her dead son always touched me deeply. But it wasn't until I, too, had to hug lifeless sons that I really could identify with Mary and share her pain.

I think we tend to do Mary a disservice. We acknowledge the Pieta and her sorrow at having to receive the bloodied, mangled body of her son as it was taken down from the cross. But I don't think our image of her is real. Many prefer to see the beautiful young woman, as envisioned by Michelangelo, sadly holding the white marble body of her son. Not me.

I hear a mother screaming in pain.

I remember sermons about how Mary knew she was the Mother of God and that while she was in pain to see Jesus die on the cross, she knew he was to save the world. I don't buy that.

I don't think Mary was given a noonday vision of eternity that kept her levitating. I think, on the contrary, that she was given the most difficult burden. She was to be the first Christian, the first follower, the first to be confused by the unfolding of her son's life, the first to have to fall down on her face and acknowledge the mystery of what was happening.

I think Mary had the hardest, thorniest journey of all in following her son, who was indeed a contradiction to the world, all the way to his horrible death.

I saw this so clearly in a most unusual way after my son Peter died. I had gone to England to do religious studies at Oxford, in hopes of finding some answers to my pain and confusion. One day I felt I had to skip class and go to a church because I would find something to help me. I did.

The church I found had a Lady's Chapel to the side. Above the altar of that chapel, filling the wall, was a three-dimensional sculpture, a pieta, in color. I was mesmerized by this agonized mother, who seemed to be holding not only her son, but every hurting person in the world. This was a Mary I could relate to.

I cried with her. But I received a gift; suddenly I could "see" that Peter was with Jesus!

Just this week I found a book that I deeply related to because of my extraordinary experience of Mary's love. The title speaks the truth, as Mary would say it, "Your Sorrow Is My Sorrow" (Crossroad).

Written by the insightful Servite Sister Joyce Rupp, each section relates the "seven sorrows" of Mary to our own sufferings. Incredibly touching are the thoughts and words Rupp hears our Mother speaking as she confronts the excruciating pain that is her destiny.

Rupp has gotten to know Mary, as I have, discovering that she has never left us to endure our confusions and sufferings alone. She's been there first, and waits to reach out to us. Mary — in the searing reality of the Pieta — is the other, enduring gift of Holy Week.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A short course in conflict resolution

Nations do it. Families do it. Neighbors do it. I wouldn't be surprised if birds and bees do it. They — and we — have conflicts.

Does this piece of land belong to one country or another? Will the new shelter for homeless people be built across the street from you or across town? Should the family vacation be at Dad's favorite mountain lake, that exotic beach resort Mom keeps talking about, or the super-duper amusement park complex the kids are begging to visit?

Some issues are life and death. Some are everyday frictions that irritate more often than they explode. In between you have the countless conflicts that can result when your needs, wants and values clash with someone else's. Yet not everything about having a difference of opinion is bad. It can force you to reexamine your own position and introduce you to ideas you may not have considered. Unfortunately, the all-too-usual results are rifts in relationships, an escalation of bad feelings, even violence.

So is there any way you and "the other guy" can win? Yes, if you are willing to work together for a real solution. And if you realize that winning doesn't necessarily mean getting your own way.

Here are a few strategies to keep in mind the next time you find yourself in the middle of a dispute. Let's get the "don't's" out of the way first: Don't yell or put the other person down. Don't practice one-upmanship or make the other person feel foolish. Don't — DO NOT — get physical. Period.

Do stay cool, objective and flexible. See the conflict as a mutual problem to be solved. Find areas of agreement, no matter how small they are to start. Get information if you need it. List some alternative solutions. Talk things over and listen carefully, so that no one is misunderstood. Avoid a contest of wills.

Obviously, good communication is necessary in any negotiation, which is, after all, essentially what we're talking about. But more than that, before you can settle any differences, you have to recognize some basic needs we all share. You have a right to your feelings. So does the other person. You have a right to have your say. So does the other person. You have a right to be treated with respect. So does the other person.

If you are now saying to yourself, "Oh, is that all? Even if I'm willing to do all that, my brother-in-law or whoever sure isn't. Forget about it!"

We have to face the fact that some problems may not be solved quickly, easily, or possibly at all. While a compromise fair to all concerned is your goal, the fact is, you may have to settle for coexisting and carrying on the best you can, at least temporarily.

Sometimes, there is another choice, at least when you are dealing with someone you love. You can capitulate. You can give the gift of giving in. I don't mean giving in out of frustration. I mean thinking things through. Then, if you decide you can be true to your values, yourself and still go along with your loved one, maybe that is the resolution. But only if you can choose freely to be a giver, not a martyr or a doormat. And only if your relationship is built on reciprocal respect and generosity, not domination and submission.

Conflict is part of life. But then again, so are consideration and compassion.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Catholic burial for a non-Catholic

Q. My husband of 52 years was raised a Baptist. He is a wonderful husband and helped raise our children Catholic.

He goes to Mass with me often, but is adamant about not becoming Catholic; he cannot "see" confession and some other beliefs.

Would he be eligible to have a Catholic funeral service in church? Also, is it permissible for him to receive Communion?

A. It is not impossible for some Catholic funeral service, even in church, to be held for someone who is not Catholic. Several important things need to be considered, however. We must first respect the wishes of the person who has died. The church is, and all of us should be, reluctant to impose anything on someone after death that he declined during life.

Occasionally it happens that other factors are involved, and the priest, at the request of the family, would have a Catholic service, even in the church. Rarely would that include Mass, but there could be Scripture readings, prayers and other elements of our ceremonies for the dead.

St. Augustine noted centuries ago that our Christian funeral liturgies are more for the living than for the dead. So the spiritual and emotional good of those who grieve the death also need to be carefully weighed.

Talk it over with your husband, and then discuss your wishes with your parish priest. He will advise you what avenues are open for you.

Your remark that he "adamantly" opposes joining the Catholic faith makes me wonder if you may be pushing him a little too hard. Be patient. Whatever happens, you and your children will always be able to pray for him, even have Masses said for him if you wish, if he dies before you do.

Finally, you must be aware that normally people not of our faith should not receive Communion at Mass. The times when they may do so are explained well in the Catholic Church's regulations on sharing worship and the sacraments, and have been the subject of this column several times (see the Vatican Norms on Ecumenism, 1993; Nos. 129-132).

Again, is your husband even interested in sharing Communion? If he does not feel a personal motivation to become a member of our faith, part of the reason must inevitably be that he does not share our beliefs about the significance and importance of this sacrament. Perhaps it's something else to review with him.

Infections from the Communion cup

Q. Your response a few weeks ago, pointing out that AIDS and Hepatitis C cannot be contracted from the Communion cup, covered the issues in the question quite well.

However, these are not the only pathogens that are of concern. Other kinds of infections can be transmitted when drinking from a contaminated cup. It would be wrong for people to have the impression that no medical concerns are related to drinking from a common cup.

A. As you note, the question and response dealt solely with AIDS and Hepatitis C. Some headlines placed over the column, however, implied that there is never a health risk from the Communion cup.

Obviously, that is not true, and it is reason to be cautious and considerate. In my experience, people are generally very careful not to drink from the cup if they are suffering from respiratory illness or other conditions that might be transmitted to other people.

In other words, we need to use sense and be thoughtful of others as well as of ourselves. But, to my knowledge at least, no illness, has been traced to the Communion cup.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER JOHN T. PUTNAM
Guest Columnist

The Raising of Lazarus

The Lenten readings, especially the baptismal readings from John's Gospel, help to prepare us for the celebration of Easter by encouraging us to meditate on the importance of faith in our lives and the importance of practicing that faith by participating in the sacramental life of the church.

In the story of the woman from Samaria, we see the importance of conversion of heart and soul to Jesus. In the healing of the blind man, the waters of Siloam remind us of our baptism and the importance of allowing the light of Christ to transform all that we do. Finally, the raising of Lazarus reminds us that Jesus is our life, the LIFE. Just as Lazarus was called from physical death to life, each of us is called to be set free from our sins and receive the life that Jesus offers in the sacrament of Penance and the rite of reconciliation.

Why should we place our trust in Jesus? Jesus provides us with the answer. "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (Jn. 11:25). The miracle that the Lord works regarding Lazarus is a reminder to each of us that Christ has the power to give life to people — both the living and the dead.

Lent is about accepting the abundant life that Christ offers and truly living that life in ongoing conversion and holiness. Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (v. 35). He also weeps for all who fail to accept the grace and life that he offers. Just as Jesus wept at the physical death of a friend, he also weeps over the spiritual death of a sinner.

Just as Jesus called Lazarus to come out of the tomb (v. 43), so Jesus calls each of us to come forth during this Lenten spring. He calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Because of this, the image of Lazarus being called forth from the tomb has long been recognized as a symbol of the sacrament of Penance. In the Roman catacombs there are approximately 150 representations of this Gospel passage, symbolizing thereby the gift of the life of grace which comes through the priest, who in effect repeats these words to the sinner: "Lazarus, come out."

An elderly priest once told me that life had taught him two important lessons, "there is a God, and I'm not Him." Most of us can bear witness to the truth of that statement, and it has certainly been true in my life. All of us are affected by the reality of sin. It impacts our relationship with one another, our relationship with the church and, most importantly, our relationship with God. Jesus, by his incarnation, knows all of the trials and difficulties that we experience due to the reality of sin in our lives. His love provides us with the way to leave the darkness behind us and follow him in a new and profound way.

As Lent draws to a close, take advantage of the many opportunities provided to receive the mercy and love of the Lord in the sacrament of Penance. Just as Jesus ordered that Lazarus be unbound (v. 44), so when we hear the words of absolution spoken by the priest, we know that we too will be liberated from the chains of sin.

Father John T. Putnam is parochial administrator at Holy Infant in Reidsville.

Photo courtesy of Maureen McKenna

St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte

About 50 members of Charlotte area Assemblies of the Knights of Columbus led off the St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte on Saturday, March 13. The color guard stopped briefly in front of St. Peter Catholic Church, while the pastor blessed the nine-man guard and their flags.

Scholar Ian Barbour named winner of '99 Templeton Prize

NEW YORK (CNS) — Ian G. Barbour, a scholar who has devoted more than 30 years to study and writing about the relationship of science and religion, will receive the 1999 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. The winner was announced at a New York press conference March 10 by the foundation that sponsors the prize. A layman of the United Church of Christ, Barbour, 75, is retired from teaching at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., which is connected to his denomination.

Cardinal says he may be in last year as N.Y. archbishop

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York told priests of his archdiocese in a letter March 1 that he may be in his final year as archbishop. The cardinal, who succeeded Cardinal Terence Cooke in 1984, referred to his possible retirement in a letter inviting the priests to join in celebrating the annual Chrism Mass March 30. "I don't want to sentimentalize this, but it is obvious that this may well be my final Chrism Mass as archbishop of New York," he said. "Your participation with as many of your parishioners as possible would therefore be especially welcomed."

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Notre Dame history professor emeritus to receive Laetare Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — J. Philip Gleason, professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame, has been named the 1999 winner of the university's Laetare Medal.

The honor was announced by Holy Cross Edward A. Malloy, president of Notre Dame, March 11. The medal will be presented to Gleason May 16 during Notre Dame commencement exercises.

"As the leading figure in the history of American Catholic higher education, Phil Gleason set a rigorous standard of faith-inspired scholarship; as an interpreter of American ethnicity and immigration, he won the acclaim of historians throughout Europe and the U.S. for his insights into the assimilation of diverse peoples into a truly national community," Father Malloy said.

"Phil's tenacious fidelity to the church and to Catholic intellectual life recalls many scholars and teachers of his generation at Notre Dame, and we celebrate them also in awarding him this richly deserved honor," he added.

A member of Notre Dame's faculty since 1959, Gleason received a master's degree in history from the university in 1955 and his doctorate in 1960.

Gleason chaired Notre Dame's history department from 1971-74. He was a visiting professor of American Catholic history at The Catholic University of America in 1982 and chaired the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs from 1986-88.

Among his published works are "Contending With Modernity: Catholic Higher Education in the 20th Century," "The Conservative Reformers: German-American Catholics and the Social Order," "Contemporary Catholicism in the United States," "Catholicism in America" and "Keeping the Faith: Language and Ethnicity in 20th Century America."

Gleason has received numerous awards from Notre Dame for his teaching and scholarship. He also has received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Loyola University in Chicago, the University of Dayton's Marianist Award, and the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

The Laetare Medal, named for its announcement each year just before Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is presented annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the church and enriched the heritage of humanity." ▼

Catholic Online
proudly presents
catholic/news/live
An internet news show broadcast daily with features provided by Catholic News Service, the voice of the Catholic Church around the world for nearly eighty years.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION NETWORK

www.cathcom.net

Dialogue breakthrough?

Vatican sees hope in pope-Iranian meeting

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami shook hands at the Vatican, it marked a breakthrough in the church's efforts to build bridges with Muslims around the world.

Iran is home to 13,000 Catholics, a small but historic presence in the fundamentalist Muslim state. But the Vatican hopes the March 11 meeting sends signals far beyond Iran — to countries across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where Muslim extremism has made life difficult or dangerous for Christians.

The pope called the encounter "important and promising," and gave Khatami a remarkably warm welcome. The Iranian leader said he left the papal audience "full of hope" about the future of interreligious cooperation.

The Vatican has conducted dialogue with a variety of Muslim organizations for three decades, but the exchange has been limited to specialists, rarely touching the world of Islamic fundamentalism.

Now, the Vatican believes, Iran's tentative opening to the West presents a window of opportunity for religious tolerance. Khatami, 56, an early leader in the Iranian revolution who has lately espoused a moderate line, is seen as the right man at the right time.

"I have an excellent impression of him. He is educated and very balanced. He speaks often about the rights of young people and others, about international harmony, about the defense of the family and against violence," said Archbishop Romeo Panciroli, the apostolic nuncio in Iran.

Archbishop Panciroli had praise for Khatami's proposal of a "dialogue of civilizations" to ease long-standing cultural and religious antagonisms.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami walks between two Swiss Guards as he enters the Vatican to meet Pope John Paul II March 11. His visit was the highest-level encounter between the pontiff and a post-revolutionary leader from the Islamic state.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

"This is a good and intelligent proposal, without precedent on the part of a Muslim world leader. It surprised a lot of people. It contains the idea of a rapprochement between ancient civilizations and the Christian world," the archbishop said.

Like Pope John Paul, Khatami has studied theology and philosophy extensively. Like the pope, he believes religious and moral principles should guide public policy. But he has shed the extremist religious views of Iran's former ayatollahs.

Church leaders particularly like the fact that Khatami has expressed appreciation for Christ's teachings on love for one's neighbors and dialogue with one's enemies. The Iranian president has said Christian-Muslim differences should be put aside, and he has been open to cooperation on moral issues.

"All the divine religions are not quintessentially different," Khatami said at a lecture in Florence the day before the papal meeting.

This was music to the ears of Vatican officials, who receive daily reports of Christian-Muslim tensions in Indonesia, Pakistan and Sudan — to name just a few of the current hot spots in predominantly Muslim countries.

The hope is that Khatami's message of tolerance will catch on. Iran is considered a leading country in the Muslim world, and Khatami currently chairs the 55-nation Islamic Conference. For those reasons, his influence could help open a whole new chapter in Christian-Muslim dialogue, Archbishop Panciroli said.

What a contrast with the situation in 1979, when the Muslim theocracy of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took hold in Iran. Soon afterward, dozens of missionaries were expelled or began leaving because church institutions were nationalized.

At that time, even the Vatican's efforts at civil dialogue were rebuffed. Khomeini bitterly criticized the pope as a pro-American prelate who, in his view, failed to confront the world's oppressors.

The current turnaround is a tribute to the patience of Vatican diplomacy. Despite the setbacks in religious freedom and restrictions on Catholic activities, the Vatican never broke relations with Iran. A few years ago, a softening of the fundamentalist line was perceived, and the Vatican gently nurtured it, increasing its contacts with the government.

Small but significant changes were seen: Visas for missionaries were approved. An Italian theologian was invited to deliver the first Catholic lecture at the Islamic university at Qom, the Iranian holy city. The first Iranian seminarian recently arrived in Rome to study. And in coming months, an Iranian Muslim scholar is to visit Italy and discuss a more tolerant reading of the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

Like Pope John Paul, Khatami has studied theology and philosophy extensively. Like the pope, he believes religious and moral principles should guide public policy.

Church leaders realize that the

See IRAN-POPE, page 12

Susan G. King (800) 786-7860
Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor (336) 727-8900
- *Retirement Planning*
- *College Savings Plans*
- *Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds*

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC
©1998 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

What love is not

By CAROL WHITEHEAD
Catholic News Service

What is love's opposite? Indifference. Hate has passion, as does love. Therefore, hate might be viewed as distorted love. Indifference, on the other hand, is the absence of passion.

— Consider the man who, for example, turns up the sound of the television, never averting his eyes from the screen, as his wife stands there weeping, asking why he didn't come home last night and what happened to his paycheck.

Does he hate her? I don't think so. At the moment he finds her more an annoyance than someone to whom he feels a need to be accountable.

— Look at the teen-ager who has built up such an impenetrable wall against her parents' admonitions that she can listen to shouts, calm reasoning, threats of penalties, yet resolve to persist in problematic and risky behavior.

Does she want punishment? Not really. But in the face of her own desires, her own gratification at the present moment, any consequences she might incur fade into the background for her. The toll her choices take on others becomes their problem, not hers — or so she feels.

True, this teen-ager is a determined person, but she is also indifferent. Hence the classic response we hear a lot today: "Whatever."

Once people develop a fairly fixed attitude of indifference, they are likely to become manipulative in their dealings with others and to treat them as objects.

The goal in both cases — manipulating and treating others as objects — is to get others to say or do what you want in order that your own desires are met. Recognizing that others are persons with real needs of their own is not part of this equation.

Sadly, indifference is not limited to only one party in a relationship. The person to whom indifference is levied might — believing that he or she is a victim and utilizing this as justification — develop an indifference of her (his) own in turn.

Take the wife whose husband just blew all the money. She moves from tears to rage, leaves the house, meets her good male friend, who has been trying to convince her to leave her husband anyway. She shares an unhurried evening with him and comes home, feeling no remorse.

No one grows in this kind of cycle.

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

"Work to abandon the indifference and embrace love as its substitute," advises psychotherapist Carol Whitehead. "This is done by reflection, by creating a period in our day when we ponder how we've interacted with people, always looking at whether we've listened to them, cared about them."

And that's a major problem with indifference: It doesn't make room for others — or for oneself — to grow. It treats others as if they are "cast in stone."

Indifference functions in many different ways. Sometimes we may even do things that make room for others to treat us with indifference.

Reflect for a moment on the activities — perhaps even including some quite good ones — that you participate in as a matter of habit or because you are living out someone else's expectations.

When we act in this fashion, no one will speak badly about us. Everyone will give us words of encouragement and praise. But all the while we may harbor resentment, sensing that our best "side" — our real talents and gifts — aren't getting expressed or recognized. We may begin to feel that others are indifferent to our real selves.

There may be a need not only for us to recognize our real selves but at times to invite others to recognize who we really are as well.

Indifference possesses a certain hollowness.

The big problem is that indifference enables exploitation to assume a paramount role in a human relationship.

I contend that indifference is born out of fear — the fear of being alone and the fear to trust ourselves and others.

Love, however, is the manifestation of God on earth. Love invites growth. As we journey toward an understanding of love, we have a great responsibility to understand indifference. For we may not be as immune to indifference as we'd like to believe.

How do we overcome the indifference that invades our relationships? We work to abandon the indifference and embrace love as its substitute. This is done by reflection, by creating a period in our day when we can ponder how we've interacted with people, always looking at whether we've listened to them, cared about them. Have we recalled that they too are real people?

The remedy for a life of indifference is to invite our own growth by surrendering to the will of God and embracing our vulnerability. Humility is ushered in, increasing our ability to accept care (and feedback) from the people who encounter us, as well as to recognize that caring about them is of the essence.

It is a process, and it always takes time and patience and humility — all of which are properties of love. ▼

Whitehead, founder and CEO of the Whitehead Institute of Mental Health Professionals, PC, in Glen Burnie, Md., is a psychotherapist.

In a nutshell

- **If it is difficult to say just what "love" is, can we say what love is not? Selfishness, pride, indifference, hatred: All appear on lists of love's opposites.**

- **Can we love what we don't know? To love others, we need to know them as they really are.**

- **Indifference treats others as objects. To remedy indifference, people must reflect on how they interact with others.**

FAITH alive!

Food for thought

I sometimes wonder why St. Paul felt it necessary to write that "love is patient" (1 Cor. 13:4).

Paul also said, of course, that "love is kind." Fair enough! Surely we can all develop action plans for improving our kindness quotient.

But patience!? Doesn't it sometimes seem that people have to be born with it?

Seriously, to grow in love (the virtue of charity), some of us need to grow more patient. This could become the "stuff" of prayer.

Some impatient people want events in daily life to unfold efficiently and along lines that seem clearly the correct ones to them. Problems may arise when these lines or this schedule seem neither clear nor necessary to others.

Impatience can be a problem between spouses; parents and children; in workplaces and neighborhoods. One person may feel imposed upon by another person's concrete way of managing ordinary situations. One person may even feel that another's idea of how things should get done conflicts with his or her real needs.

What might Paul say? That impatience isn't kind enough or sufficiently selfless? That it finds it difficult to let God be God?

As a Lenten exercise, why not try to compose a prayer for patience? Think: What does it take to be patient? What's the problem with impatience?

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

Faith in the marketplace...

What do you consider the opposite of love? Why?

"Fear.... When we trust in God completely, we love like God. Fear causes us to freeze, to be unable to do good."
— *Cathy Haugen, Cadosia, N.Y.*

"Indifference.... Love makes whole; indifference keeps us apart."
— *Karen Kreller, Abbottstown, Pa.*

"Hate, (which) is to disregard others and their needs, to be blinded by your feelings of anger and resentment. Hate destroys faith."
— *Susie Sullivan, Metarie, La.*

"Apathy, because love is engagement with others. Even hate is a kind of engagement with others, but apathy is complete disinterest."
— *Father George Behan, Warwick, R.I.*

"When one becomes indifferent to another person, they simply do not care if the other person exists. What can be more devastating than to know that someone doesn't care if you exist?"
— *Joan A. Kimminau, Grand Island, Neb.*

An upcoming edition asks:
As a teen-ager, how would you like to contribute — offer your talents — to your parish?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017—1100.

Where charity and love don't abound

By FATHER W. THOMAS FAUCHER
Catholic News Service

Many of us, if not most, can watch TV pictures of suffering children in Bosnia or Honduras, and casually flip to another channel, emotionally untouched by the scene. Many also can view pictures of an unknown local car crash and simply move on.

But that same lack of involvement melts away when we recognize the car as one we know or if those children in some foreign land are connected to us personally.

This illustrates the old adage that says, "You cannot love what you do not know."

CNS PHOTO FROM KNA

"We can be emotionally untouched by those (suffering) foreign children ... simply because we do not know them," observes Father W. Thomas Faucher. "But we can also choose not to know others, and we can choose to be indifferent."

We can be emotionally untouched by those foreign children or unknown crash victims not because we are cruel or uncaring people, but simply because we do not know them.

The more sensitive and spiritually mature among us may be able to know them a little through an awareness of our common humanity, or we may transpose mental pictures of people we do know upon them and then begin to feel something about them. But for most of us, we cannot love what we do not know.

To love ourselves, we must know ourselves. To love another, we must come to know the other, and then let the other come to know us.

But what does it mean to know another person? It means being aware of more than just what that person does; it means seeing inside that person. This is called seeing the other person from God's perspective.

God knows everyone, and God loves everyone. Our Christian goal is to see life as God sees life, and thus come to know and love others.

But when we choose not to know or not to allow ourselves to be known by others, we thwart our own life's goal. We often say we make the choice not to know someone else because that person has hurt us, or because we dislike the little we do know about the individual. But knowing someone and even loving someone has little to do with liking the individual.

There is a line from "Les Miserables" which says, "To love another person is to see the face of God." Loving another person means seeing that person as God sees that person. God does not like a lot of what he sees people do, but God loves the people who do those things. For God sees beyond the actions and knows what really is inside the person.

That is the perspective we want for ourselves, the perspective to see not just actions but to know the persons behind those actions.

As I see it, love's opposites are indifference and hatred. Hatred and indifference find their origin in what we do not know. Perhaps, as in the case of suffering children in faraway places, we do not know simply because we have never overcome that distance between us and learned to know them. But we can also choose not to know others, and we can choose to be indifferent or filled with hatred.

That is not God's way, and the results within us are not God's results.

We are made in the image and likeness of God. We come to love through knowledge. We come to hatred and indifference by choosing a lack of true knowledge.

The goal of life is to see from God's perspective. To know and love another person is to see the face of God, for as St. John says, "God is love." ▾

Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, on assignment in the Diocese of Baker, Ore.

How to derail the virtue of charity

By SISTER THERESA SANDERS, RSCJ
Catholic News Service

A scene in the Gospel of John tells a lot about what love is and what its opposite might be.

The scene occurs shortly before Jesus' death when he is with his friends for a last meal. While they watch in astonishment, Jesus takes off his cloak, wraps a towel around his waist and begins to wash his disciples' feet. Then Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

We learn a lot from this event.

First we learn that love involves self—giving. Jesus literally places himself below the disciples, bending before them and caring for their needs. He doesn't simply tell them what to do; he does it himself.

Moreover, in doing this he takes a risk. When you wash another's feet, you may be kicked in the teeth! Jesus was willing to take this risk with his whole life, aware that he might be rejected, yet loving and serving anyway. The decision cost him his life. Easter tells us, though, that the risk was worth taking.

Another thing to notice from the story is that Jesus loves the disciples in a way that empowers them. He tells them, "No longer do I call you servants, but friends," and he urges them to go out and love as deeply as he has loved. He says, "If I then, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Jesus' love is not a burden. It does not confine the disciples but gives them freedom and energy.

From this we see what might be love's opposites from a scriptural point of view: selfishness and pride.

— Selfishness thinks only of itself and its needs, refusing to see others' pain.

— Pride, even if aware of others' needs, thinks them far less important than its own.

In a letter to the Christian community at Corinth, St. Paul makes clear what he thinks is love's opposite. He writes that "love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful." Love worries far less about itself and far more about others' health and happiness.

And love (authentic love) sets others free. Sometimes we love others so much that we don't want them to grow or change. Jesus' love, though, demands growth and change.

Jesus challenges the disciples to take the same risks he took, knowing that they too may lose their lives in the process, and knowing that for them, too, the risk will be well worth taking. ▾

Sister Sanders, a Religious of the Sacred Heart, teaches theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

FAITH alive!

Book Review

New Kingsolver novel tells tale of faith in tormented land

Reviewed by PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

Barbara Kingsolver's first three novels, "The Bean Trees," "Pigs in Heaven," and "Animal Dreams," were mostly light, captivating stories revolving around an intimately drawn single main character with a supporting cast of people you might run into on any American street.

In "The Poisonwood Bible," Kingsolver's central character seems at first to be Nathan Price, an evangelical Baptist minister who hauls his wife and four young daughters to an isolated mission in the Belgian Congo in 1959. Before long, it becomes apparent that neither Rev. Price nor any of his family is as much the central figure in the story as is Africa itself.

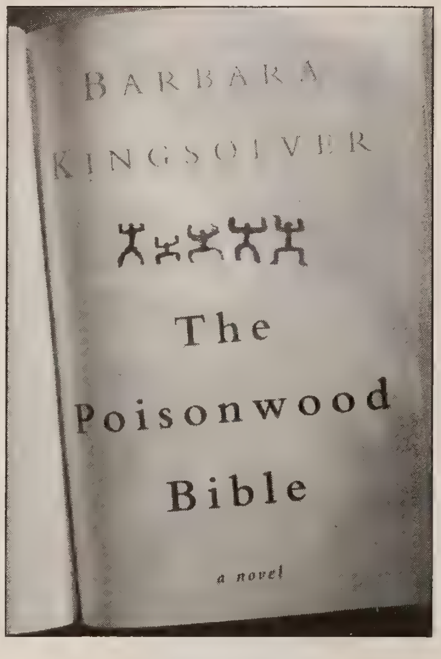
Kingsolver paints a portrait of a pre-revolution Congo that overwhelms the Prices' plans to bring their Christian God and their contemporary American ways to "heathens."

She artfully carries the reader from Bethlehem, Ga., as the Prices set out with well-intentioned naivet, — toting cans of Underwood deviled ham and Betty Crocker cake mixes — through their introduction to the mystery-filled village of Kilanga and, ultimately, through the tormented adult lives the Price girls lead, haunted forever by their father's African mission.

It's a beautiful, poetically written story. Each of the Price women tells parts of it by turns, in the distinctive voices of 5-year-old Ruth May, adolescent twins Leah and Adah, sulking teen-ager Rachel and their resilient mother, Orleanna.

For instance, in a section called "The Revelation," the Prices detail things they have learned in their first few months in Africa.

Orleanna Price recalls the odors and rhythms of market day in Kilanga, and of her shock at realizing she and a daughter had unknowingly violated a local custom, showing themselves to be unmannered outsiders even in as universal a situation as women in the marketplace.



"The Poisonwood Bible"
by Barbara Kingsolver.
Harper Flamingo
(New York, 1998).
546 pp., $26.00

"Until that moment I'd thought I could have it both ways: to be one of them and also my husband's wife. What conceit! I was his instrument, his animal. Nothing more. How we wives and mothers do perish at the hands of our own righteousness. I was just one more of those women who clamp their mouths shut and wave the flag as their nation rolls off to conquer another in war."

Almost comically unprepared for life in a place untouched by automobiles or electricity, the Price family battles malaria, an invasion by flesh-devouring ants, floods, drought, poison plants and snakes. But the physical hardships pale in comparison to the struggles of faith in themselves, in each other and in the Christian beliefs that brought them to Africa.

Their vegetable seeds brought from the United States stubbornly refuse to bear fruit without bees to pollinate them. In much the same way, Nathan Price's dreams of bringing American-style Christian salvation to Kilanga's people wither under the daunting pressures of the Congo, to which he refuses to adapt.

All of Kingsolver's novels have a way of drawing the reader in — feeling the characters' fears and triumphs as if breathing along with them. Her latest manages to tap into the pulse of an entire region as well, urging us to breathe the struggles of a tormented land along with the Price family as they set out to conquer and are ultimately conquered by the Congo. ▼

Zapor is a reporter for Catholic News Service in Washington.

Word to Life

March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent. Cycle A. Readings:

1) Ezekiel 37:12-14
   Psalm 130:1-8
2) Romans 8: 8-11
3) John 11:1-45

By BOZENA CLOUTIER

It was the first session of a nine-week grief support group. The woman speaking so dispassionately had come in late and sat silent and motionless as others talked about why they were there. Now it was her turn.

"My husband had just left to go to work. He was driving his pickup truck and crossing the railroad tracks about a half mile from our house. For some reason the lights were not working that morning. The train blew and blew its whistle, but could not brake in time. He was killed instantly. I heard that whistle, then the braking and clanging. I knew it was him. I should have gone with him. I nearly always did. If only I'd been with him I would have heard the whistle, seen that train."

If only. If only I'd have called 911 earlier... If only I'd have made her quit smoking... If only I had not stepped out of the room just at that moment... The bitter reproaches to self, and often to God as well, are so much a part of those early sessions of grief groups. But as the weeks pass they are heard less and less, and finally not at all. The group and the individuals in it change. As they hear each other's stories, share each other's pain and tears, they gradually discover that they can also share laughter and the triumphs of each other's daily lives.

Dimly at first, but ever more surely, they begin to realize that even in the midst of their tragic losses there is also blessing. And then comes the moment that they recognize that in that dark hour of death the Lord had not been absent, as they had at first thought, and they no longer each echo the reproach voiced by Martha and Mary to Jesus: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Rather they perceive how the Lord had been there supporting them and sharing their pain. Then hope stirs in them as they realize that the Lord is also there for them, not only comforting and sustaining, but leading them from the ashes of diminished existence into the resurrection of new life. ▼

Questions:

Recall a time in your life when you felt abandoned by God. What or who led you to recognize that the Lord had been in that place with you? What is a resurrection that you have experienced in the past year?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 21 - 27, 1999

Sunday, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday**, Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday** (Annunciation of the Lord) Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday**, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday**, Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

For Easter & RCIA
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Come Celebrate Holy Week
Holy Tuesday, March 30, 11:00 am
Crism Mass — Blessing of the Oils
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Holy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Good Friday, April 2
3:00 pm, Stations of the Cross
7:30 pm, Sacred Liturgy
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Holy Saturday, April 3, 7:30 pm
Easter Vigil Mass
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Easter Sunday Masses
8:00 am, 9:30 am
11:00 am, Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant
12:30 pm, Mass for the Montagnard Communities
of Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro
St. Patrick Cathedral
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org
1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
ON THE SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN
Clarion Resort
Offering...Oceanview or islandside rooms and extra large efficiencies. Pool, Hot Tub, Sundry Store, Tennis Court, Bike & Beach Equipment rental
Bennigan's Irish American Grill & Tavern on Premise
SPRING SPECIAL
Rates From $55* Sunday- Thursday
Includes: Welcome cocktail and ½ day bike rental with picnic lunch.
*Limited Availability Expires 4/22/99
Jekyll Island is located mid-way between Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. Restaurants and shops are plentiful, as are 63 holes of championship golf, historic district, bike trails, and miles of beach.
800-253-5955

PBS to air special on Affirmative Action

By HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — How best to achieve equal opportunities for all citizens is the subject addressed in "Beyond Black and White: Affirmative Action in America," airing Tuesday, March 23, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS.

"Beyond Black and White: Affirmative Action in America"
Tuesday, March 23, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS

Moderating the program is Charles Ogletree, a professor at Harvard Law School who leads a dozen or so distinguished panelists through a series of hypothetical but very concrete situations.

The first has to do with imaginary Big State University which as a means of diversifying its freshman class accepts a minority student over a white applicant with higher academic grades.

Having some of the panelists role-play as the students and their parents adds a touch of humor which doesn't quite disarm the tension which divides the panel over the issue.

Another scenario involves the pros and cons of a ballot initiative eliminating racial, ethnic and gender preferences in college admissions or government jobs.

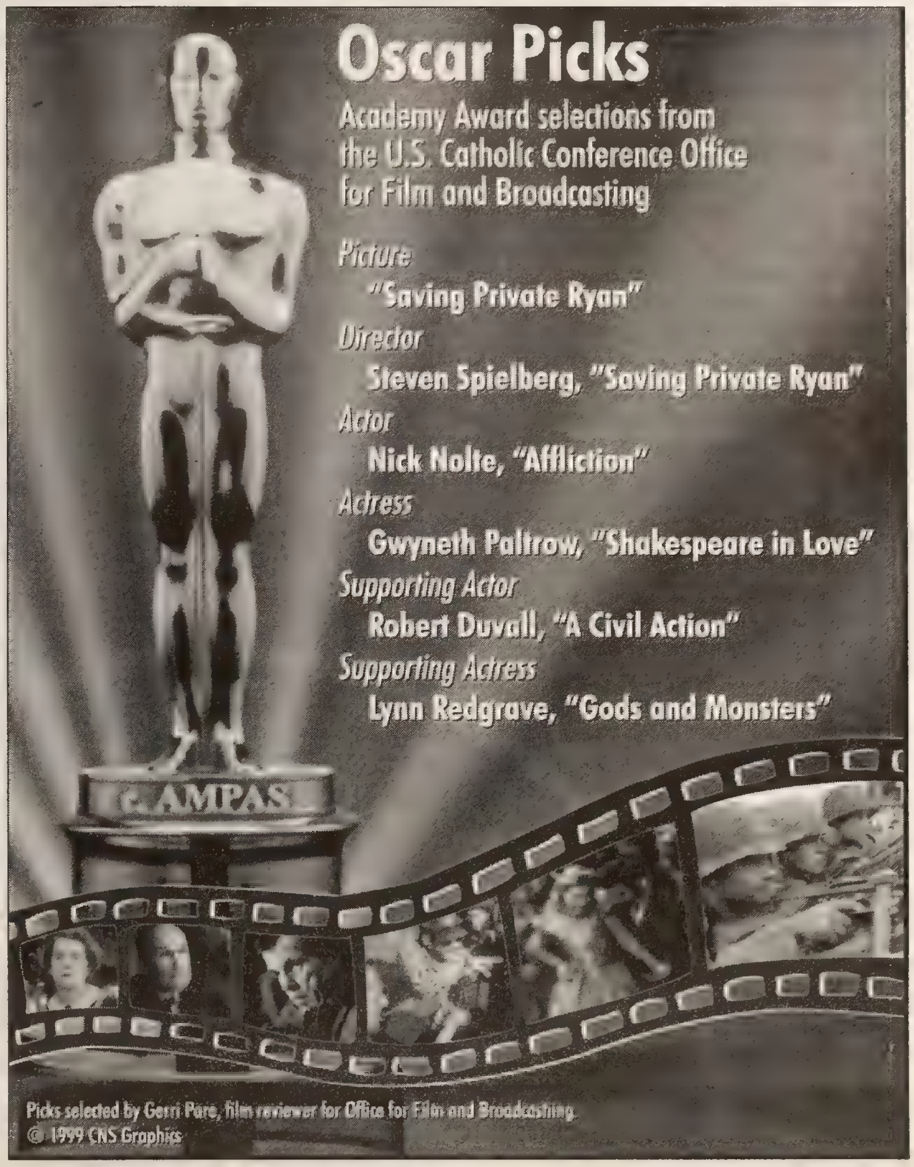
The panel is once again divided between those who applaud the initiative for ending "reverse discrimination" and their opponents who charge it is reinstating discrimination against minorities.

In using very specific examples, the program demonstrates affirmative action is not only an African-American issue but one that affects women, Latinos and Asian-Americans as well as Native Americans.

The proceedings go by very quickly with the issues generating a number of heated exchanges but also some thoughtful discussion of alternatives to overcoming the legacy of past injustices and present inequities.

The program ends with the hopeful notion that both sides are committed to achieving the same goal — a society guaranteeing equal opportunity for all — and that neither has a monopoly on how best to achieve it. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



Oscar Picks

Academy Award selections from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting

Picture
"Saving Private Ryan"
Director
Steven Spielberg, "Saving Private Ryan"
Actor
Nick Nolte, "Affliction"
Actress
Gwyneth Paltrow, "Shakespeare in Love"
Supporting Actor
Robert Duvall, "A Civil Action"
Supporting Actress
Lynn Redgrave, "Gods and Monsters"

Picks selected by Gerri Pare, film reviewer for Office for Film and Broadcasting.
© 1999 CNS Graphics

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

RESORT CAMPING ON THE RIVER AT GREAT SMOKIES KOA RESORT KAMPGROUND

- Family reunions and church groups welcome — cabins, food service and tours can all be arranged.
- Highest rated resort campground in the Cherokee area.
- 400 campsites, 107 Kamping Kabins, New Kamping Kottage — many right on the river.
- Also, large swimming pool, hot tub, tennis court, entertainment, fantastic trout fishing, FREE shuttles to area attractions
- Kids camp FREE at Cherokee KOA.

March 27, Trout Tournament, $1000 in tagged trout
April 4, Easter Egg Hunt
May 9, Mother's Day Breakfast in Bed
August 28, Trout Tournament, $2500 in tagged trout

KOA® KAMPGROUNDS

Make reservations by April 15 & present this ad for FREE pancake breakfast!
Check out our FREE 8-page tabloid featuring special package deals
Cherokee KOA Campground, Dept. CN, Star Route Box 39, Cherokee, NC 28719
Information: (828) 497-9711 Reservations: (800) 825-8352 Fax (828) 497-6776
E-mail: gsmkoa@aol.com www.koakampgrounds.com/where/nc/33173

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package

includes free self-installation kit

(professional installation - $49)

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Stonemason finishes Graymoor Arch — 72 years later

By STEPHEN STEELE
Catholic News Service

GARRISON, N.Y. (CNS) — When Brother Ted Novak sought a stonemason to complete the 72-year-old stone arches outside the Graymoor Friary in Garrison, the locals told him there was only one choice — Herbie Orlando.

For reasons unknown to the friars, the last in a series of arches at the friary was left incomplete when constructed in 1926.

Orlando, 70, is one of a handful of stonemasons left in New York's Hudson Valley, and he's also considered to be the best.

Brother Novak, who cheerfully says he has a "zero point zero zero budget," was also looking for someone to do the work for free. Again, Orlando fit the bill.

Little did Brother Novak know that the Orlando family had ties going back to the 100-year-old order's founder.

Orlando's sister, Stephanie, was baptized in 1913 by Father Paul Wattson, the order's founder. In addition, his father, Luigi, an Italian immigrant, attended Mass at Graymoor after arriving in the United States to work on the construction of the Croton Aqueduct, which is no longer used but at one time carried water down to New York City.

Orlando, who spent three weeks completing the arch, said he felt a certain kinship with Graymoor, given his family's long association with the community.

"My mother used to drag us here all the time when we were kids," he told Catholic New York, archdiocesan newspaper, over lunch at Graymoor.

Orlando said that while working on the Graymoor project, he often paused to pay homage to his mother. "Every time I cut a stone, I'd say, 'Here, Ma, here's one for your old church,'" he said of Graymoor's Little Flower Chapel, where Mrs. Orlando attended Mass.

Orlando said he's primed to begin constructing a shrine to the Venerable Matt Talbot, a 19th-century reformed drunkard in Ireland who became a source of inspiration for people in recovery. The project fits in with the friars' mission to those addicted to drugs or alcohol. The shrine will be located underneath the arches, a few feet from the arch Orlando worked on.

That project will begin once Brother Novak can raise the $5,000 needed for supplies.

Orlando cut the stones for the arch, a delicate and precise craft. Stones, he said, have to be cut just right or they'll crack and be rendered unusable.

Arthritic knees prevented him from lugging the 3,000 pounds of stone used. That job fell to his assistant and godson, Pete Tedrick.

Orlando provided the cement and labor. The stone came from a secret stash of bluestone hoarded by Graymoor when the local quarry closed in the 1960s. ▼

Iran-Pope, from page 7

loosening of the fundamentalist grip in Iran may have much to do with economic interests; indeed, during his trip to Italy, the first official visit by an Iranian president to a Western country since the 1979 revolution, Khatami opened negotiations on a possible $2 billion oil deal with Italy's state energy company.

But that does not lessen Khatami's appeal at the Vatican, where officials recognize that positive historical changes often have complex causes. A deeper concern is that the Iranian president faces conservative opposition to his reforms, especially in the country's security and law enforcement apparatus.

Ten years ago, in a very different context, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was a would-be reformer who needed a moral boost. Not everyone was convinced, but the pope and the Vatican gave their blessing, and the walls of communism came down soon afterward.

A similar atmosphere of optimism was palpable at the Vatican when Khatami came through in March. The hope is that this time, too, history can be nudged in the right direction. ▼

Holy Year should be time of return to confession, pope says

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hopes Holy Year 2000 will be a time when Catholics rediscover the value of confession and its reconciling grace.

The pope made the remarks in a speech March 13 to participants in a Vatican-sponsored course on penance.

The pope said he was praying that confessors would have a key role in the jubilee celebrations scheduled for Rome and elsewhere and that the Holy Year would help bring the faithful back to the sacrament of penance.

He said that would be an important step in making the Holy Year a year of forgiveness and reconciliation, and thus a "singularly effective chapter in the history of salvation."

He said the priest's responsibility to hear confessions and forgive sins stems from Christ's own instructions to his Apostles. The pope underlined several basic church teachings about confession:

— Sacramental confession is needed for the remission of mortal sins committed after baptism. A sinner can also obtain forgiveness of mortal sins by experiencing a true sense of contrition, as long as there is the firm intention of sacramentally confessing those sins at the first reasonable opportunity, he said.

— Likewise, Catholics who receive general absolution must either have confessed mortal sins individually or have the intention of doing so as soon as there is an opportunity.

— Sacramental confession of mortal sins must precede licit reception of the Eucharist.

— Venial sins may be remitted outside of confession. But the pope recommended confessing such sins in order to enjoy the special grace of the sacrament. He said the practice of confessing even when there are only venial sins is a good one and represents a "school that has formed many saints."

The pope emphasized that the jubilee's theme of reconciliation with God depends also on reconciliation with one's fellow human beings. Along with personal holiness, people need a deepened sense of solidarity, he said. ▼

Visit
IRELAND
with Fr. Martin Schratz, O.F.M.Cap.
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte
July 12-19
A Pilgrimage of Faith
Our Lady of Knock, St. Kevin's, Trinity College, St. Patrick's, Dublin, Knock, Galway, Limerick, Killarney, Blarney, Waterford and more...
Leaving from Charlotte.
For a brochure, application or more information call:
(704) 549-1607

CFC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

The Oratory Religion Camp
. Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 11-17, 1999 and July 18-24, 1999.
. Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
. Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
. The fee is $90.
For information and application:
The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Conyers, from page 3

She said from its inception she has not been on the board of Our Loving Mother's Children because she wanted to remain focused on prayer. She said that she receives no money from the organization.

Robert Hughes told The Georgia Bulletin that after receiving Fowler's statement he had turned the text of the upcoming book over to her associate, George Collins, and would not publish it without her approval.

He said he would refund money to an estimated 1,500 people who have already ordered the book if the dispute over the content is not cleared up.

Hughes said that the fund raising in the November/December newsletter was not new.

"We've always had fund raising," he said. He said the newsletter mentioned $10,000 because that is the cost of one monthly satellite broadcast of the rosary. The appeal brought in one $10,000 donation from California, he added.

Hughes also said that "the Lord has put Bolivia and Conyers together." He said Rivas had a conversion experience after hearing Fowler speak in Bolivia in 1993. He also said a statue in Bolivia has had unexplained phenomena, shedding tears and blood, which people there consider a sign from God linked to Fowler's visit.

He cited other links as well, including the reported reception of the stigmata by Rivas during a pilgrimage to Conyers.

Hughes characterized the dispute between Fowler and Rivas as stemming from human nature and said he believed jealousy was involved. ▼

Body of sainthood candidate moved to his parish

By NANCY HARTNAGEL

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the body of sainthood candidate Msgr. Nelson H. Baker recently was moved to his longtime parish in Lackawanna, N.Y., several hundred people spontaneously turned up to pray, said the archivist of the Buffalo Diocese.

Msgr. Walter O. Kern, who prepared the diocesan documentation for Msgr. Baker's cause, said the exhumation and move to the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory was requested by the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

"When the possible saint is put in a church, then people begin to pray more because he's right there," said Msgr. Kern, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Bowmansville. He spoke with Catholic News Service by phone.

Msgr. Baker, a Civil War-era soldier and grain dealer who became a Buffalo diocesan priest in 1876, died in 1936 at the age of 94. He had been pastor of Our Lady of Victory for more than 50 years.

Inside his grave in a local cemetery, the coffin was covered with several inches of cement, said Msgr. Kern. The coffin was uncovered March 10 but left in the ground and guarded overnight, he said. It was moved to a specially built sarcophagus in the basilica March 11.

The cement may have been prompted by vandalism at the grave of a Massachusetts priest in the 1920s, said Msgr. Kern. A miracle had been claimed at that grave, he noted, and people "sort of ripped it apart."

He said a decision was made not to open Msgr. Baker's coffin because relics are not taken at this early point in a cause.

However, between the exhumation and entombment, he said, "spontaneously, hundreds and hundreds of people went over to the basilica."

There had been no publicity, he said. "There was no intent to do more than just say a small prayer service," he said, adding that is just what Buffalo Bishop Henry J. Mansell did.

CNS photo from Reuters

Catholic church representatives remove the exhumed body of Father Nelson Baker from a church cemetery in Lackawanna, N.Y., March 10. The body was being moved to Lackawanna's Our Lady of Victory Basilica as the investigation into sainthood for the priest continues.

But "the people just would not go," he said. Workers had to wait several hours to put the stone top on the sarcophagus, as people "slowly made their way up and looked and said a prayer and then moved on."

The sarcophagus sits at the entrance to a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes that Msgr. Baker installed in the basilica. "Right nearby is the spot where he used to sit many nights," said Msgr. Kern. Many people remember coming into the church to pray, "and he would be there, even as a very, very old man, sitting there praying," he said.

At Our Lady of Victory, Msgr. Baker operated soup kitchens and a hospital, as well as homes for unwed mothers, homeless and troubled boys and abandoned infants. On the prayer card for his cause, he is called "Apostle of Charity."

The archivist said he also ran a big trade school that he kept expanding. "At one time, practically every print shop in Buffalo, every newspaper, had Baker boys doing the work," he said.

Baker boys — as the orphans came to be known — also became governors, members of Congress and priests, said Msgr. Kern. "His basic idea was that you had to be a good person and a good Christian, and being a good person meant having a sense of community."

There were many Baker boys in the crowd March 11, he said. In fact, eight of them wheeled the 800-pound solid bronze coffin into the basilica.

Msgr. Kern said Msgr. Baker's sainthood cause now is in the Rome phase. Diocesan research and materials are under study there, along with a reported miracle that occurred in the 1930s within a few months of Msgr. Baker's death.

Acceptance of one miracle through Msgr. Baker's intercession could lead to his beatification. ▼

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3301

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Come enjoy
Seniors' Spring Fling '99
At the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Come from 9-10am for coffee and danish

Your day will be filled with fellowship, Mass with Fr. Ed Sheridan, music, lunch with friends, games, crafts, bingo, door prizes, and more...

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Seniors' Spring Fling, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ______ Phone ______
Address ______
City ______ Parish ______

$7.50 per person. Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services.**
Registration deadline: April 15
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

New violence feared after N. Ireland bombing kills lawyer

By CIAN MOLLOY
Catholic News Service

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — A prominent Catholic lawyer was killed in a car bombing in Northern Ireland, leading some Catholics to fear an upsurge in violence by loyalist terrorists.

"That is what we are afraid of," said Bishop Francis Gerard Brooks of Dromore, Northern Ireland. "We hope and pray that this is not the case."

Nelson is believed to have been targeted by loyalist terrorists because of her work representing nationalist clients. Recently, her clients included the Catholic residents of Garvaghy Road in their efforts to prevent the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternity, from holding a sectarian parade through their area.

Rosemary Nelson died from her injuries March 15 after a bomb placed under her car exploded in Lurgan, Northern Ireland. No warning was given, and a dissident loyalist group calling itself the Red Hand Defenders claimed responsibility for the attack.

Last year the group claimed responsibility for a bombing that killed a Catholic police officer during a loyalist riot in Portadown and for the killing of Brian Service, a 35-year-old Catholic in North Belfast.

Nelson is believed to have been targeted by loyalist terrorists because of her work representing nationalist clients. Recently, her clients included the Catholic residents of Garvaghy Road in their efforts to prevent the Orange Order, a Protestant fraternity, from holding a sectarian parade through their area.

Nationalists are mainly Catholic and seek a united Ireland, while loyalists are predominantly Protestant and seek continued British rule in Northern Ireland.

Bishop Brooks called Nelson's murder "an awful crime. I personally know her husband Paul, whom I taught at ... St. Colman's. Two of her sons are students there now. It's a terrible tragedy for a young family to be left without a mother.

"This bombing is obviously the work of some loyalist group. It's no excuse, but she was probably targeted because of her work for the Garvaghy residents," he said.

Nelson is survived by her husband and three children, ages 13, 11 and 8.

The Committee for the Administration of Justice, a lawyers' human rights group, demanded that any investigation into Nelson's murder be carried out by a British police force other than the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which is more than 90 percent Protestant.

Photo by Joann Keane

The Bishop Michael J. Begley Charity Endowment Fund
In honor of Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, an endowment fund bearing his name has been established in the Diocese of Charlotte. A framed copy of the proclaimation honoring the retired bishop was presented by Foundation Executive Director and Diocesan Director of Development, Jim Kelley. 'Whereas Michael J. Begley has devoted sixty-four years of outstanding pastoral leadership to the people of God in Western North Carolina as a priest and twelve years as the first Bishop of Charlotte ... established this day for charitable ministries in Western North Carolina and be named the Bishop Michael J. Begley Charity Endowment Fund in The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.' This is the 53rd endowment fund for the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Committee spokesman Brian McGeehan said police officers from England were already investigating Nelson's allegations that she had received death threats from RUC officers.

"It is difficult for people in the nationalist community to have faith in an RUC investigation into the murder of a solicitor (lawyer) when so many solicitors who have represented nationalists have been subjected to death threats by RUC officers," he added.

In a statement, RUC Detective Superintendent Sam Kincaid denounced Nelson's murder as "cold-blooded and brutal."

Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs David Andrews said Nelson's murder was "a very deliberate attempt to intimidate those whose task it is to provide legal representation to those who need it" and said that the murder was "very clearly designed to sabotage the peace process at this very critical time." ▼

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370-3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL
MORTGAGE
STORE,
INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

New Owners! New Hours!

Nine Choirs
Catholic Books & Gifts

474 1/2 Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806 (I-240, exit #2)
828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri.: 9-5pm Sat: 10-3pm

School Uniform Sale!

Lower prices!
- *Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock*
- *9-month "School Year Warranty"*

***Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.**
***And order next year's uniforms before March 30th for 10% off any order over $75.**

Free shipping on orders over $75! *1-888-895-0071*
Member of St. Therese

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Deacons recommit to ministry at annual gathering

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Their ministry is based on service to the people of their parishes and communities. And on March 13 in St. Patrick Cathedral, the Diocese of Charlotte's permanent deacons recommitted themselves to that ministry with a promise to proclaim the faith in word and action.

The deacons and their wives gathered at the cathedral church for an annual Mass and recommitment ceremony. Bishop William G. Curlin, who presided over the event, urged these ordained ministers of service and their spouses to keep spirituality at the forefront of all they do.

"The church needs holy men and women," Bishop Curlin said in his homily, "but the real need today is not simply for more bodies in the church. The need is for more saints.

"Please, my brother deacons, keep your passion for Christ alive each day. The first thing in the morning, in the silence of your room, talk to God. Pray every day for the people of the world who are hurting, who need your prayers."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

The Diocese of Charlotte's permanent deacons and their wives reaffirm their commitment to the ministry of the permanent diaconate during a Mass presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin March 13 in St. Patrick Cathedral.

The permanent diaconate is a unique Roman Catholic ministry. While biblically based, the diaconate was restored as a permanent order by Pope Paul VI in 1967. This development allowed men to enter the ministry of the diaconate for life, while the transitional diaconate provides for men in their final stages of preparation for the priesthood.

Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley ordained the first class of permanent deacons to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1983. The current diaconate formation consists of six years of lay ministry training, academia and growing in faith.

In this diocese, the permanent diaconate is organized into four regional vicariates. Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte is the diaconate administrator, and Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, is the director of the permanent diaconate.

When ordained, permanent deacons promise allegiance to their bishop. This pledge leads them into parish and community ministry that includes assisting in liturgical celebrations, reading and preaching about the Gospel, administering the Eucharist, officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals, marriage preparation, educational work, multicultural ministry, and visiting the infirmed.

In that they are permitted to be married, the permanent deacons' ministry is heavily influenced by family life. During the diocesan gathering, deacons' wives reaffirmed their role in the ministry, too — a ministry Bishop Curlin said takes a serious commitment to Christ.

"I plead with you, my brothers and you dear wives, to have a deep relationship with Jesus," the bishop said. "If you root yourselves in Christ, the graces that result will be immeasurable. Let the love you share with one another keep you rooted in your love for Jesus."

The recommitment ceremony followed the Liturgy of the Word. A series of questions posed by the bishop focused on various elements of the deacons' ministry, to which the they echoed their responsibility.

The deacons pledged to live their ministry with humility and love, to live and proclaim a faith grounded in Scripture and sacred tradition, to maintain and deepen a spirit of prayer, to shape their lives in the example of Christ, and to continue their allegiance to the bishop and his successors.

The ceremony's closing prayer focused on the deacons' commission of carrying out their work: "May they, in this life, imitate your Son, who came not to be served but to serve, and one day reign with Him in Heaven."

The ceremony concluded with Bishop Curlin asking the deacons' wives to reaffirm the support of their husbands as both ministers and family men. The wives also resolved to continue in their own journeys of faith with their husbands.

The liturgy included the incardination, or official affiliation, of three permanent deacons into the Diocese of Charlotte. With that action, Rev. Dr. Fred Dobens of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, Rev. Mr. John Sims of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, and Rev. Mr. Anthony Marini of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, are now canonically permanent deacons of the diocese.

There are 64 permanent deacons currently ordained for service in the Diocese of Charlotte. ▼

Contact associate editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Birthday, from page 1

down to earth. You just have to marvel at that."

Aloha Linhares, who served as Bishop Begley's personal secretary, said she jumped at the chance to join Bishop Begley for this happy milestone.

"It's impacted me through the years watching how he cares about people, about the church, about his brother priests," said Linhares, current secretary to the vicar general and chancellor. "He is so special, and I just wanted to be a part of this day honoring him and giving thanks for his life." ▼

Contact associate editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Elementary Principal: St. Paul the Apostle School in Spartanburg, South Carolina is seeking a Principal for the 1999-2000 school year. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, within proximity of Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. St. Paul's School has a Pre-K through eighth grade academic and daycare program for our 200+ students. We are seeking a practicing Catholic with dynamic teaching, development and leadership skills. MA in Education Administration or related field, minimum of five years' teaching and/or administration experience. Letters of interest and resume should be addressed to: Very Rev. Michael R. De Antonio, V.F., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 161 N. Dean St., Spartanburg, S.C., 29302. Deadline for applications: April 30, 1999.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is hiring certified teachers in Math, PE/Health, English, Religion, Part-time Spanish, and a school-certified counselor for the 1999-2000 school year. For an application, please send resume to the school at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Pastoral Associate: Large suburban parish located in Richmond, Virginia with responsibility for evangelization and social justice. Atmosphere of collaborative ministry with other staff. Roman Catholic in good standing, master's degree in theology or related field, at least 5 years' pastoral experience and ability to engage others in ministry. Salary and benefits according to diocesan policy. Interested persons should submit resume to Search Committee, St. Bridget's Church, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226 by April 1, 1999.

High School Teachers: Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh is seeking full-time teachers of Mathematics and Spanish for the 1999-2000 school year. Please send resume to: Brother Michel Bettigole, OSF, Principal, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 2401 Crusader Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27606.

Receptionist: Bilingual (Spanish and English) person; part-time, (25 hours/week) M-F 12:00-5:00; friendly, comfortable with people; minimal office skills required with willingness to learn more. Send resume to B. Bazluki, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or Fax to (704) 370-3377.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Office Assistant: Personal financial planner needs responsible, articulate person interested in investments. Variety of tasks from customer service to filing to updating computer records. Part-time, flexible schedule of 25 hours per week in Charlotte (SouthPark) office. Fax resume to Cynthia Anderson, CFP @ (704) 556-0445.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

High School Football Coach: Bishop England High School, a coeducational Catholic High School in Charleston, S. C., is accepting applications for the position of Head Football Coach. The school has an enrollment of 875 students and has just relocated to a new campus. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and credentials. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume and a statement of educational philosophy to: David Held, Bishop England High School, 363 Seven Farms Dr., Charleston, SC 29492-7534.

Catholic Social Services extends gratitude to social activist with long-time CSS ties

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Kitty Gaston (left), daughter of the late Colonel Francis J. Beatty, presents the annual Catholic Social Services award named in honor of her father to Jan Valder-Offerman, recipient of the 1999 award.

CHARLOTTE — Some thirty years hence, Jan Valder-Offerman recalls the words of her then-4-year-old son, *'Why do you love everybody, Mommy?'* She was taken aback. *'Do I?'* she thought.

It was sometime in the early '60s and somewhere in the Deep South. Pope John XXIII was on the verge of changing the world with Vatican II, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans, and a southern preacher, Martin Luther King Jr., led the way towards the implementation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

So many of those cohesive elements called Valder-Offerman to join in the efforts to effect change in this country. It would be the echo of a 4-year-old, however, that would bring Valder-Offerman to understand that injustices could be overcome "if we lived the teachings we professed," and how love brings a new challenge.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in a moment of comfort, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."

True to the words of the late civil rights leader, Valder-Offerman has been on uncomfortable ground, challenged the status-quo, and rallied victoriously.

Fast forward to the late '90s, and Valder-Offerman still questions and challenges, and in the community of Charlotte, is renowned for accomplishments that mark progress in her own backyard.

For a number of years, Valder-Offerman served as chairperson for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Under her charge — in 1987 — the Diocese of Charlotte was honored with national recognition for highest per capita contribution.

She's also credited with involvement with Hospice of Charlotte, the Arts & Science Council's Cultural Diversity Committee, Mecklenburg Ministries Race Relations and Anti-Violence committee, an El Salvador support group, and a connection with the Oratory in Rock Hill.

Catholic Social Services bestowed its highest honor last week, paying homage to this individual whose name rings synomomous with social justice. On Mar. 10, Jan Valder-Offerman accepted the Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award during the eighth annual reception and dinner hosted by CSS.

"I cannot remember a time that I wasn't glad Jan lived and served in Charlotte," said 1998 CSS honoree, Diane English, of Mecklenburg Ministries.

Valder-Offerman and her husband, Barney, are members of St. Peter parish in Charlotte, where they thrive within the social justice ministry that permeates the Jesuit community of the downtown parish.

"If there's a good cause in Charlotte, you can be sure to see one or both of them (Jan and Barney)," said English in precursory remarks during the awards banquet. "They always come with a message of consequence, a challenging, consistent, compelling message."

The award was established in 1991, and is named for the late Colonel Beatty, a Catholic layman whose strong religious faith prompted effective church-related and public service in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and its larger region. In every area of life, he set exemplary standards.

"Jan's life revolves around three key elements; faith, community and family," said English. "Colonel Beatty would applaud your choice this night. He lived his faith through a life of integrity, service and substance. He, like Jan, integrated in gentle ways." ▼

Contact Editor Joann S. Keane at (704) 370-3336, or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

CSS presents Spirit Award

The Spirit Award was established by the Charlotte regional office of Catholic Social Services to recognize and honor those special persons, groups, or organizations that have generously shared their special talents and resources in an effort to east and enrich the lives of those who come to Catholic Social Services seeking help.

The 1999 Spirit Award recipients are James and Marion Weber, who have been licensed as a foster family through Catholic Social Services since June 1984. They have opened their hearts and home to 52 infants over their foster care career. They have taken care of children with special needs, medical concerns, twins and even those with severe colic. All of these situations have been met with an eagerness and willingness to serve. Without strong loving families such as the Webers, the circle of adoption would not be complete.

Jim and Marion have made service to others part of their everyday life. Jim is retired from the Navy after serving 22 years and Marion is a volunteer technician with an emergency rescue service. They have two daughters and three sons, and nine grandchildren. The Webers are devoted to living their lives with loving Christian principals. They are active parishioners at Holy Spirit Church in Denver. ▼

A Marian Pilgrimage

May 5-14

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...

Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT

- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

******************************3-DIGIT 275
S295 P1
42083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 26, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 29

Inside

Charlotte Diocese blessed with second basilica ...PAGE 3

In Russia, Catholic workers tend to bombing victims ...PAGE 7

Brothers playing at Duke share basketball dream ...PAGE 15

Local News

Living the Faith

Student blessed with scholarship

...PAGE 16

Catholic Camporee

Scouts gather for annual event in Hickory

...PAGES 8-9

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

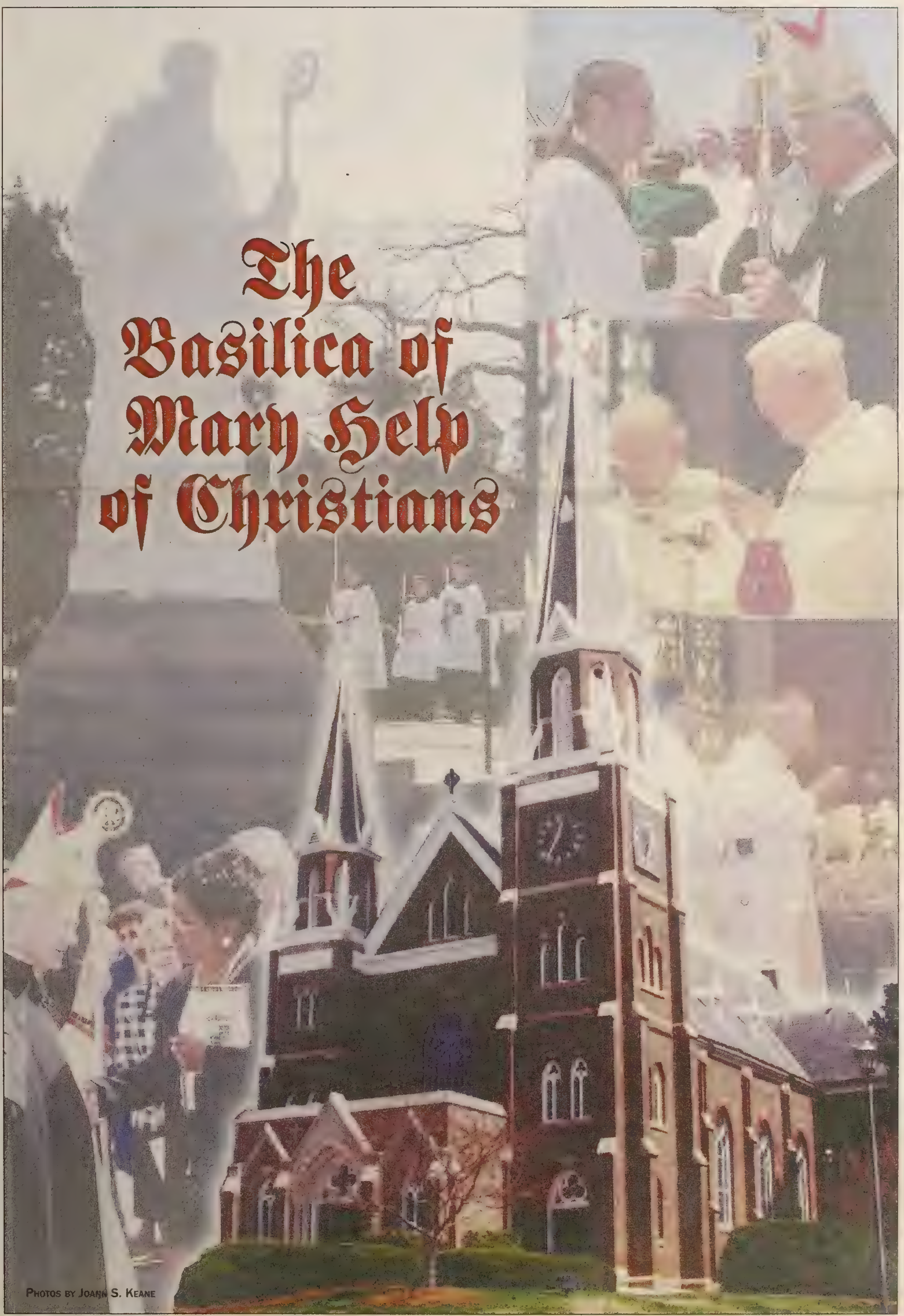
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Lenten Reflection

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

...PAGE 5

The Basilica of Mary Help of Christians



PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

The World in Brief

USCC launches parish education campaign on debt crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "How can such a boring issue cause so much death and destruction?" That, said U.S. Catholic Conference official Barbara Kohnen, summarizes the challenge of a new national campaign to educate and motivate Catholics on the external debt crisis facing many of the world's poorest nations. In March the USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace mailed a "Catholic Campaign on Debt" education packet to diocesan social action directors across the country.

World religious leaders pledge to promote forgiveness

DALLAS (CNS) — Dozens of the world's religious leaders pledged at a conference in Dallas to promote tolerance and forgiveness within their faiths to help mend rifts that have pitted the world's religions against each other. More than 80 delegates promised to employ practical measures that would encourage the faithful to adopt an attitude of forgiveness that might help diffuse interreligious tension. "On the eve of a new century, we desperately need to concentrate on what unites us, and we owe it to our children and their children to build a more just and peaceful world," Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Communion, said during the event's closing ceremonies.

Sierra Leone Catholic agency cares for rescued child-soldiers

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — A church-run agency is working with UNICEF to help former child-soldiers, rescued from rebels who abducted them to fight in the country's civil war. "The public is presently contacting us to trace lost children, and we have succeeded in reuniting 47 children with their families," said Father Theophilus Momoh, director of Children Associated with the War, an agency of the Archdiocese of Freetown and Bo. He said Nigerian-led West African Peacekeeping Forces rescued the children from the rebels and handed the youths over to UNICEF, which in turn arranged with local nongovernmental organizations, such as Children Associated with the War, to take care of them.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Wreckage memorials

Flowers are left near the burned-out sleeper car where 11 people died after a March 15 train wreck in Bourbonnais, Ill. There were 127 people injured.

Indian leader withdraws plans to proclaim 2000 'Year of Christ'

DELHI, India (CNS) — India's prime minister has withdrawn plans to proclaim the year 2000 the "Year of Christ" in India after members of his Cabinet objected. Initially Cabinet members agreed to the Year of Christ plan, especially in the midst of national and international criticism of the way the government was handling a wave of attacks on Christians by Hindu extremists. But Murli Manohar Joshi, the Indian minister of human resource development and supporter of Hindu nationalist groups, called on Vajpayee March 5 to drop plans to mark the Christian jubilee and instead form a committee to coordinate celebrations in 2000 of the U.N.-declared "Year of the Culture of Peace."

Italy reviews abortion norms after fetus survives

ROME (CNS) — The case of a 25-week-old fetus who survived an abortion has prompted Italy to take a new look at norms that regulate late-term pregnancy termination. The baby, weighing less than two pounds, lived through the abortion in early March at a hospital in the northern Italian city of Pavia and was being kept alive in an incubator. The parents have said they do not want to keep the child, and local civil authorities have assumed responsibility for him. In response to the case, on March 17 Italian Health Minister Rosy Bindi announced formation of a commission to draw up new guidelines for late-term abortions.

Milk price drop another blow to family farming, bishop says

LA CROSSE, Wis. (CNS) — A recent $6 drop in the price paid to farmers for milk may be the final blow for many dairy farmers, who need prayers and support from other Americans, said Bishop Raymond L. Burke of La Crosse in a column in his diocesan newspaper. "We must pray for our brothers and sisters who farm and be especially attentive to their present plight which for many of them will mean financial disaster," he wrote in the March 10 issue of the Times Review newspaper. Bishop Burke called the 40 percent price drop "another deadly blow to the family farm" and said it "will surely destroy many small family-sized dairy farms."

U.S. religious leaders urge way past 'impasse' in N. Ireland

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Spokesmen for the U.S. Catholic and Presbyterian churches have urged new efforts to resolve the current impasse in the Northern Ireland peace process. In a joint St. Patrick's Day statement they cited the March 15 car-bombing murder of human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson as a new cause of concern that the peace process may get stuck. They urged Americans to take concrete actions to support peacemakers in Northern Ireland.

Priest says nuncio wants more Americans to see Iraq's devastation

NEW YORK (CNS) — The papal nuncio in Iraq is asking that more American Catholics visit the country to see the damaging effects that sanctions are having on the Iraqi people, according to an American priest who recently met him. The priest, Jesuit Father John Dear, also reported that the nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, complained that a false image of the Iraqi people had been created and needed to be changed. Father Dear, U.S. director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, visited Iraq March 7-10 with two Nobel Peace Prize winners — Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland, who won in 1976, and Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, who won in 1980.

Vatican official cites progress in Vietnamese talks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the last day of talks with government officials in Vietnam, a Vatican envoy said progress had been made toward diplomatic relations with the Southeast Asian country. Msgr. Celestino Migliore, an assistant secretary of state, said the March 15-19 meetings were constructive and that a first step had been taken toward establishing an official relationship, Vatican Radio reported. A Vietnamese bishop also expressed optimism about progress in church-state relations, saying state authorities seemed more open to the church's requests for more freedom.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

March 26, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 29
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 30 — 11:00 am
Chrism Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 31
Day of Reflection for the Ecumenical Bishops of NC, Statesville, NC

April 1 — 7:00 am
YMCA prayer breakfast
Convention Center, Charlotte

April 1 — 7:30 pm
Holy Thursday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 2 — 7:30 pm
Good Friday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

30 ASHEVILLE — Living stations of the cross are presented by grades 6-8 of Asheville Catholic School today at 7:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. For details, call Jan Zboyovski, (828) 252-7896.

31 GREENSBORO — An ecumenical Lenten worship service is today at 12:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 617 N. Elm St. A light lunch is available for $4.

April

10 GREENSBORO — A family ice-skating party is at the IceHouse today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is $5, which includes skates, a lesson, an ice hockey exhibition and an ice-dancing exhibition. Proceeds benefit the twin parish program of Our Lady of Grace Church, which sponsors a Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. Funds will help purchase a radio station for the parish there.

11 CHARLOTTE — A Divine Mercy Sunday celebration is planned for today in St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., starting at 2 p.m. Confessions are at 2 p.m., the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is at 2:45, and Mass is celebrated at 3. For details, call Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GREENSBORO — The Ultreya for the Cursillo community in the Greensboro area will be held today in the parish center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., at 7 p.m. For details, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or (336) 856-1929.

15 ASHEVILLE — "Creating Circles of Peace: Promoting Alternatives to

Charlotte Diocese blessed with second basilica

Benedictine Abbey in Belmont receives rare papal distinction

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — Mary Help of Christians, more commonly known as the church at Belmont Abbey, is now The Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

The canonical distinction of Basilica, conferred by Pope John Paul II, elevated the 105-year-old Benedictine Abbey church as a minor basilica. Thus, with the reading of the papal decree on Mar. 22, the Benedictine Abbey church officially assumed a new standing in the realm of the Roman Catholic Church.

While the monks of Belmont Abbey received notification of the elevation this past July, the monastic community in Belmont waited. It was aptly decided to celebrate the dedication at a time aligned with the feast day of St. Benedict. One day following the feast day in honorarium of the founder of the Benedictine order, proclamation of the title of Minor Basilica was bestowed within the context of a Mass of celebration.

"As this venerable abbey church is raised to the new dignity of a minor basilica, we, its living stones, rejoice to express our oneness with the See of Peter," said principal celebrant, Cardinal James Hickey, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. "From the day of its founding, this abbey church has been the source of much evangelization in the State of North Carolina and far beyond." He added, "May this basilica church stand for generations to come as a place of deep faith and loving worship, firmly rooted on the rock that is Peter."

Concelebrating with the cardinal, were Archbishop John F. Donoghue, Archdiocese of Atlanta, Bishop William G. Curlin of the Charlotte Diocese, Bishop David B. Thompson, from the Charleston Diocese, and Bishop J. Kevin Boland, Diocese of Savannah. Joining Belmont Abbey's Benedictine Abbot Oscar Burnett and the monks of the abbey were the Abbot-Nullius emeritus of the Abbey, Benedictine Father Walter Coggin, and abbots from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, Mary Mother of the Church Abbey in Richmond, Virginia, and the abbot Emeritus of St. Leo's Abbey in St. Leo, Florida.

From the official apostolic document from the Vatican, Archbishop Donoghue, who served as the second bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, read, "The Roman Pontiffs have been accustomed to adorn with distinguished honors sacred buildings renowned in both history and religion. To these should be added the abbey church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians in the city of Belmont within the diocese of Charlotte."

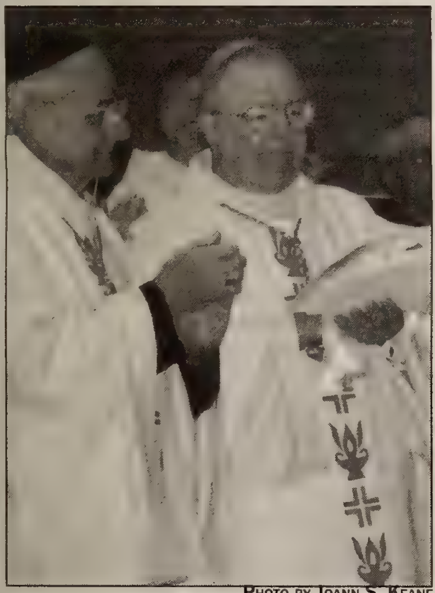


Photo by Joann S. Keane

Abbot Oscar Burnett, the Benedictine abbot of Belmont Abbey, left, with Bishop David B. Thompson, bishop of Charleston, during the basilica Mass.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Cardinal James Hickey raises the chalice during the consecration. Cardinal Hickey was principal celebrant for the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians elevation. To the left, Archbishop John F. Donoghue and to the right, Bishop William G. Curlin concelebate.

It was under the archbishop's term as bishop of Charlotte that the Abbey first began the process of seeking basilica status in 1994. The former bishop was also instrumental in the process of basilica status for St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville. The mountain basilica was elevated in 1993.

Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey is home to 20 monks of the Order of St. Benedict, and is contained on the National Register of Historic Places. The grounds are also home to Belmont Abbey College, a liberal arts Catholic college offering undergraduate and graduate degrees.

"The Abbey Church has preached the Good News and witnessed the works of mercy to the people of western North Carolina," said Bishop Curlin. "During this century of service, the Abbey Church has truly proven to be a help to Christians."

> "As this venerable abbey church is raised to the new dignity of a minor basilica, we, its living stones, rejoice to express our oneness with the See of Peter."
>
> — Cardinal James Hickey, Archbishop of Washington, DC.

"It moves us considerably to realize the Supreme Pontiff has expressed his gratitude to us today," said Abbot Oscar Burnett. ... "[We're] a small little church hidden away in Gaston County," said the abbot. "We are moved very much by that." ▾

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or sending e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Violence in Families, Schools and Communities" is a series of workshops and presentations on violence prevention is today through April 18 in various locations in Asheville. Activities include a free dinner and workshop for families today, a workshop for professionals and volunteers who work with families April 18, a workshop and lunch for families, a workshop for community organizers, a discussion on parenting for adults, and an adult workshop for the Hispanic community. There will be fees to cover lunch and materials April 17 and 18. For details, call Allison Best-Teague at (828) 667-5044, ext. 315.

16 HAYESVILLE — A retreat for high school youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is today through April 17 at the Hinton Center in Hayesville. For details, call (828) 669-0524.

21 HICKORY — Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry presents the 13th Annual Spring Fling today from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. Cost is $7.50. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

23 BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College hosts an "Abbey Experience" today for prospective students. Students will have opportunities to meet current Abbey students and professors, tour the campus, attend classes, have lunch with the campus community, and attend a financial aid seminar. For reservations, call (888) 222-6665.

30 MAGGIE VALLEY — A women's Emmaus retreat, with Father Ray Berg as spiritual advisor, is today through May 2 at the Living Waters Retreat Center. Space is limited for this retreat, which focuses on an encounter with Jesus through relaxation and reflection. For more information, call Bobbie Mukosiej at (828) 665-2722, or Nancy Sparacino at (828) 255-0095.

May

15 GREENSBORO — A five-kilometer run and one-mile fun run are planned for today at Grimsly High School starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee for the run is $12, which includes a T-shirt for the first 100 entries. The fee for the fun run is $5. All proceeds will benefit the twin parish program of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, which is raising funds for Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. The parish there will purchase a radio station with the funding. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

21 HICKORY — Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, a counseling psychologist, leads "Healing for Traumatic Pregnancy Loss," a workshop for professional counselors, physicians, nurses, peer counselors, pregnancy center volunteers, campus ministers and clergy, today at the Catholic Conference Center from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The presentation is to help participants better understand how abortion affects women, men and families. The fee is $50 for professionals, $30 for pregnancy care volunteers and other volunteers, and $15 for full-time students. Advance registration is required May 3. Send checks payable to Transfiguration Ministries, Inc., to Dr. Martha Shuping, 1400-B Millgate Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Call Shuping for details at (336) 659-1342.

22 GREENSBORO — Players, advertisers and sponsors are invited to participate in the Our Lady of Grace School Golf Classic, the school's annual education fund-raiser, starting at 7 a.m. today at the Grandover Resort Golf Course. Cost to play is $99, which includes course play, a golf shirt and a catered luncheon. Proceeds will provide for instructional materials, information technology, media center resources, scholarship endowment funding, athletics and fine arts. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says belief in Jesus leads to love for God

By LYNNE WEIL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Belief in Jesus leads to love for God, Pope John Paul II said.

In his March 17 general audience on St. Peter's Square, the pope continued his series of talks about God the Father with an exploration of the relationship between God and Jesus.

"By believing in Jesus, the Light of the World, we come to know the Father and to love him," Pope John Paul said. "Even more, we share in the very life of God and become part of God's family."

The pontiff noted that in St. John's Gospel account of the Last Supper, Jesus describes eternal life as a gift of knowledge.

"This knowledge is more than intellectual understanding," Pope John Paul said. "It is an encounter with the living God which takes place as the Holy Spirit transforms us internally."

"At the hour in which he prepares to face his death, Jesus concludes his farewell discourse with a great prayer addressed to the Father which can be considered his spiritual testament," the pope said. "By offering his life, Christ introduces his father to mankind."

The pope said the revelation of Jesus is "the royal road to knowledge of God, the father of all, who is eager to offer everyone the gift of salvation brought by the Son."

He also said "the history of salvation reveals ever more to us the initiative of the Father, who never ceases to open the hearts of believers so that they welcome the Word incarnate."

Church, state leaders announce papal visit to Romania May 7-9

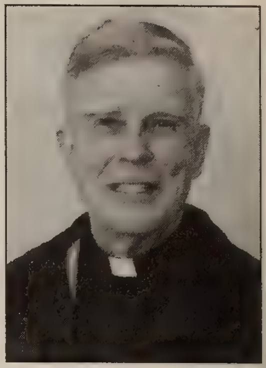
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit Romania May 7-9, his first trip to a predominantly Orthodox country. Romanian church and government leaders announced the dates March 15 after meeting with Vatican representatives to iron out differences over scheduling of the papal program. The pope's visit will feature an unusual ecumenical gesture: A divine liturgy celebrated by Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist in the pope's presence, followed by a papal Mass with the patriarch in attendance.

Pope names German bishop secretary of Christian unity council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appointed a German bishop known as an ecumenist and an accomplished theologian to be the new secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The appointment of Bishop Walter Kasper of Rottenburg-Stuttgart was made public by the Vatican March 16. He was to take up his position in May. Bishop Kasper, 66, has been a member of the International Theological Commission and has been Catholic co-chairman of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, a global group sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican.

Strategic Planning

REV. MSGR. WILLIAM N. PHARR, VF
GUEST COLUMNIST



In an ongoing effort to inform readers about development of the diocesan strategic plan for ministry, The Catholic News & Herald presents the following column. Other columns written by members of the committees involved in the process will appear in future issues.

The Resources for Ministry Committee for clergy and religious

This committee seeks to develop a realistic vision for the future, providing direction for our diocese in the areas of resources, recruitment and formation for those who will serve as priests, deacons, and religious.

There are 15 members of the committee. Msgr. Bill Pharr and Sister Judy Monahan, SSJ, are co-chairpersons. Sister Mary Timothy Warren, RSM, and Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning are staff resource persons. Paul and Beth Hoeing of Winston-Salem and Rev. Mr. Tim and Eileen Rohan of Greensboro are our couple representatives. Father Eric Houseknecht, Father Wilbur Thomas, Father John Schneider, Father Kieran Neilson, OSB, and Father Larry Hunt, SJ, are our priest representatives. Sister Lucy Hennessy, SMG, of Maryfield and Sister Bernadette McNamara, RSM, of Eden, are our sister representatives.

The process for developing goals and objectives required five meetings for discussion, reflection, refinement and consensus. Special emphasis was placed on the need for our goals to relate to those proposed by the committee on Lay Ministry, since future ministry will need to become more collaborative. Six goals, with related objectives, were developed by the committee:

(1) Establishment of a house of formation for clergy and religious with a collaborative ministry formation team.

(2) Development of a total program of health and well-being for clergy and religious dealing with ongoing physical, mental and spiritual concerns.

(3) More effective recruitment of clergy and religious within and outside the diocese.

(4) Preparing the laity for transition into alternative and collaborative forms of ministry in our parishes and institutions.

(5) Facilitating collaborative and alternative forms of ministry between priests, deacons and religious with explicit training for team ministry in parishes and institutions.

(6) Reevaluate the process for assignment of priests, deacons and religious through a diocesan personnel committee, responsible to the bishop regarding personnel issues and long-range planning regarding ministry personnel.

Goals and objectives, with related information, will be submitted to the Diocesan Strategic Plan Steering Committee for review and finalization.

Msgr. Pharr is pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Charlotte. He also serves as vicar for the Charlotte Vicariate.

Campus Ministry

JENNIFER RUPP
GUEST COLUMNIST

Last spring I had the opportunity to student lead "Voices," a diocesan-sponsored program designed by my campus minister to help college students become more aware of Catholic social teaching. The culmination of this experience was a week long mission trip to Glenmary Farm in Kentucky. We had the opportunity to learn about, serve, and get to know a very poor population. As Barbara Neff Hutchison, UNCC's campus minister, put it, "We learned solidarity with the poor." It wasn't something we could have learned from a book, or a pastoral document. We lived it. We breathed it. We breathed God, life, love, true human frailty and true human strength.

Throughout the week we encountered many people who touched our lives. The first night we met a group of children at Mass who were desperately poor and about to lose their mother to illness. Their smiles and laughter filled the small church as they served in Mass, surrounded by this community who obviously poured their love out to them. The children are some examples of all the wonderful people we were blessed to meet.

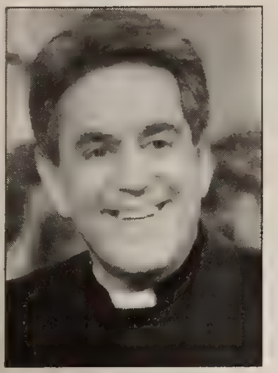
We rose early each morning, earlier than most college students knew it was possible to rise, to breakfast cooking and made our way across the damp lawn to the bathrooms, and contemplated whether it was worth taking a shower when we were just going to get dirty, very dirty as it happened, but each day we became more filled by the love we were freely given. We laid concrete, built the forms for walls, cleared brush, hammered and measured, climbed ladders and pushed wheel barrows. We dug and we played, sang and prayed. We shared and we cried, and we learned and we laughed and we celebrated, but most of all we loved. And we thanked God for bringing these people and experiences into our lives.

In the evenings we took turns pairing off to lead prayer and discussion. There under an endless blanket of stars with a blazing red fire shooting its sparks out toward the heavens, sitting on wooden benches, the house's few lights glowing nearby, all around us a welcoming presence, we sat and shared and grew and were filled through fellowship. We were constantly blessed by God's loving presence, in the amazingly beautiful surroundings, in the experiences, and in the people.

It is too often said, "But I don't have time." And I say it doesn't take a week of secluded service to experience solidarity and fellowship. I challenge you to take a hard look at your schedule and your priorities. We are presented every day with opportunities to love and to serve and to grow in our relationship with God. When do you allow God to fill you up with the amazing love and care and warmth that is extended to you? When do you look into the face of those who Jesus came to serve and say, "I know God wants to share something with me that I can't find anywhere else but in you, in the face and the plight of the poor?" When do you share your days experience of God's presence with someone you love, someone who will nurture that awareness and share the same with you? Are you being the part of the body (of Christ) that you alone are gifted and called to be? We do not need to reinvent the wheel; there are plenty of wheels out there. Find one, hop on and be circled with God's love.

An upcoming opportunity to step on the wheel is joining the Protestant/Catholic dialogue at the Faith Doing Justice Conference sponsored by Wingate University Campus Ministry on April 13. Come join us for great speakers, fellowship, and faith sharing. For more information contact Julie Whichard at (704) 233-8531.

Jennifer Rupp is the Catholic campus ministry intern at Brevard College.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Run to church this Sunday

The apostles Peter and John ran for their lives that first Easter morning. What Mary Magdalene had told them was just too good to be true — or was it? John, the speedier disciple, reached the tomb first and went in. "He saw and believed," John says of himself in his Gospel. Poor and happy John! His life would never be the same.

This Easter Sunday some will go to church out of a sense of obligation. Some will go to savor the festive spirit in the tradition of a springtime feast of new life — a fine old pagan custom. Others, just to delight in the flowers and fashions.

Whatever reasons you might have for going, I can tell you this: You will miss the whole point of Easter unless you go to discover new life — Christ's life in your life. "Oh," you say, "that's it! That's a great reason to go to Church — to discover new life. I have that tired, run-down feeling, and need something to perk me up."

No, my friend, I am afraid you would still be missing the point. There is no offer of more zip for your old life. Why do you want more energy to pursue the old direction? Why go faster if you have lost your way? It is time for our old lives to end. This Easter morning, come running to new life!

Most of us spend a lot of time experimenting and searching for our true selves. The Good News this Sunday is that your most true self is Jesus the Christ. Jesus of Nazareth was not just one person who existed in the slice of space and time we call the First Century. His life reveals the source and the goal of all life. The whole rhyme and reason of the universe is manifest in him.

If he were simply one other human being, he would have stayed dead like everyone else who has lived and died. But Jesus, the Son of God and Life of all that is, rose from the dead so that all people might have "life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) Christ's life passed the test that all other lives have failed. His is the life that offers life eternal.

I am certain that you already know some people who have risen to this new life. Some of them are universally recognized as great saints and prophets. Others are known only to you and perhaps a small circle of family and friends. But in such people we detect the presence of a secret. There is an extraordinary patience with the failings of their neighbors. There is a remarkable readiness to bear other people's burdens. There is an unusual determination, in the face of overwhelming odds, to do what is right! There is, in short, a quality of love and of life that we crave.

This Easter you can take hold of a promise that is meant especially for you. Within you is the secret of the universe's source and destiny. Within you is the voice that called Lazarus from the dead. Within you is the healing power that forgives and consoles. Within you is the love that remains constant.

This Easter Sunday you have nothing to lose but your old life. Run to the tomb, and discover your new life in Christ. He is risen. He is risen indeed.

Alleluia!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Who was the beloved disciple?

Q. Not long ago you had a most interesting column about the "disciple whom Jesus loved" in the Gospel according to John. You said no one knows for sure who this "mysterious, anonymous" figure is. I've never before heard that this disciple could be other than Zebedee's son, the apostle John. You write that there are several good reasons to indicate this person was someone else. Could you explain it a little more or direct me to some sources to throw light on the subject?

A. I was surprised at the number of people who wrote after that column with the same questions you have.

The tradition that the beloved disciple was John, the apostle and eyewitness of Jesus, goes back to Christian writings toward the end of the second century, about 100 years after the Gospel was written. It is common knowledge, however, that such later assumptions after the fact tended to be oversimplified. As the New American Bible suggests in its introduction to this Gospel, much more importance was placed on the authority behind the Gospel traditions than with the specific person who actually wrote them down.

The same seems to be true about this "disciple whom Jesus loved." For many reasons, he really is a mysterious figure. He is identified only in that Jesus loved him. His relationship to Jesus, lying on the Lord's bosom at the Last Supper, echoes that same Gospel's description of the relationship of Jesus to the Father (1:18).

Perhaps most intriguing, this disciple appears, at least with that designation, only in the final days of Jesus on earth — at the Last Supper (13:23), on Calvary (19:26) and in Galilee after the resurrection (21:20). That, if nothing else, seems to hint that something else is going on here than meets the eye.

In the final major work before his death, "An Introduction to the News Testament," Sulpician Father Raymond Brown, often called the dean of New Testament scholars, summarized three answers offered to the question: Who was the beloved disciple?

First, it could have been a known New Testament figure. Zebedee's son John is one possibility, but others have been suggested. Any answer would be only a guess.

Second, some scholars propose he is a pure symbol, the model of a perfect disciple. The fact that he is never given a name and appears alongside Peter in situations where the other Gospels mention no such figure could lend support for this view.

Third, the beloved disciple could have been a minor person in earlier synoptic traditions, too unimportant to be remembered in the first three Gospels, but who later became an important, ideal figure in the Johannine community out of which the fourth Gospel came to be written. ("An Introduction to the New Testament," pages 368-369)

This third view appears to be the one held by most scholars, including Father Brown himself.

Much further exploration of the question may be found in Father Brown's book already mentioned, in the New Jerome Biblical Commentary, in the New Interpreter's Bible (Volume 9) and in many other extended commentaries on John and the New Testament.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER ERIC HOUSEKNECHT
GUEST COLUMNIST

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Signs of new life surround us. Sounds of love and laughter flood the parks and various cafes as sunshine wakens tired limbs of winter. We feel renewed and alive again. Our journey brings us together toward our own Jerusalem. "Look for us, the faithful, with the angels and the children loudly praising the conqueror of death: Hosanna in the highest. " [Monastic liturgy]

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion opens the door to what our ancestors in faith called Holy Week. We approach with reverence having spent our Lenten days examining our lives through the eyes of Jesus. We embrace today with delight and celebrate its rich tapestry of sights, sounds, feelings and realities.

This is a week to enter into the passion of our Lord and to learn, rather ironically, how he enters into ours. I remember sitting at the window on board an airplane looking out on my parents waving goodbye. The thrill of leaving home for the first time was mixed with the pounding reality of my heart filled with fear and sadness over saying goodbye. For some of us it is hard to understand that the world is not the way we envision it to be. It is not the way we know God wants it to be. This is not the Garden of Eden. We create our own Garden of Gethsemane. It is a garden filled with tears of anguish, with prayers that beg that what we, or those we love, experience may be taken from us; that we might be delivered from our suffering. This is the other garden, the one in which we live. It is creation groaning in anguish, it is life in the throws of birthing. It is pain and hope, work and pleasure.

This Sunday begins a week full of ironies. One day Jesus is greeted with cheers of "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," only to be taunted with jeers five days later, "Crucify him!" "He saved others, let him save himself." We too, know these ironies. One day we are told, "I love you," and another, "I don't love you any more!" One day we receive high praise for our work and the next day we learn our job has been eliminated due to downsizing. One day we revel in the acceptance of our friends and the next day we may find ourselves the brunt of their laughter and derision.

To celebrate Holy Week is to celebrate who we have become through the great mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. All of our parish activities stop as we hold our breath in anticipation of the great unfolding of all human destinies — salvation through Jesus Christ.

Too often we remain in our own Garden of Gethsemane. Our newspapers and television reporters rush to show us the world that is broken, the hatred that fills lives, the diseases that rack our bodies and the injustice found in people, cultures, and nations. But, the cross of Jesus stands as a sentinel pointing to a new creation. It is a testimony to the love of God. A love that continues to fill our lives with the same new life and hope that comes with spring. This week of ironies finds us entering into the passion of our Lord, to learn how he enters into our world, revealing a God who stands with us in love, light and in truth.

Father Eric Houseknecht is diocesan director of vocations and administrator at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

CNS photo by James Baca, Denver Catholic Register

New Denver seminary

Seminarians listen as Archbishop Charles J. Chaput announces the creation of Denver's first archdiocesan seminary March 16. St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, opening in the fall of 1999, will be the only Catholic seminary between St. Louis and the West Coast. The archdiocese currently has 68 men in formation for the priesthood.

Church ends initial phase of Pope Paul VI sainthood cause

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — With a solemn "Te Deum" song of thanksgiving, Italian church leaders closed the initial phase of the sainthood cause for Pope Paul VI.

A ceremony in the Basilica of St. John Lateran March 18 marked the end of a six-year Rome diocesan investigation of the late pope's activities and spiritual virtues. The cause now goes to the Vatican for further investigation, which is expected to take several years.

The diocesan process included a review of documents written by or associated with Pope Paul, interviews with 165 witnesses and acceptance of 10 sworn statements from cardinals and bishops who knew him well.

In a talk, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, said the documentary phase had highlighted the late pope's great humility, along with his foresight in opening the church to the world.

Cardinal Ruini noted that it was Pope Paul VI who unexpectedly knelt to kiss the feet of an Orthodox metropolitan during a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica. The late pope also abolished the papal court, did away with the papal tiara and other trappings of the papacy.

Implementing the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul promoted the church's dialogues with contemporary culture, with other religions, with other Christian churches and within the Catholic Church itself, Cardinal Ruini said. He was also the first modern pope to travel extensively, kissing the ground when he arrived in a new country.

Cardinal Ruini said the reputed pessimism of Pope Paul VI was "an invention of the media." The pope was a realist when it came to the presence of evil in the world, but he firmly believed in the resurgence of Christianity and a modern thirst for spirituality, the cardinal said.

In an interview with Vatican Radio, the postulator for the cause, Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, said Pope Paul was a man who lived "in a profound, intimate union with God, which is the nucleus of sainthood." ▼

St. Therese relics coming to U.S. this fall

DETROIT (CNS) — U.S. Catholics will have a unique opportunity to view the relics of St. Therese of Lisieux at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in the Detroit suburb of Royal Oak and at other U.S. sites this fall and winter. The relics, which began an international tour in 1996, will be at the shrine all day Nov. 3 as part of a series of U.S. stops from Oct. 4 until Jan. 30, 2000.

Vatican has no objection to papal assailant's extradition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The man who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981 wants to go home to Turkey — to serve jail time for an earlier crime — and the Vatican said it has no objection to his extradition. Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy for the shooting, has campaigned for early release, saying he's already done more time than most Mafia bosses and murderers. As Agca's lawyers pressed again in early March for his release, the Vatican made clear that it would not stand in the way. A Vatican statement March 18 disclosed that twice in 1997, the Vatican informed Italian officials that it had no objections to Agca's extradition to Turkey.

Pastoral care workers gather to aid Illinois train wreck victims

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. (CNS) — As rescue workers from 35 communities converged on the scene of a March 15 train wreck, pastoral workers from as far as 90 miles away gathered at a Catholic hospital to help the victims and their families. Sister Inge Frank, a member of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, said pastoral care staff members at Provena St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee provided comfort to victims and their families throughout the night. "We tried to stay with the patients and tried to get information out to their families. We try to make connections for them," she added.

Muslims (literally) hold key to famed Jerusalem church

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Jerusalem's most famous Christian church, shared by three denominations, is unlocked each morning by a Muslim. Since the seventh century the family of Wajeeh Nuseibeh, 47, has handed down the responsibility of opening the door of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. "If the key would be in the hands of the Greek Orthodox, then that would signify they are the owners of the church. If it is the hands of the Catholics, then it would be a Catholic Church, the same with the Armenians (Orthodox)" said Nuseibeh. "So Muslims are neutral people to open and close the door."

DiMaggio a man of prayer, says priest who celebrated final Mass

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (CNS) — Even when he could not speak, baseball great Joe DiMaggio showed himself to be "a man who was used to praying," said the priest who celebrated the final Mass for DiMaggio before his death. "Joe couldn't talk that Sunday but his lips silently formed every response to the Mass," wrote Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale, president of St. Thomas University in Miami, in the March 13 issue of the Sun Sentinel newspaper in Fort Lauderdale. He was describing what he called DiMaggio's "last Mass," celebrated Feb. 28 at DiMaggio's bedside at his home in Hollywood, Fla. The former New York Yankee died March 8.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Imagine...
Music beautifully played at every Mass, special service or gathering...
Synthia
Your selection of music of the Catholic faith played on organ or electronic keyboard by the amazing Synthia... at the touch of a button.
Call today for a demonstration.
Music & Electronics
Corner Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 (800) 331-0768

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org
For information on specific programs please call your local office.
Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

In Russia, Catholic aid workers tend to bombing victims

By FRANK BROWN
Catholic News Service

Shortly before noon March 19, a powerful bomb ripped through the outdoor market in Vladikavkaz, leaving more than 50 people dead and at least 100 injured.

MOSCOW (CNS) — Catholic aid workers tended to survivors of a bomb blast that killed more than 50 people in the southern Russian city of Vladikavkaz.

The local Caritas office's three staff members and 12 volunteers delivered food to the hospitalized in Vladikavkaz, said the local Caritas director, Sergei Basiyev, in a telephone interview from his office in the stricken city.

He added that he was expecting further manpower, food and medicine from neighboring Caritas offices in the days to come.

"The situation is difficult but it is under control," said Basiyev. "People are busy burying their relatives. There have been no protests or demonstrations."

"It is tragic what happened.... But the church will remain with the people especially now, in this time of crisis."

— Father Michael Schreene

Shortly before noon March 19, a powerful bomb ripped through the outdoor market in Vladikavkaz, leaving more than 50 people dead and at least 100 injured.

Basiyev said that in the coming weeks his office would begin to focus on the long-term needs of the victims.

"Mostly the bomb affected people's legs. About 20 people lost at least one leg," said Basiyev.

The director of Caritas Russia, Father Hartmut Kania, said in an interview from St. Petersburg that he had appealed to partners in Wurtburg, Germany, for wheelchairs along with funding to help an injured child.

"One girl who is 5 years old lost both her legs in the blast, and we are trying to find help for her as well," said Father Kania, a German citizen. "Maybe we can arrange for her and her parents to rest and rehabilitate somewhere, maybe in Germany."

Catholic aid workers of Vladikavkaz — a city of 500,000 — say the volatile region is stable despite heated rhetoric and a government report that the terrorist attack was the work of religious extremists.

As of March 23, police had not identified any suspects in the attack. Russian media speculation as to the perpetrators has ranged from criminal gangs to unnamed political forces keen on further destabilizing the already lawless Caucasus region.

A presidential envoy to the region said a "fanatical" religious group had claimed credit. He did not elaborate.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin called for calm, denounced the bombing and declared March 21 a day of national mourning.

One local priest, Father Michael Screene, said the bomb blast was a further reminder of the dangers of working in the region. Vladikavkaz is just 30 miles from the breakaway republic of Chechnya, where the kidnapping of foreigners — including missionaries — has occurred.

Father Screene, who had been in Vladikavkaz as recently as March 18, said there were no plans to reassign foreign religious workers, who make up the vast majority of Catholic clergy in Russia.

"It is tragic what happened," said Father Screene, explaining that one Scottish and one Irish priest would continue serving the people of Vladikavkaz. "But the church will remain with the people especially now, in this time of crisis."

Compared to the dominant Russian Orthodox and Muslim faiths, the Roman Catholic Church has a relatively small presence in Vladikavkaz, with about 100 regular parishioners.

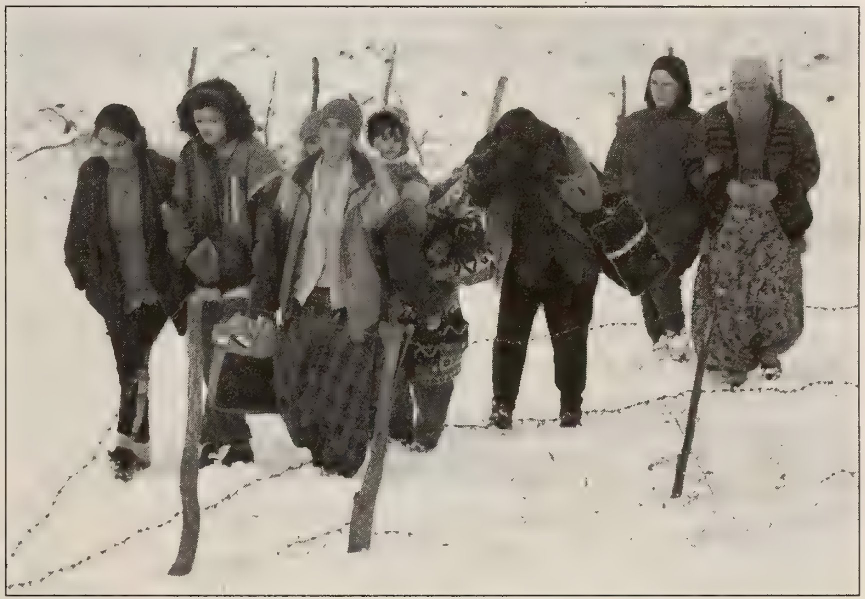
The city has a history of tolerance toward religious minorities.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II said in a statement from Moscow, "May the Lord grant eternal memory to those who were killed and speedy recovery to those who were injured and peace, common sense and victory over enmity to the people of the Caucasus and to us all."

Lyubov Mikhailova, treasurer of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Protection of Our Lady in Vladikavkaz, said by telephone March 22 that her church had devoted two services daily to victims of the bomb blast.

"They pray that God himself will know the names of those who died who cannot be identified," said Mikhailova. "More and more people have been coming to our church. They are afraid."

The vicars of the city's three Russian Orthodox churches had been making the rounds of local hospitals to visit victims and planned to deliver medicine later in the week, she said. ▼



CNS photo from Reuters

Kosovo refugees

Albanian women and children cross a snow-covered field as they flee a combat area in the Drenica region of Kosovo March 20. The pope urged courageous actions to bring peace to the area.

LIFE'S A JOURNEY...

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE PATHS?

- Do you wake up some days to a nagging voice telling you there's more to life?
- Are you looking for a balance of service, prayer and a deeper relationship with God within a supportive community?
- Has your career choice left you feeling empty, disconnected?
- Are you a woman looking to make a difference in the world?

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANSWERS!

If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to explore vowed religious life with the Sisters of Mercy.

Women are invited to join us as we share our journeys in Mercy at "Exploring Mercy," on May 8, 1999 from 9:30am - 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, NC. Call Lizz at 704.829.5260 by April 28 to register.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

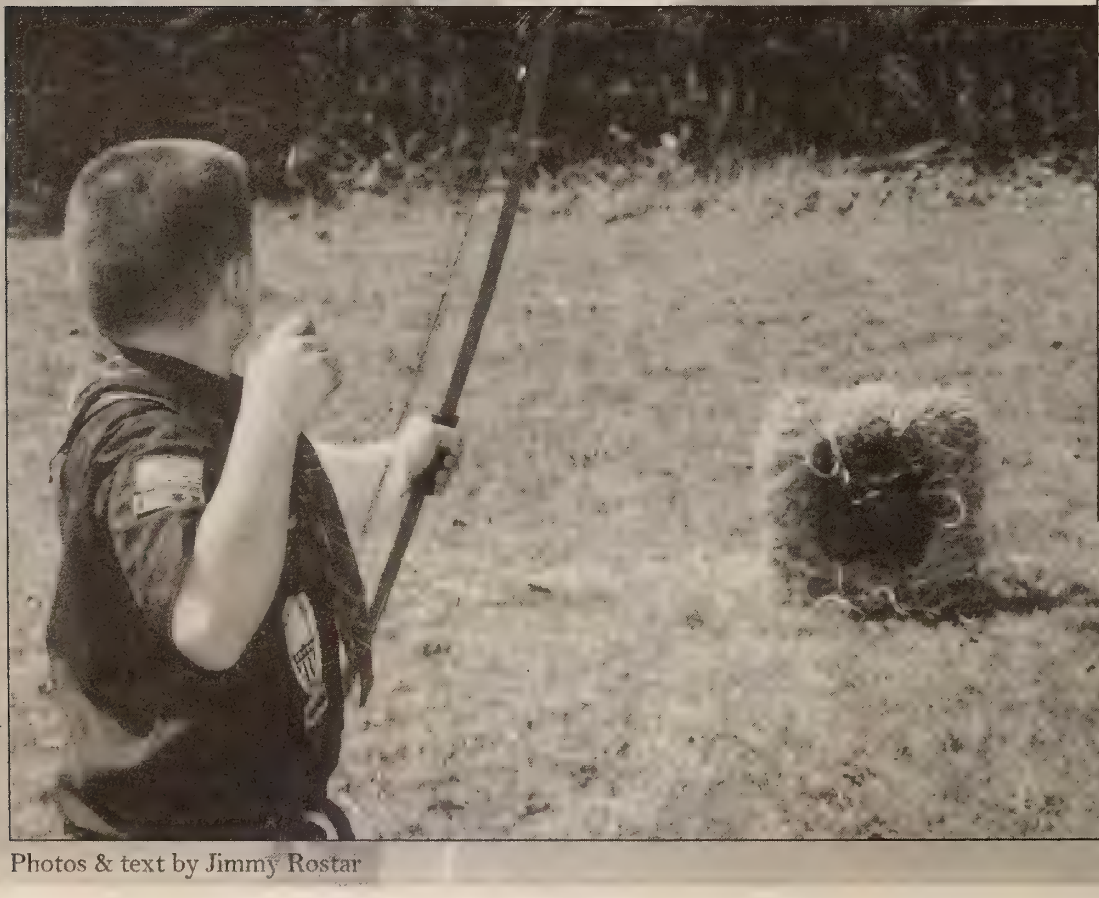
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Annual Charlotte

Cam

"This is a retreat to get ourselves out, have fellowship, and just have a good time," said Rev. Mr. Jim Johnson, Scouting chaplain for the diocese. "This is a way to get us to come back and realize that all of this comes from God. We can see all the joy and beauty; it's all in God's plan."

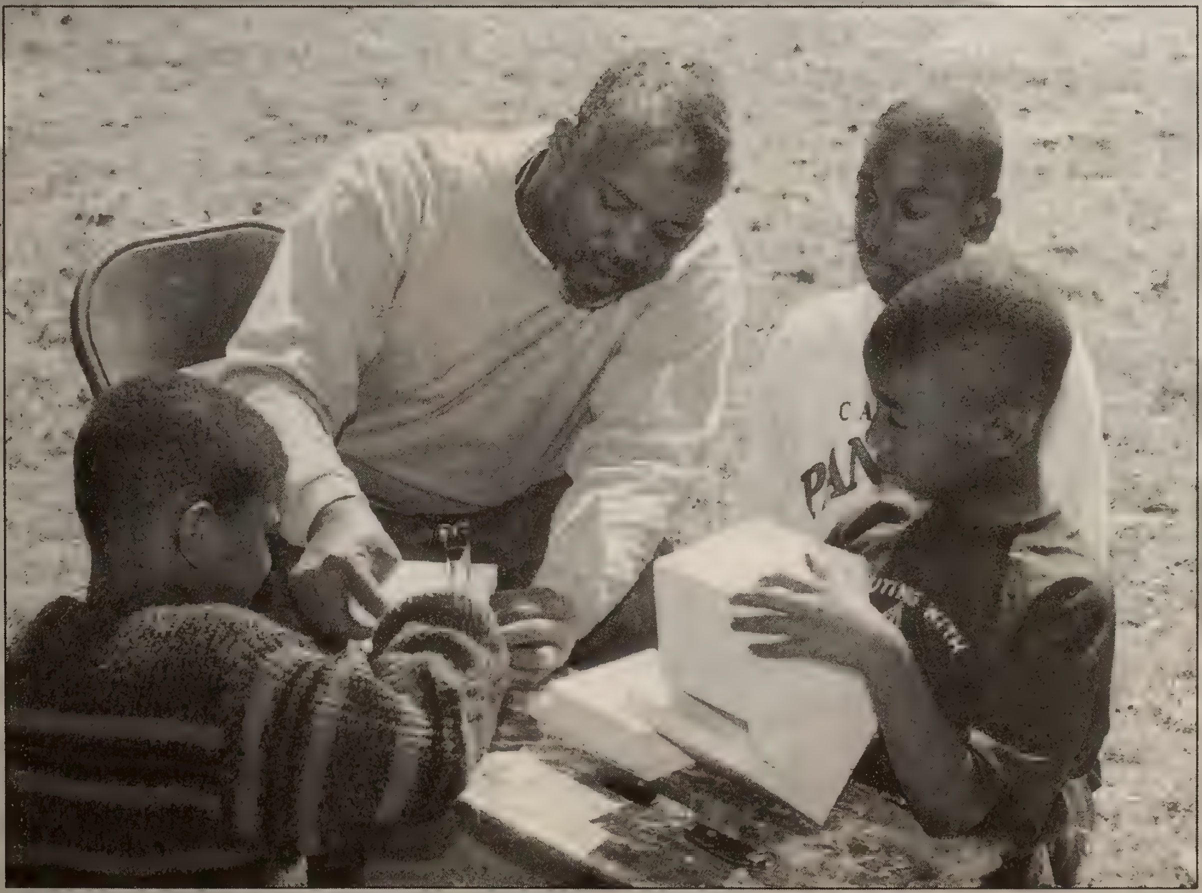


Photos & text by Jimmy Rostar

iocese Catholic
oree

Spring arrived just in time for the annual Charlotte Diocese Catholic Camporee March 19-21 on the grounds of the Catholic Conference Center near Hickory. About 200 Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos and Boy Scouts from across the Diocese of Charlotte, along with dozens of troop leaders and volunteer parents, gathered for a variety of Scouting and spiritual experiences, including a Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin.

"This is a place where we can come and take some time out to see what God's done for us."
— Rev. Mr. Jim Johnson



Bishop Untener writes book on 'Preaching Better'

By DAN DIGMANN
Catholic News Service

SAGINAW, Mich. (CNS) — Bishop Kenneth E. Untener doesn't profess to be a perfect homilist, so the 130 pages of his new book "Preaching Better" aren't filled with personal opinions about preparing and delivering effective homilies.

The Paulist Press paperback book released in mid-February instead offers practical suggestions for homilists based on nearly a quarter-century of research the bishop began when he became a part-time homiletics instructor at St. John's Provincial Seminary near Detroit.

Armed with a pocket notebook and a pen, Bishop Untener began in 1975 asking "the people in the pews" what they did or didn't like about homilies. He continued his investigation through the years, and in 1993 elevated his research by forming mandatory rotating homily groups of priests, pastoral administrators, deacons and lay homilists.

Members of the homily groups, which continue to meet regularly, listen to tapes and read the transcripts of each other's homilies. Then in two-hour sessions, they compliment, console, offer tips and try to figure out how they can preach better, Bishop Untener said.

"I found it helpful personally, and I maintained my interest saying 'Someday, I'll do a book on this,'" he said in an interview with The Catholic Weekly, Saginaw diocesan newspaper.

Bishop Untener brought the research together and wrote the book during his four-month sabbatical at Menlo Park, Calif., in early 1997. This is the second book Bishop Untener has had published. His first book "Sunday Liturgy Can Be Better" was published just before he became bishop of Saginaw in 1980.

His new book delves into how to prepare a homily, how to connect its message to real life, and what does and doesn't work in homilies.

One thing that surprised the bishop in his research was that the "runaway for first place" in people's complaints about homilies is not that they are too long.

"Without a question the consensus is that homilies often contain too many thoughts," Bishop Untener said.

To remedy this, Bishop Untener describes in his book how homilists should focus on one core thought.

"I refer to it as a 'pearl' that I describe as a core thought with depth, a valuable insight to be treasured," he writes.

To discover the "pearl," it is important to fully understand what a homily is, Bishop Untener said, explaining that being an active member of the homily groups has helped him in that respect.

"In years gone by, I pictured the homilist as a cook who looks to see what's in the pantry and the refrigerator (the readings), comes up with a menu (the 'main thought'), puts the meal together ... and then serves it," he writes in his book. "What I've become more conscious of is that the homilist comes into a kitchen that is filled with the smell of something already cooking and it is the Lord who is doing it.

"The liturgy is the Lord's meal all the way around: the menu, the cooking, the serving. We are helpers."

He said the challenge in preparing and delivering a homily is to discern what the Lord is doing and saying in the Scriptures, to help illuminate that for the assembly and then do all that on behalf of the church.

"It is not the power of the homilist, but the power of the word of God that shapes the church and shapes the individual believer," he writes. "The skill of the homilist comes into play, but it is a skill used to minister the word of God, not our own thoughts."

With this in mind, Bishop Untener said homilists should approach their task in the same way an artist does a painting: It could take hours to create, but they enjoy every minute of it.

"It's an investment of energy and time to write a homily, but it ought to be enjoyable," Bishop Untener said. "It is work but it's holy work, and we have to find ways to make it joyful and prayerful." ▼

Word to Life

March 28, Passion Sunday, Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9,17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
2) Philippians 2:6-11
3) Matthew 26:14 to 27:66

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

In reading of the Passion we must hear the stories of both Judas and Peter, because, after all, Jesus' suffering is for nothing if not for reconciling failed humans through the love and mercy of God. Knowing the outcome of Peter's great reconciliation with Jesus makes Judas' despair all the more heartbreaking.

Grieving loved ones of the victims of suicide often have the same regret: If he only could have held out a little longer, he could have experienced some joy, encouragement or love that would have offered hope!

My son and his piano teacher had a great deal of affection for each other, but an outside observer might not have guessed it. The defining term for their time spent together in lessons would have to be "exasperation." Nevertheless, they both hung in there, and Luke's abilities grew.

Occasionally "frustration" with playing would give way to their just talking as musicians about the teacher's highly accomplished past and the student's future. The teacher mentioned he would quit teaching at the end of the year since several students were graduating, and Luke was moving away.

A shining moment at the last recital sealed their relationship. The teacher had chosen Luke, playing his own compositions, as the finale on the program, even though there were other, more skilled pianists among the students performing.

"Their pieces are very heavy, and your music is so uplifting, it would be a better way to end," he told him. At the end of Luke's performance, his teacher, who rarely gives out compliments, stood before the audience and said with obvious pleasure: "Wow! That's the best you've ever played your own music! In about 15 years we'll be seeing you on TV accepting your Academy Award."

Luke knew this was a compliment rather than a prediction. But it left him a glimmer of a possibility that one day he would accomplish something that he could share with this teacher — the person whose approval he most wanted.

A few months later, though, we learned that the teacher had taken his own life. He'd been fighting clinical depression for some time, and even though he'd touched so many, he was nagged by feelings of failure.

Luke, who had so admired this man's musical gifts, was left with that "if only" feeling. The pupil still has his dreams, but they are diminished by the fact that if they are realized, he won't get to share them with the most important one. If only he had held on to see his life celebrated by those who loved him. ▼

Questions:

What failures and regrets in your life tend to blind you to the larger purpose that God has for you? How can you reprogram your own sense of purpose in light of Jesus' mercy and love of who you are in his eyes?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 28 - April 3, 1999

Passion Sunday, Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66; **Monday**, Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 50:5-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Holy Thursday**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Good Friday**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-10

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• Debt Consolidation
• Lower Monthly Payments
• Cash Out
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Laurence parish

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete
medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen - Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

TV Review

Program follows Minnesota fresco artist

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How ancient techniques are put to use in creating a new work of art in a modern American setting is shown in "Fresco," airing Thursday, April 1, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS.

The program follows Minnesota artist Mark Balma as he works on a giant fresco commissioned by the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis for the atrium ceiling of its downtown campus.

"Fresco"
airs Thursday, April 1, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS.

Watching Balma, viewers see how a fresco is painted by applying earth pigments directly to wet lime plaster which then hardens into a luminous image as a permanent part of the structure itself.

Painting a fresco proves such a time-consuming, labor-intensive process, it becomes easy to understand why it almost vanished as an art form after the Renaissance.

Yet Balma was fascinated by the frescoes he saw while studying in Italy, especially those of Giotto in the Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi.

Back home in America, Balma taught himself the art of fresco-making by studying what 15th-century painter Cennino Cennini had written on the subject.

After mastering the form in several previous projects, Balma was ready to undertake the university's commission to paint seven frescoes in the ceiling panels of its downtown school.

The subject of the frescoes was to be the seven virtues of faith, hope, charity, justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude which were taken from the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas, the university's patron saint.

Since the frescoes were intended for all who passed through the atrium, the imagery depicting these virtues was to be contemporary and multicultural, rather than traditional Christian iconography.

Produced and directed by Deborah Boldt and narrated by actress Susan Sarandon, the program conveys a vivid appreciation not only of the visual attraction of the fresco but of its innate difficulties as an art form.

Equally intriguing is the time spent looking at each of the completed frescoes as Balma explains what he was trying to achieve with his choice of symbolic images.

Added to this are some interviews with members of the local community explaining their reaction to the frescoes and what the virtues depicted mean to them.

The result is a fascinating program that teaches a little bit about art while rewarding the viewer with some experiences of its physical beauty, emotional depth and spiritual substance.

The program is certainly worth seeing and it is worth noting that it was partly funded by the Catholic Communication Campaign. ▾

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO

"Abba Pater" CD

Sony Classical in cooperation with Vatican Radio is releasing "Abba Pater" featuring instrumental works and reflections by Pope John Paul II. The CD was to go on sale worldwide March 23.

New at the box office

The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"The King and I" (Warner Bros.)

Tuneful animated version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical in which the imperious king of 19th-century Siam (voice of Martin Vidnovic) hires a prim English schoolmarm (voice of Miranda Richardson) to teach his many children Western ways but discovers he has much to learn himself. Director Richard Rich's pretty animation is overshadowed by the splendid music that should entertain viewers of every age. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Sparkler" (Strand)

Offbeat comedy in which an unlikely friendship develops between a sweet-natured housewife (Park Overall) fleeing her faithless husband of 15 years and three young men hoping to win their way out of debt in Vegas. Director Darren Stein finds the heart in the main characters despite the tawdry surroundings of sleaze bars and their lowlife inhabitants. A fairly graphic sexual encounter, brief violence, nudity and sexual references, as well as recurring rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"True Crime" (Warner Bros.)

Tautly paced drama in which a disgraced, womanizing reporter (Clint Eastwood) newly assigned to cover the execution of a black man (Isaiah Washington) at midnight races against time to turn up evidence to support his belief in the man's innocence. As produced and directed by Eastwood, the character studies of both men prove absorbing, but the climax is flawed by trite plot contrivances. Brief violence, sympathetic treatment of adultery, much rough language and recurring profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Get
DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive
EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Retiring or changing jobs?
How will you handle your Lump Sum Distribution?
"Guide to Lump Sum Distributions" can help answer your questions. Call for a free copy.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC.

For Easter & RCIA
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
1410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT
. 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
. Miles of white sandy beach
. Island's largest outdoor pool
. 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
. Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
. Retreats & reunions
800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!
Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.
HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Diocese restates policy regarding ministry-related sexual misconduct by church personnel

A common mission of all of us is to be holy. A holy people will not allow one of its members to be a victim of ministry-related sexual misconduct. It is with this in mind that the Diocese of Charlotte issues this policy which affirms that all human suffering as well as the weaknesses and imperfections of human beings deserve a response that is rooted in love, concern and compassion.

The term ministry-related sexual misconduct as used throughout this policy refers to three related forms of misconduct. The first, which is sexual contact between church personnel and a child, is often called sexual abuse. The second, which is sexual contact between church personnel and another adult is often called sexual misconduct. The third, which is unwanted sexual conduct or language is often called sexual harassment. All three are addressed herein together because they each involve an abuse of power or authority.

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to dealing with allegations of ministry-related sexual misconduct by church personnel. In order to achieve this commitment, the following policy and procedures have been adopted and are to be implemented with justice and equity. The policy sets forth a process of internal church grievance and is not intended to create any rights in any person, to obligate the diocese to act at any time or in any manner, or to establish any responsibility of the diocese. The Diocese of Charlotte will willingly cooperate with civil authorities as to the extent possible in all circumstances. In addition, there may be cases where the tenets of the Catholic religion, the prescriptions of canon law, or the greater good of all concerned require that action at variance with the provisions of this policy be taken; therefore, the Chancery reserves the right to interpret, modify or replace this policy as it deems necessary.

The Diocese of Charlotte presents these guidelines not because of past failures, not to cause alarm or fear, but rather to set forth a clear policy for the protection of our priests, permanent deacons, religious and laity. The policies and procedures that we have adopted reflect our experience and the studies of many others and must always be construed in the light of the gospel and the principle, "salus animarum suprema lex," that is, the well-being of the people is our primary obligation.

SECTION 1
General Provisions

1.1 Compassion requires that primary attention be given to the alleged victim of ministry-related sexual misconduct, however, the victim's family will be contacted immediately by the Chancery with an offer of spiritual help and pastoral counseling. If the need for counseling or medical help for the victim or his/her family is indicated, this too shall be offered, but without admission of guilt or of any liability on the part of the Diocese of Charlotte.

1.2 Any person convicted of sexual abuse may not be permitted to return to active ministry.

1.3 In instances where the accused is not convicted, not found liable by a court of competent jurisdiction, or does not admit to sexual abuse, the Chancery will make a determination as to whether or not the accused will be returned to ministry.

1.4 The Diocese of Charlotte will not require an attempt at reconciliation between an abuser and victim. The involvement of any diocesan personnel in non-authorized reconciliation efforts will be treated as a violation of this policy.

1.5 No pastor, associate pastor, or director of any diocesan institution or facility is permitted to grant full or part time residence, or regular week-end ministry to an extern priest, a permanent deacon or a religious without prior approval from the Chancery. Short term hospitality in conformity with these norms is at the discretion of the pastor. For other individuals, no-one may be extended hospitality as a resident, full or part time, without prior approval from the Chancery.

1.6 The Diocese of Charlotte will periodically conduct continuing education sessions for clergy, religious, employees and volunteers that will update them from viewpoints such as new scientific knowledge, church policy and canon law, civil law, and of moral theology, professional ethics, that pastoral care of victims and coping with the disclosure of misconduct by a colleague.

1.7 An individual Advisory Board will be appointed by the Chancery. The responsibilities of the board will include the review of reports of sexual abuse and all actions taken in response to those reports, to ensure the integrity of the process, to offer advice concerning investigations, to advise as to the need for pastoral care for affected individuals, and to provide advice and recommendations to the Chancery regarding the implementation of any aspect of this policy. The board will also periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and propose revisions as indicated.

1.8 Because the stigma and shame associated with ministry-related sexual misconduct might make the accused feel that he/she will be abandoned by the church, the church will do whatever it can to help the accused to experience its support. Whatever the outcome of an investigation or trial, the Diocese of Charlotte will be solicitous of the needs of the accused in order to see that he/she gets the personal support he/she needs during a very difficult time.

1.9 Allegations against the Bishop are beyond the scope of this policy. Any such allegation shall be directed to the Vicar General who will contact the Papal Nuncio and the appropriate government department.

SECTION 2
Definitions

2.1 Sexual abuse: The exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult. Sexual abuse includes acts of incest, rape or sexual offense in any degree, sodomy and unnatural or perverted sexual practices, lewd or indecent acts or proposals, including exhibitionism, touching or fondling, permitting or encouraging a child to participate in acts of prostitution or pornography.

2.2 Child: Any person under the age of eighteen (18).

2.3 Sexual misconduct: (a) The touching of a private part of another person. Private parts can include the genital or anal areas, the groin, the inner thigh, the buttocks, or the bosom of a female. Touching means either a single incident in which church personnel intentionally brings a part of his/her body or another object into physical contact with a private part of another person, or repeated incidents of the same type, whether intentional or unintentional; (b) Any conduct and/or relationship of a sexual nature that can bring scandal.

2.4 Sexual harassment: Unwanted attention, ogling, words, pictures, jokes or comments of a sexual nature that are directed towards an individual or in the general environment.

2.5 Church personnel: Includes bishops, priests, deacons, religious, lay employees and volunteers involved in ministry or work for the Diocese of Charlotte.

SECTION 3
Applications — Lay Personnel

3.1 The diocesan form, Application For Lay Employment, must be completed and submitted by all applicants for any paid position in the Diocese of Charlotte.

3.2 The diocesan forms, Application For Lay Employment and Volunteer Profile must be completed and submitted by all persons volunteering for positions that involve supervised or unsupervised ministry or work with children.

3.3 The original of all applications

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

1999
A time for fun, prayer and family closeness at the beach!
Catholic Summer Family Program

June 13-18 Family Week
June 20-25 Family Week
June 27-July 2 Family Week
July 4-9 Hispanic Week
July 11-16 Family Week
July 18-23 Single Parent Week
July 25-30 Family Week
August 1-6 Family Week
August 8-13 Family Week
August 15-20 Family Week
August 22-27 Family Week
August 29-Sept 3 Family Week

Other Weeks:
June 6-11 Adult Week, Centering Prayer Sept. 6-10 Adult Week

The summer program begins Sunday afternoon at 5 with Mass and concludes Friday afternooon. The cost includes food, room and program fees. Each family has separate A/C room.

2006 Wicker St., North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

Strengthening Christian family values
Daily Mass
A place to get away & recharge
Fun at the beach
Making friends with others who think spirituality is important

Contact the Center Director for more information & application
[910] 328-1584

Con't.

and profiles must be kept as part of the parish, agency, school, institution or department personnel files.

SECTION 4

Applications — Clergy, Seminarians, and Religious

4.1 All clergy seeking assignment to perform ministry in a stable, official capacity in the Diocese of Charlotte for more than thirty (30) days must complete and submit the diocesan form, Application By A Priest/Deacon Seeking Assignment To The Diocese Of Charlotte. In addition, religious clergy must also have the diocesan form, Statement Of The Religious Superior On The Suitability Of A Candidate, completed and submitted.

4.2 All individuals seeking acceptance as a seminarian in the Diocese of Charlotte must complete and submit the diocesan form, Personal Questionnaire For Applicants For The Seminary.

4.3 All religious seeking assignment to perform ministry in a stable, official capacity in the Diocese of Charlotte for more than thirty (30) days must complete and submit the diocesan form, Application By All Members Of Religious Institutes Seeking Assignment To The Diocese Of Charlotte. In addition, all religious must also have the diocesan form, Statement Of The Religious Superior On The Suitability Of A Candidate, completed and submitted.

4.4 Secular clergy seeking an official assignment, and religious clergy who are not being postulated for assignment by a religious superior, may be required to undertake a psychological evaluation.

SECTION 5

Reporting Requirements

5.1 Any person having actual knowledge of, or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual misconduct by any church personnel of the Diocese of Charlotte shall immediately report the incident to the Chancery, unless to do so would violate the priest-penitent relationship of the Sacrament of Penance. The Chancery will then report, or direct the reporting of the incident to the proper civil authority.

5.2 Any person making a report will be asked to complete and submit the diocesan form, Report Of Suspected Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct By Church Personnel.

5.3 No action concerning an accused individual will be taken by the Diocese of Charlotte on the basis of anonymous or uncorroborated accusations. The accused will be informed of the anonymous complaint and of the disposition of the matter.

5.4 Any act of retaliation or discrimination against an individual who reports or complains of ministry-related sexual misconduct is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated by the Diocese of Charlotte.

SECTION 6

Procedures When Allegations Are Made Against A Lay Employee or Volunteer

6.1 On receiving an allegation of ministry-related sexual misconduct, the Chancery will notify the accused of the nature of the allegation and will conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, the accused will be placed on administrative leave (with pay for paid employees) pending the outcome of a full diocesan investigation.

6.2 No diocesan investigation will interfere with any civil investigation, and all will be conducted with a high level of Christian pastoral care for the alleged victim, his/her family, the person reporting the incident, the accused, and all other persons whose lives are touched by the incident.

6.3 If the full diocesan investigation finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation is true, the accused's employment or volunteer relationship with the Diocese of Charlotte will be terminated immediately. The diocese will encourage the individual to seek an appropriate treatment program.

6.4 If the full diocesan investigation finds that there is not reasonable cause to believe that the allegation is true, the accused will be restored to duty at his/her original, or a comparable position.

6.5 It is the private responsibility of the accused to obtain his/her own legal counsel.

SECTION 7

Procedures When Allegations Are Made Against Clergy, Religious, Or Seminarians In Service To The Diocese

7.1 On receiving an allegation of ministry-related sexual misconduct, the Chancery will notify the accused of the nature of the allegation and will conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter. Following the initial inquiry, if it is determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegation has some basis, the accused will be placed on administrative leave and/or relieved from assignment . In the case of a diocesan priest or seminarian, he shall be assigned to a recognized treatment center to receive appropriate evaluation and treatment. In the case of a permanent deacon, the decision as to assignment to a recognized treatment center will be made by the Chancery. In the case of a religious, the decision as to assignment to a treatment center will be made by the religious superior.

7.2 Participation of an accused cleric in appropriate professional treatment/counseling is required as a matter of clerical obedience (c. 273). Treatment/counseling referral is for treatment, not for punishment.

7.3 Any administrative leave will be planned and circumstances determined in a way specific to each situation and to each individual in accord with canon 1722. In general, an administrative leave will be time limited, will allow for re-determination at the end of such time limit, will specify living arrangement, location, financial support, and will address treatment, conduct and aftercare.

7.4 Following evaluation and treatment, if aftercare is prescribed, the accused will be assigned to a priest-monitor who will be a friend in very difficult circumstances and who will ensure that the aftercare program is being carried out.

7.5 Future ministry will require in part a full sharing with the Chancery of all information developed in the course of treatment. Authorization from the accused is required in all cases to allow the treatment providers to communicate freely with the Chancery.

7.6 Upon the conclusion of treatment and aftercare, a priest or permanent deacon may be assigned to a parochial ministry, non-parochial ministry, or be assisted to resign from all clerical ministry. If the accused does not express a desire to return to restricted ministry, or to live in a supervised setting, or to resign from ministry and seek laicization, the Diocese of Charlotte may pursue appropriate courses of action under the Code of Canon Law. In certain cases, if it is determined that an accused priest will not be returned to ministry, the Chancery will offer him a program of retraining so that he can find employment and become self-supporting.

7.7 The Diocese of Charlotte is responsible for the diocesan salary of a priest, seminarian or permanent deacon undergoing treatment who have been relieved of their duties and responsibilities in accordance with this policy.

7.8 In the case of a priest, seminarian, permanent deacon, or religious from another diocese, the Chancery will immediately notify the appropriate bishop or superior of the allegation and of the actions that have been/will be taken by the Diocese of Charlotte.

7.9 In cases where the accusation is found to be true, the accused will be the primary person responsible for the payment of the victim's therapy and attendant expenses, and will be required to reimburse the diocese for all expenses that it incurred in connection with the matter.

7.10 It is the private responsibility of the accused to obtain his/her own legal counsel.

SECTION 8

Media and Communications

8.1 The Chancery shall be responsible for all media contacts and will appoint a primary spokesperson to handle all media inquiries, all release of information and all news conference arrangements.

SECTION 9

Sanctions

9.1 Any church personnel who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this policy will be subject to such action(s) by the Diocese of Charlotte as it deems necessary, up to and including termination from any position with the diocese and/or with any parish, mission, or other Catholic agency, institution, or organization which is subject under canon or civil law to the administration, authority or governance of the Diocese of Charlotte. Applicants or volunteers for positions with the Diocese of Charlotte who similarly fail to comply with the provisions of this policy may be denied or removed from such positions.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

YES, IT WORKS!

The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...

"The Catholic News & Herald not only reaches my target market, but I was amazed at how quickly ModularCorp actually had responses. It has been a great investment."

— Daniel Murray, President, ModularCorp

Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...

For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

CFC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
ON THE SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Clarion Resort

Offering...Oceanview or islandside rooms and extra large efficiencies. Pool, Hot Tub, Sundry Store, Tennis Court, Bike & Beach Equipment rental

Bennigan's Irish American Grill & Tavern on Premise

SPRING SPECIAL

Rates From $55* Sunday- Thursday

Includes: Welcome cocktail and ½ day bike rental with picnic lunch.

*Limited Availability. Expires 4/22/99

Jekyll Island is located mid-way between Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. Restaurants and shops are plentiful, as are 63 holes of championship golf, historic district, bike trails, and miles of beach.

800-253-5955

A Marian Pilgrimage

May 5-14

Registration ending soon — Call today!

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:

E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pinochet protest

A woman hammers crosses into the ground in London's Parliament Square March 23. The crosses represent people who are believed to have been killed or kidnapped under the regime of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, who was arrested in London last October at the request of Spain.

Web site offers 'spiritual postal delivery' to Holy Land sites

TEL AVIV, Israel (CNS) — A new electronic service that calls itself a "spiritual postal delivery service" will allow Christians to send their personal prayers and blessings to sacred sites in the Holy Land.

Prayers sent through the service will be inscribed in special prayer books and delivered to Christian holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Armageddon (Megiddo) and the Sea of Galilee and preserved there for the new millennium.

A copy of the prayer or blessing is stamped with the seal of the holy site selected and returned to the sender. The service costs $15, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Called "Jesus2000.com Holy Land Blessings," the service can be accessed on the World Wide Web at www.Jesus2000.com.

Alex Barak, Jesus2000's founder and head of Barak & Thunder, a provider of commercial Internet business solutions in Israel, said some of the prayers and blessings will be published in a collection as a "way to share the prayers and hopes for peace from around the world."

"We invite Christians from all over the world to honor their loved ones and friends by sending personal prayers and blessings to the Holy Land for the third millennium," he said.

The Jesus2000.com Web site includes a free guided tour of the Holy Land's most important sites and shrines through photos, maps and multimedia presentations including live audio and video streams of news events as they happen. ▼

Come enjoy
Seniors' Spring Fling '99
At the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Come from 9-10am for coffee and danish

Your day will be filled with fellowship, Mass with Fr. Ed Sheridan, music, lunch with friends, games, crafts, bingo, door prizes, and more...

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Seniors' Spring Fling, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ____________________ Phone ____________________

Address ____

City ____________________ Parish ____________________

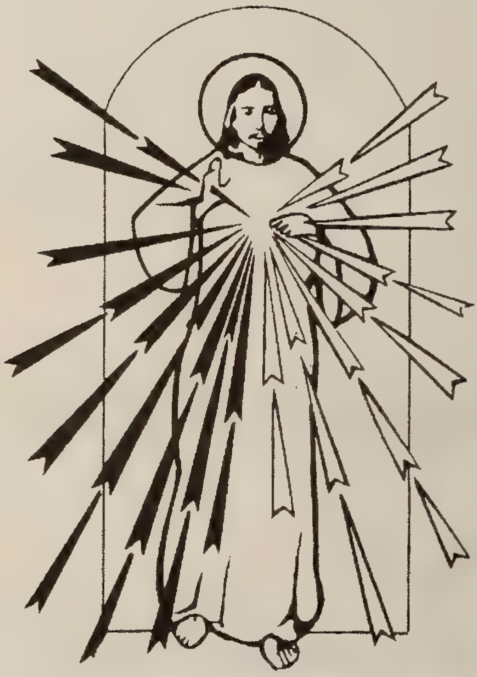
$7.50 per person. Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services.**
Registration deadline: April 15
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 1999

Come and share in God's merciful love.

"Loving mercy surrounds those who trust in the Lord." —Ps. 32:10



1:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation*
2:00 pm	Rosary
2:30 pm	Chaplet of The Divine Mercy
3:00 pm	Concelebrated Mass
4:00 pm	Bookstore opens in library; Divine Mercy Film, library

Our Lady of Grace Church
2205 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403
(336) 274-6520

Novena to The Divine Mercy
Good Friday 3:00 pm
Holy Saturday 3:00 pm
Easter Sunday 12:30 pm
Monday thru Saturday 7:30 pm
Divine Mercy Sunday 2:30 pm

* We highly recommend confession at your local parish prior to coming in order to gain the indulgence.

Brothers playing at Duke share basketball player's dream

By CLAUDINE VERDON MARTIN
Catholic News Service

SHELBURNE, Vt. (CNS) — They are possibly the most excited players on the bench during any given game, jumping up every now and then to react to a play and cheering their teammates.

But Shelburne natives Justin and Ryan Caldbeck, both Catholic high school graduates, are most of all thankful for the opportunity to be members of the elite — the No. 1 ranked Duke University men's basketball team.

Justin and Ryan graduated in 1995 and 1997, respectively, from Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington.

They are only the second pair of brothers to play at the same time for the Durham, N.C.-based basketball powerhouse — a fact they both agree is "something special." The others were Cedric and Garland Loftis in 1942 and 1943.

Earlier in the season the two Caldbecks spoke to The Vermont Catholic Tribune, Burlington diocesan newspaper, about being on the team.

"I had been watching Duke basketball for so long," Justin said. "To play for this team had been a dream of mine for 10-15 years. When I first found out that I had made the team I was in such disbelief — it was all so surreal. One almost does not know what to do when a long-held goal actually happens!"

Ryan's dream had always been to play college basketball, but for "a much smaller school." Until he visited his older brother at Duke.

"Basically, I decided that I was going to take my chances there," the sophomore guard explained. As a freshman he was a team manager "with the hope of walking on at some point," he added. "But, being a manager is like being hungry without access to any food."

The summer before his sophomore year, Ryan decided give up the manager position to devote 120 percent of his energy to drills on the basketball court, in hopes of being chosen for the team as a walk-on.

> "God has been really important in my life and basketball," Justin said. "I would have to say that especially during my freshman year when I so wanted to be a part of the team and not just sit on the sidelines. I know that I really looked to Jesus for some extra strength – it would have been so easy to stop and give up."

About a week later "out of the blue" after formal team practices began, Ryan said, he received a call from a member of the coaching staff and as of Dec. 30, he was officially on the team's roster.

Justin's first season as a member of the Duke basketball team was as a walk-on his sophomore year; he was a team manager his freshman year.

Although the guard and economics major only saw 21 minutes on the court, Justin's presence on the team did not go unnoticed. In April 1997, he shared with two teammates an annual award given to the reserves who contribute "the most to team morale."

Justin spent 1997-98, his junior year, on a study abroad program in England, where he played basketball for the London School of Economics and averaged 25 points and eight rebounds per game.

"Before I left for London, Coach (Mike) Krzyzewski told me that he was excited to have me back for my senior year. That is what made my experience in London so great — to know that I would be coming back and being able to play basketball on the team," Justin said.

What distinguishes the Caldbeck brothers is that academics is the main component of their acceptance to the university, not basketball.

Justin hopes to work as an investment banker or a strategic consultant following graduation this spring. Both young men said that one of the secrets to their success is discipline — learned at Rice Memorial High School.

"I do not think that I would be where I am today if I had not gone to Rice," Justin said. "Discipline helped settle me down and get me focused. You lose sight of your dreams when you lose your focus."

Both Caldbecks said their faith has helped during the tough and frustrating times.

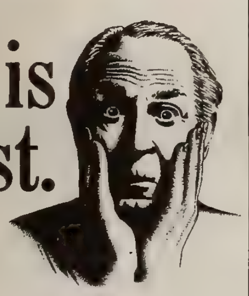
"God has been really important in my life and basketball," Justin said. "I would have to say that especially during my freshman year when I so wanted to be a part of the team and not just sit on the sidelines. I know that I really looked to Jesus for some extra strength — it would have been so easy to stop and give up."

Ryan said, "I felt that I needed to have a lot of faith in God that things were going to work out for the better — and they have, in the best way. Even as a team, we pray."

Before they go onto the court at game time, the coach prays mainly "for us to stay away from injury — not to win the game — which shows where his priorities are," Ryan added.

With Duke's No. 1 ranking and its place among the "Sweet 16" in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, a national title is a definite possibility for the Duke team.

"I cannot even imagine what it would be like to be the best team in the country," Ryan said. "But you know what would be the best part of it," Justin added, "we would be sharing this with a great bunch of guys that really are like our second family." ▼



OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

This is a Test.

	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: **Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.**

For a free information packet, call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving.
(704) 370-3320

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Development: The diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Social Services. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Appropriate experience in fund-raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communications skills, the ability to handle numerous tasks at once and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by April 30 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to (770)516-4664.

Elementary Principal: Blessed Sacrament School in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning July 1, 1999. With an enrollment of 410 students in grades Pre-K through 8, this SACS and FCC accredited school challenges its students to strive for academic excellence and high standards of faith and moral values. Applicants are to be practicing Catholics who can enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates should have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the State of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application from, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Phone: (912)238-2344 Fax: (912)238-2339.

Director of Liturgy: Opportunity to serve fulltime in welcoming, prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life. Vatican II community, 1900 families in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, staff. Requires master's degree or equivalent, knowledge of church rites and rituals; empowering, collaborative, pastoral; music skills welcome. Immediate opening; salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Phone (336)294-4696; fax (336)294-6149.

Elementary Principal: St. Paul the Apostle School in Spartanburg, South Carolina is seeking a Principal for the 1999-2000 school year. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, within proximity of Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. St. Paul's School has a Pre-K through eighth grade academic and daycare program for our 200+ students. We are seeking a practicing Catholic with dynamic teaching, development and leadership skills. MA in Education Administration or related field, minimum of five years' teaching and/or administration experience. Letters of interest and resume should be addressed to: Very Rev. Michael R. De Antonio, V.F., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 161 N. Dean St., Spartanburg, S.C., 29302. Deadline for applications: April 30, 1999.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is hiring certified teachers in Math, PE/Health, English, Religion, Part-time Spanish, and a school-certified counselor for the 1999-2000 school year. For an application, please send resume to the school at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

Student blessed with scholarship

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Jeff Black believes each new accolade he gets is a blessing. For this West Charlotte High School senior, blessings have long been in abundance. Most recently, Black was one of 34 students in North Carolina to earn the prestigious 1999 Morehead Award, an all-expenses-paid scholarship to UNC Chapel Hill.

KPC Photography

Jeff Black

Worth about $53,000, the scholarship pays for four years of undergraduate study and a summer enrichment program. Patterned after the Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University in England, the Morehead is designed to attract student leaders at UNC.

"It's a big, big, big relief," Black says after learning about the Morehead. "My life got really simplified and at the same time really complicated."

Once he got the news, "I got down on my knees," he says, "and thanked God."

Jeffrey Allen Black, 18, is the son of Donald and Elda Black. The family, including older sisters Stephanie and Sherilynn, moved to Charlotte in the late '80s from Milwaukee and joined Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church. (Sherilynn, now a UNC sophomore, won the Morehead Award in 1997).

Black's mother says his faith in God sustained him during the lengthy, grueling interview process for the Morehead Award.

"(Each time) as he packed his stuff (for interviews in Chapel Hill), he'd take his little prayer book," his mother recalls. "He always had that with him."

Of Catholicism, Black says, "I know that it gives me a great spirituality. It feels good when you know there's something you can fall back on always and it's not gonna waiver. I know that it's God that keeps me here every day. ... I always make sure that I take out time that I can get right with God."

The Morehead Award is the latest of Black's numerous academic and community achievements. At West Charlotte, he's ranked 11th out of the school's 404 seniors. In January he received Community Pride magazine's Youth Award. Last summer, he traveled to Japan as a recipient of the Japan-U.S. Senate Scholarship Program. He's also been recognized in Who's Who Among American High School Students, and received the City of Charlotte's Youth Recognition Award and the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout Bronze Palm Award.

Jeff Ready, program director for a service group called the Youth Involvement Council, worked closely with Black last year on the council's race project called Unity.

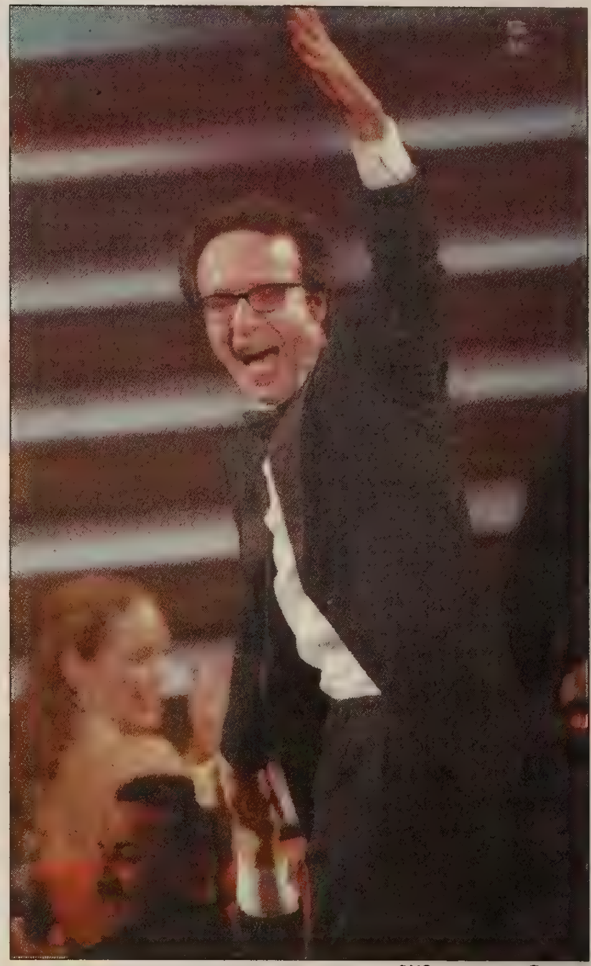
"I really am kind of amazed at how he is willing to take on new opportunities and new challenges," he says about Black. "He's also very open-minded. He's very accepting of other people."

At Our Lady of Consolation, Black is a member of the youth group. Nanette Lide, the group's co-director, calls him "an extraordinary young man. His numerous awards reward his hard work, conviction and achievement. He is constantly setting and achieving his goals. His faith in God is evident by his mild mannerism and friendly smile ...

"With his social justice/political involvement, I truly see a president in the making."

This year, Black was unanimously selected by his church group peers to be nominated for the Bishop Michael J. Begley and Christian Service Awards. The winner will be announced at the Diocesan Youth Conference at Camp Thunderbird in Clover, S.C., in late April.

At Chapel Hill, Black plans to study premed before moving into sports medicine. A track-and-field athlete at West Charlotte, he hopes to one day be an orthopedic surgeon. ▼


CNS photo from Reuters

Benigni wins the Oscar
Italian actor/director Roberto Benigni climbs on the back of the seats and rejoices upon hearing his film "Life Is Beautiful," won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film March 21. Benigni also won the Best Actor award. Pope John Paul II watched the film with Benigni in January and later told journalists it showed the possibilities of finding beauty in life under the grimmest of situations.

Come Celebrate Holy Week

Holy Tuesday, March 30, 11:00 am
Crism Mass — Blessing of the Oils
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Holy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Good Friday, April 2
3:00 pm, Stations of the Cross
7:30 pm, Sacred Liturgy
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Holy Saturday, April 3, 7:30 pm
Easter Vigil Mass
Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant

Easter Sunday Masses
8:00 am, 9:30 am
11:00 am, Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant
12:30 pm, Mass for the Montagnard Communities
of Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro

St. Patrick Cathedral

Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org
1621 Dilworth Road East † Charlotte, NC 28203 † (704)334-2283

ModularCorp

Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S296 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 2, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 30

Inside

Palm Sunday
Christians see their own sins in Christ on the cross
...PAGE 3

Holy oils blessed at Chrism Mass
...PAGE 16

U.S. Bishops issue statement on death penalty
...PAGE 7

Crisis in Kosovo
...PAGE 8

Local News

Scholar discusses three prophets
...PAGE 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

The Catholic News & Herald's next edition will be published April 16.

An Easter Story

By BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN

During the past forty days we have read and meditated on the sorrowful journey of Jesus as he walked towards Calvary, where he would offer his life on the cross that you and I might be freed from the penalty of our sins. In the words of St. Paul: "In that one death we were freed of our sins."

Allow me to share a personal story with you. A few days ago I visited a home to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. This was unusual, for ordinarily this sacrament is celebrated in one's parish church. However, a young mother lay dying and expressed a wish to see her son confirmed before her death. When entering her home, I immediately noticed the tenderness and love offered her by her devoted husband, children and other family members. We prayed together, and then I began the rite of Confirmation. As I laid my hands upon her son's head, he gently reached out his hand to touch his mother. There were smiles and tears on everyone's face. Before I left I knelt and spoke words of comfort in his mother's ear. I assured her that she would be with Jesus in heaven, for she had carried his cross on earth. This morning during Holy Week she passed from this life into that life promised to all who live and die in God's love. Her husband told me that his dear wife left this life just as the sun was rising and birds were singing. Remembering such a moment years ago, I answered that the music of birds was the voice of angels welcoming his loved one to heaven.

You and I are preparing to celebrate the Resurrection of the Savior. What does it mean to us unless we believe in Jesus' promise of eternal life for all who live and die in his love? There is no one who does not long to live forever. This desire for immortality is part of our very being, for God created us to live forever. This is why Jesus came among us to show us the way to heaven. "I am the way, the truth and the life." But this demands of us a response to his invitation to his kingdom.

The saintly Cardinal Bernardin, whose personal witness to his belief in eternal life lifted millions of hearts, wrote some years ago: "The Church is blessed with many wonderful gifts. We have schools, hospitals, parish organizations, and many ministries of service that touch and serve countless lives. Indeed we cannot do without them. But they will accomplish little that is of lasting value without our personal conversion to Jesus and his Good News." He reminded us that "personal conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime thing. It demands that we recommit our lives to Jesus day-by-day." This is necessary if we are to fulfill the command of Jesus that we love God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our soul. And Jesus added that we are to love our neighbor as our self. This is the real proof of discipleship. There is no other way to follow him!

Easter can mean very little to one with shallow faith who does not understand the real meaning of the Resurrection. Jesus points to death as the doorway to eternal life. It unites life on earth with life in heaven for all who follow him with an undivided heart. "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me shall never die."

Mary Magdalene, the first to see the Risen Jesus, quickly ran to tell the glorious news to his closest friends. "I have seen the Lord!" Her message continues to ring out throughout two thousand years. It is for us now to hear that message and to accept the truth of Jesus' triumph over death. May God help us to accept his grace, to live in his love that we might one day share his resurrection and rise to immortal life in his kingdom.

Archbishop Tutu urges U.S. to learn from South Africa's struggle

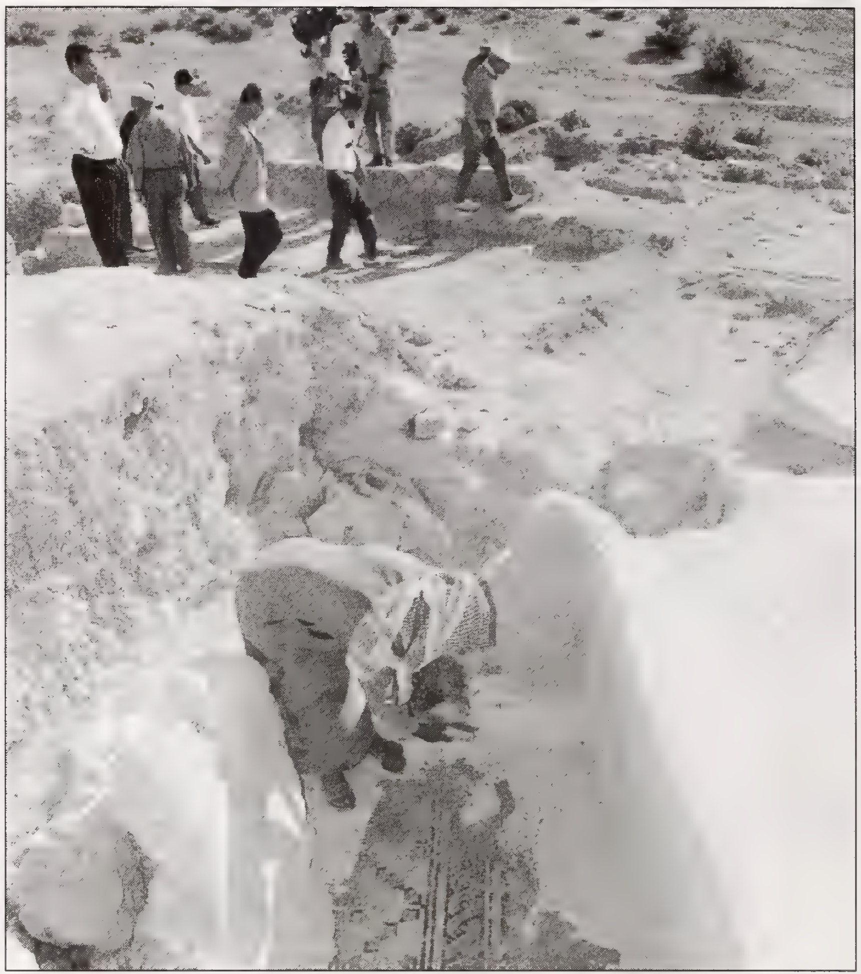
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bringing thanks for help in dismantling apartheid, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu also advised a congressional audience to work with God's plan for the human race in ending global conflicts and easing the United States' own racial hurts. A world facing dire conflicts in Kosovo, the Middle East, Asia and central Africa should heed the lesson of how South Africa moved away from apartheid without a bloody revolution, Archbishop Tutu said at a March 25 forum.

Archbishop says predecessor died to give fruit to democracy

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The late Archbishop Oscar A. Romero was like "a grain of wheat that died to give fruit," said the current archbishop of San Salvador. "Those who tried to silence his voice didn't succeed ... and now thousands of voices that before were silenced have opened up to clamor, in the name of democracy, all that he clamored for in the name of God," said Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador. Normally more reserved in his public declarations about the case, Archbishop Saenz surprised many by his direct words at a March 24 Mass.

Cardinals air differences on role of doctrinal congregation

ROME (CNS) — In an unusual airing of differences, two cardinals have debated the proper role of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in investigating the orthodoxy of theologians. Austrian Cardinal Franz Konig said the Vatican congregation should adopt a less defensive attitude and a more careful method when examining theological writings on interreligious dialogue. German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who heads the doctrinal congregation, said his agency is only doing its job when it protects the faith — and the faithful — from concepts that would place all religions on the same level.



CNS FILE PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Jordan River site

A worker cleans a mosaic discovered near the Jordan River. Jordanian officials say evidence points to the site being the place of the baptism of Jesus. They hope the area will attract Christian pilgrims marking the new millennium.

Paraguyan bishops warn against violence after VP's murder

ASUNCION, Paraguay (CNS) — In the midst of political turmoil following the murder of Paraguayan Vice President Luis Maria Argana, the country's bishops appealed for an end to violence. "This brutal act must make us reflect on the fact that violence can only generate other similar acts, which only bring confusion and chaos," the bishop said in a statement. Argana, 66, who had been involved in a power struggle with President Raul Cubas, was killed by 10 machine gun shots as he arrived at his office March 23.

Honduran archbishop urges voice against arms, poverty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, said March 23 that the church in America must speak out prophetically against the arms race and the growing rich-poor gap. Speaking at The Catholic University of America, he also revealed that the Vatican has started working on the official catechism of Catholic social teaching which the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America recommended. The topic of his lecture was the social and cultural challenges for the church in the Western Hemisphere addressed by the 1997 synod and spelled out in Pope John Paul II's recent post-synodal apostolic exhortation, "Ecclesia in America"

Director says U.N. peacekeepers needed in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — A Caritas official has called for U.N. peacekeeping troops in East Timor, where some 10,000 people have sought refuge in churches and safe houses after fleeing attacks from paramilitary groups. "The only solution for East Timor is that we need help from the outside," Father Francisco Barreto, director of Caritas East Timor, said in late March. The militias — armed, trained and financially supported by the Indonesian military — intensified the attacks in late March in an attempt to disrupt a planned summer ballot, expected to support East Timor's long-sought independence from Indonesia.

Cardinal calls on N.Y. police to address charges of maltreatment

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York praised the city's police in a homily March 21, but said perceptions of police injustices against minorities must be addressed. "It is rare that perceptions have no foundation," he said. With hundreds of police from the Holy Name Society in St. Patrick's Cathedral for their annual Mass, the cardinal spoke of tensions arising over a number of tragedies, especially the Feb. 4 killing of an unarmed black man, Amadou Diallo, by four white police officers.

U.S. Catholic-Jewish dialogue continues despite world tensions

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Despite tensions in Catholic-Jewish relations worldwide, U.S. Catholic leaders renewed their dialogue with representatives of the Reform and Conservative branches of U.S. Judaism March 23. The U.S. dialogue is characterized by "openness and honesty and frankness," said Rabbi Joel Zeiman of Baltimore following the daylong session at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore that included discussion of capital punishment, premarital counseling, Jerusalem and the Christian millennium.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

April 2, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 30
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 4 — 11:00 am
Easter Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

April 10 — 5:30 pm
Confirmation
Holy Spirit, Denver

April 11 — 10:30 am
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Brevard

April 12 — 7:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Leo, Winston-Salem

April 13 — 9:30 am
Speaker, Wingate College
Campus Ministry

Diocesan planner

April

10 CHARLOTTE — Father Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte, is the speaker at a talk for adults on being Catholic today at 7 p.m. at the 5620 Clubhouse of Strawberry Hill Apartments on Providence Road. Dessert and coffee will be served. Reservations are required; call Helen at (704) 365-4932 for details.

GREENSBORO — A family ice-skating party is at the IceHouse today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is $5, which includes skates, a lesson, an ice-hockey exhibition and an ice-dancing exhibition. Proceeds benefit the Twin Parish Program of Our Lady of Grace Church, which sponsors a Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. Funds will help purchase a radio station for the parish there.

11 CHARLOTTE — A Divine Mercy Sunday celebration is planned for today in St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., with confessions at 2 p.m., the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 2:45, and Mass at 3. For details, call Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

GREENSBORO — The Ultreya for the Cursillo community in the Greensboro area will be held today in the parish center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., at 7 p.m. For details, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or (336) 856-1929.

13 GREENSBORO — "Finding a Christian Way in Today's Culture" is the theme of an adult education presentation today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the activity center of Our Lady of

Christians see their own sins in Christ on the cross, says pope

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

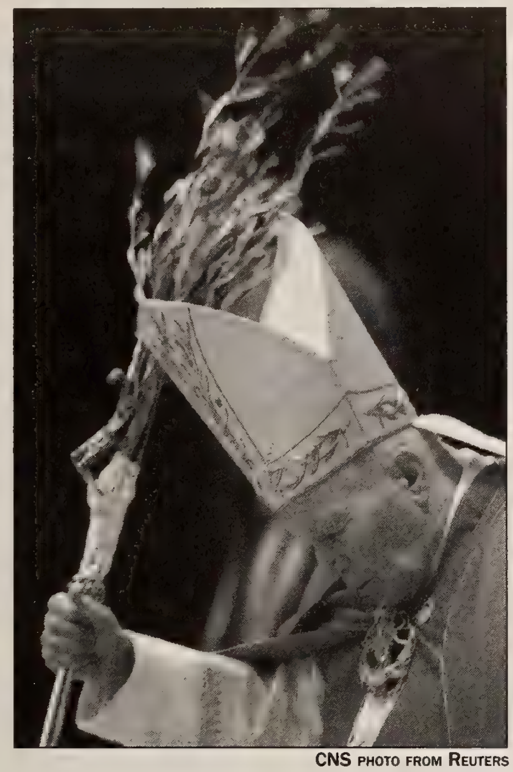
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Watching Christ suffer on the cross, Christians see the suffering of all humanity as well as their own sins and suffering, Pope John Paul II said.

Beginning Holy Week with a Palm Sunday Mass, the pope said, "Jesus carried our sins on the cross, and our sins carried Jesus to the cross."

The March 28 Mass, moved into St. Peter's Basilica because of the rain and cold, also marked the pope's annual celebration of World Youth Day.

Through Christ, who suffered, "God loves all, pardons all and gives the ultimate meaning to human existence," the pope said.

"Although he was without sin, Christ took upon himself everything which men and women could not bear: injustice, evil, sin, hatred, suffering and, in the end, death," he said.



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II holds his staff and an olive branch as he prepares to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Basilica March 28.

Pope John Paul prayed that young Catholics would be like the youthful crowds in Jerusalem who recognized Jesus as the Messiah, laid palm branches on the path before him and greeted him with shouts of "Hosanna."

"On the eve of the new millennium, this is your hour," the pope told youths waving palm and olive branches in the basilica.

"The world opens new paths to you and calls you to be bearers of faith and joy, as the palm and olive branches you carry today express, symbols of a new springtime of grace, of beauty, of goodness and of peace," he said.

The message of Holy Week and Easter, the pope said, is that God loves, pardons and will heal all those who follow Christ in his suffering in order to share in his resurrection.

The conflicting calls of "Hosanna" and "Crucify him" from the crowds of Jerusalem are a lesson for all who follow Christ, the pope said.

"We must not be discouraged by defeats nor exalt over victories because, like it was for Christ, our only victory is fidelity to the mission received from the Father," he said. ▼

Biblical scholar says 'connected world' should include respect for its religions

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Jesus, Mohammed and Moses are treated in scholarship and belief both as historical figures and the proclaimers of religious traditions. And while the legacies of their teachings vary in content and practice, a biblical scholar told Triad-area Catholic educators, each served as a prophet of one God.

Father Robert J. Barone, a professor at the University of Scranton and a member of the Catholic Biblical Association, said March 12 at St. Leo the Great School that as the world approaches the third millennium, it is more interconnected than ever before. That union, he added, ought to include a respect for the world's religious traditions.

"The more we learn, the more we become aware of mystery — the mystery of God, the mystery of the self, of personal identity, the mystery of interpersonal relationships, the mystery of other people, and life," Father Barone said during an assembly at the Winston-Salem school.

His audience comprised 185 teachers and principals from Catholic schools in Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and Salisbury.

"The mystery is sensed by some people in a profound way," Father Barone added. "But not everyone has the experience that is so powerful that it opens up a revelation for millions of people for centuries — that unique experience of mystery that becomes the source of a religious tradition."

Combining historical commentary with slide presentations of artwork and photographs taken over 30 years of leading study groups to the Middle East and the Mediterranean, Father Barone highlighted the manifestation of Jesus Christ and Christianity, Mohammed and Islam, and Moses and Judaism.

He especially concentrated on the impact of the traditions' greatest proclaimers, while pointing out that each religion has a collection of holy writings meant to be internalized by the faithful. It is the personal experience of faith, after all, that leads to full realization of the kingdom of God, he said.

"This reality must be able to be discovered and attained by people anywhere and everywhere," Father Barone said. "This cannot be just the truth of God for Catholics or Muslims or Jews. It must be the truth of human

See SCHOLAR, page 15

Father Robert J. Barone addresses teachers and principals from the Triad and Salisbury during an educational assembly on three world religions.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St. Cathy Bombell, parish youth minister, facilitates the session. Call (336) 274-0415.

WINGATE — Wingate University hosts the "Faith Doing Justice" conference today from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. in Laverne Banquet Hall, featuring dialogue among Catholics and Protestants on the subject of social justice as a faith issue. Special guests include religious and community leaders, including Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte, and the Rev. Tony Campolo, a nationally known speaker and author. Rev. Campolo will also give a formal presentation at 7:30 p.m. in Austin Auditorium. For details, call Todd Lake at (704) 233-8026 or Julie Whichard at (704) 233-8531. Admission is free; lunch and dinner are available for a minimal cost in the campus cafeteria.

14 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets for bingo and its monthly meeting today at 10:30 a.m. Sandwiches, coffee and cake will be served. For more information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

15 ASHEVILLE — "Creating Circles of Peace: Promoting Alternatives to Violence in Families, Schools and Communities" is a series of workshops and presentations on violence prevention today through April 18 in various locations in Asheville. Activities include a free dinner and workshop for families, a workshop for professionals and volunteers who work with families, a workshop and lunch for families, a workshop for community organizers, a discussion on parenting for adults, and an adult workshop for the Hispanic community. There will be fees to cover lunch and materials April 17 and 18. For details, call Allison Best-Teague at (828) 667-5044, ext. 315.

HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

16 CHARLOTTE — Catholic musician and recording artist John Michael Talbot performs a concert today from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Tickets are $10 and must be purchased in advance at Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe in Charlotte or at most Charlotte-area Catholic churches. For more information, call (704) 554-0553 after 6 p.m. Advance tickets are also available by mail. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte, a nonprofit group of lay volunteers.

HAYESVILLE — A retreat for high school youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is today through April 17 at the Hinton Center in Hayesville. For details, call (828) 669-0524.

21 CHARLOTTE — A series of classes on spirituality for the home begins today from 7:15-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery in Boonville facilitates. The first session relates the sacraments to human experiences. Other sessions are April 28 and May 5. For more information, call (336) 699-4005.

HICKORY — Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry presents the 13th Annual Spring Fling today from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. Cost is $7.50. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

23 BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College hosts an "Abbey Experience" today for prospective students. Students will have opportunities to meet current Abbey students and professors, tour the campus, attend classes, have lunch with the campus community, and attend a financial aid seminar. For reservations, call (888) 222-6665.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says faith must guide response to suffering

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Human suffering is a mystery that challenges Christians to place complete trust in God's plan, which may not always be grasped by human understanding, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope made the remarks before 20,000 people attending a general audience in St. Peter's Square March 24. In the countdown to the year 2000, he has dedicated his weekly talks to the theme of God the Father.

The pope said God exercises direct and providential care over the whole of creation, and his generous love has been apparent through the ages.

Yet people often ask themselves what can possibly explain human suffering, he said.

"It needs to be recognized that the problem of suffering constitutes an enigma before which human reason loses its way," he said.

"Divine revelation helps us understand that suffering is not desired by God, but has entered the world because of sin. God allows suffering for the very salvation of man, drawing good out of evil," he said.

The pope said faith is needed to accept the fact of suffering along with the good that life offers.

"The plans of God do not always coincide with human plans; they are infinitely better, but often remain incomprehensible to the human mind," he said.

In the face of this mystery, the Christian's task is not to accept passively whatever suffering may occur, but to cooperate with God in an active search for good, he said.

"The Gospel calls us to seek the things of heaven. We should not be too concerned by worldly matters, because our heavenly Father already knows what we need before we ask," he said.

"Knowing that God loves us, we should place all our trust in his fatherly care, especially in the more difficult situations of our lives," he said.

Pope says priests much teach faithful to experience God's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just as Christ taught his disciples how to pray to God as their father, so today's priests must teach the faithful how to pray and to experience God's fatherly love, Pope John Paul II said. Because of the ordained priest's "indissoluble bond linking him to the priesthood of Christ, the priest is the teacher of prayer," the pope said in his annual letter to priests for Holy Thursday. The 13-page letter was released March 25 at a Vatican press conference.

The Lighter Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Marriage Is ...

I was pondering the mystery of marriage the other day and decided that it is, candidly, impossible. It doesn't make sense. And to make things all the more nonsensical, I would not think of existing in any other "state" — although at that particular moment, as I recall, my spouse would just as soon have shot me out of a canon into another state.

We had hit one of those times some marriages hit from time to time when you are convinced you will not talk to one another again. Never, never, never, if not longer. Period. Ever. Nope, not, no chance. Take it to the bank.

Yet, we have been there before. And for the life of me, I am not sure how we worked through those times. Well, OK, God had something to do with it. But I remember being so very sure "it" was over.

Interestingly, I think I have reached a point in life when impossible contradictions don't bother me so much. I knew we'd never talk to one another again. Ever. But somehow we would. And just knowing that was true made me smile.

If nothing else, marriage is appreciating the irony of knowing another person deeply and intimately at the same time he or she remains a wonderful mystery.

Marriage is coming to know yourself in new and funny and humbling ways through the eyes of your spouse.

Marriage is waking up one morning after you've been married for about six months and realizing you have no idea who this person is to whom you have committed your life.

Marriage is surprising your sweetheart with a package of M&Ms for no other reason than you love him or her.

Marriage is learning it is OK for her or him to call his or her father a self-absorbed blowhard. But it's not OK for you to.

Marriage is sleeping on your side of the bed even when your spouse is out of town.

Marriage is sharing the awesome experience of creating new life, making room for this demanding new person who will call you Mom and Dad, and praying God will send along the operation manual soon.

Marriage is sharing tears of relief in the emergency room while your 8-year-old is having his or her scalp stitched.

Marriage is an earthy school of theology where you gain hands-on experience of sacrament, fidelity, forgiveness, compassion, resurrection and patience.

Marriage is hard work.

Marriage is realizing that the once "cute" way he or she snorted when he or she laughed now drives you nuts.

Marriage is nurtured by touch.

Marriage is unknowingly creating an intimate language of love that grows with the years until it transcends words.

However, words help.

Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Life beyond high school

I saw a former student I'll call Jenny the other day. She was on spring break from a college a couple of hundred miles away, but instead of lying on the beach she was spending most of her time back behind the cash register of the grocery store where she'd worked through most of high school.

Jenny greeted me with a big smile of recognition. "Ms. Welborn!" she said. (I always tell these kids that after graduation, they're allowed first-name privileges, but you know, they never seem to take me up on it.) "How are you?"

I said I was fine, but was far more interested in how she was doing, seven months into college.

An ever wider grin, if possible, broke across Jenny's face. "I love it! You know — it's so much better than high school," she confided.

Because this was good news, I didn't hesitate in telling Jenny that I'd told her so.

It was great to see Jenny so happy, for this was the same girl who had ended up her senior year with an almost flawless academic record and deep depression. She'd sacrificed a great deal for those grades, including the same kind of social life many of her peers had enjoyed, and just didn't think it had been worth it.

"I hate the person I've become," she announced at one point near graduation to her gathered classmates' puzzlement and horror. But as I'd hoped and prayed, Jenny had gotten over whatever had brought her to that point and learned an essential lesson: There is life beyond high school. And it's pretty good.

I'm not knocking the joys of high school here, whatever they may be. There's a lot that's fun about those years, and after all, it just wouldn't work to skip from eighth grade to college, would it?

But to tell you the truth, I have never met a soul who has said of high school, no matter how much they enjoyed it, "Those were the best years of my life." The fact is, there is one element of high school that is pretty awful and is worth leaving behind.

It's a pressure cooker, in a way adult life isn't. Sure, adults can exhibit snobbishness and judgment of others. They gossip. They hurt each other. They compete.

But after 20 years in the adult world, let me tell you that the social world of adults in general is a lot easier than what you're probably experiencing now, since it is generally not characterized by people sitting in classrooms waiting for their next victim to walk in, ready for the next session of tormenting, demeaning, bullying and exclusion.

In the adult world, if you're studious, you're accepted as studious. If you're obsessed with the hibernation habits of lemurs, good for you. If you are dedicated to managing the best sandwich store in Smithville or want to raise flowers or spend every spare moment you can playing softball, good for you again.

Jenny's not the only one to experience the relief of release from the sometimes vicious world of high school. I've witnessed it time and time again: students returning with eyes that almost seem literally to have been widened by their new experiences, delighted to have found that the world is a lot bigger and more tolerant place than the sniping of the Miss Thing who sits behind you would ever have led you to believe.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Being patient with God

My old retreat master used to love a certain story that he would occasionally weave into one of his sermons. And, I admit, it has become one of my favorites, also.

It seems there was a farmer who had a plot of land, and with a great deal of toil he cleared away the stones, pulled all the weeds, fertilized the ground, until it produced wonderful flowers and vegetables.

An extremely pious friend of the farmer visited one day and observed, "It is wonderful what God can do with a bit of ground like this, isn't it?"

"Oh yes," said the farmer, "but you should have seen this ground when God had it all to himself!"

The point of the story is that God's bounty and our toil must combine. Without God we can do nothing, and without our effort and cooperation God can do nothing for us. It is true that the living seed comes from God, but it is equally true that it is our task to cultivate that seed.

This is one of those unmistakable truths that so impressed St. Mark, the evangelist of the first century, that he recorded a parable of Jesus that does not appear in any other Gospel.

He reports Jesus as saying: "The Kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow — and he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, and then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, immediately he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mk 4:26-29).

Notice that the farmer does not make the seed grow: "he does not know how." Nonetheless, slowly and unceasingly, the seed matures and ripens. The seed already has the secret of life and growth within.

No one has ever possessed the secret of life. No one has ever created anything in the full sense of the term. We can discover things. We can rearrange them. We can develop them. But create them — that we cannot do.

Nor do we create the kingdom of God. Yet everyday, God fulfills his divine plan through us. Like the farmer, we can protect it and allow it to flourish and ripen. But because God gave us free will, it is our choice whether we frustrate and hinder his plan or cooperate with him.

Remember that behind all things is his power and will. Whatever fears we may face about having to "fix" the world on our own are laid to rest. God's own strength is our comfort.

Eighteen centuries ago, St. Irenaeus, considered by many the first great Christian theologian, wrote: "It is not you who shapes God. It is God who shapes you. If then, you are the work of God, await the hand of the Artist, who does all things in due season."

So, be patient with God. And always hold on to hope!

If we live in patience which cannot be defeated, in hope which cannot despair, we shall, by the grace of God, always play the part in the kingdom of God that he has given us.

Like the seed, the ability already lies within us, just awaiting its time.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Godparenting dilemma

Q. A friend is due to have her first child next month and has asked if I am willing to be the godmother. I was delighted, but there is a dilemma. She is not married, is Catholic but not practicing her faith and the father is a nonpracticing Buddhist.

Her family wants the baby baptized, but the father wants to take it to the Thai temple for some sort of dedication. My friend is still undecided. If they go to the Catholic Church, do I say no because the baby will probably not be raised Catholic, or do I say yes and try to have a Catholic influence on the child?

A. You do have a dilemma. Your problem may be solved for you, however, by the pastor of that family's parish. Apart from a serious medical emergency, it is not likely he will allow the baptism to take place in the circumstances you describe.

True, the church insists, in both its laws and baptism ritual, on parents' obligation to have their children baptized shortly after birth (Canon 867). This policy assumes, however, that the parents are practicing Catholics who are prepared, by their teaching and example, to bring their children up as good Catholic men and women.

Thus, the same law requires that before or immediately after birth parents approach their parish priest to be properly prepared for this sacrament. Most parishes today, of course, provide formal classes for this purpose. Further, the church also insists that a priest or other qualified person may not lawfully baptize a child unless there exists a solidly founded hope that the baby will be raised properly as a member of the Catholic religion.

If evidence for this hope is lacking, the priest must delay the baptism and explain to the parents why this is being done (Canon 868).

The Introduction to the Rite of Baptism emphasizes the point. At least twice during the baptism liturgy, Catholic parents are asked to openly declare that they accept and embrace the faith in which the child is being baptized, and that they intend to give the example and teaching necessary for their child to grow in that faith.

This promise cannot normally be made, of course, by supposedly Catholic parents unless they themselves faithfully practice their faith as conscientiously as possible and are not simply bringing their baby for baptism out of a sense of family tradition or pressure, or a vague feeling that it's the right thing to do.

Unfortunately, situations like this are much more frequent today than formerly. We are understandably concerned that parents not be placed in the position of making statements and a profession of faith that they do not honestly and fully believe.

There is no room here to expand further, but if we stop to reflect we should be able to realize how this policy is not only fair to the parents and child, for whom baptism has major implications for the future, but also faithful to the meaning of baptism for us as a Christian community.

Finally, even if you are not the godmother, that is not the end. You can still do everything the parents will allow to influence the child in a good way, guided by your own Christian faith.

If their plans move ahead further, I suggest you talk with your priest and ask his advice.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Keeping faith central to the family

When we say that our faith is central to our family life, what do we mean? Regular prayer is a common characteristic of faith-centered families. Reading the Bible together, telling and retelling the Bible stories is another.

One way we keep our faith central in our family is the creation of a testament of faith through the recording of and telling family faith stories. Living in a faith-centered family will have you making choices that may be considered peculiar to people of conventional wisdom. The motives of faith-centered families go beyond "common sense." Very often the element of faith radically alters the equation so that those unmotivated by faith see faith-based choices as nonsense.

This is a struggle for families wanting a faith-centered life, but are influenced by conventional wisdom (that's all of us). Putting faith to action sometimes pushes us into choices that make little sense and seem unwise in the light of conventional wisdom. Andrew's voluntarily leaving his corporate job to pursue ministry work is an example. Family vacations serving the poor is another. The choices involved in simple living, community service, sacrificial giving can seem radical and "out of touch."

We witness miracles in our lives because we are open to a different reality. Miracles are beyond what makes sense. They can't be planned, predicted or controlled. Yet, we regularly experience them. Miracles in common sense thinking are the things we want that are impossible. Miracles we experience as faith-centered people are the things we know are possible in faith. And it is our faith that brings those miracles into the realm of what makes perfect sense to us because of the wisdom and insight we gain from the Spirit.

Faith-centered families see what others can't, and experience what others don't. And the more we pray together, tell the faith stories, and experience life in the Kingdom of God, the more we will do what makes little sense to conventional wisdom. For faith gives us insight and wisdom that gives us "uncommon sense."

Families centered in faith will appear odd, eccentric, peculiar and downright foolish. But, so did Jesus. In the limited view of conventional wisdom his folly was the biggest of all.

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set hertable. She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight." (Prov 9:1-6)

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Baltimore Catholic school sends Cuba young 'baseball diplomats'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Fifteen boys from a Baltimore inner-city Catholic school packed up their lacrosse sticks March 25 to become emissaries to Cuba, along with their hometown baseball team. As part of the delegation to the first U.S.-Cuba major league baseball game in 40 years, the boys from St. Ignatius Loyola School were looking forward to playing baseball with Cuban children and teaching them lacrosse, a favorite local sport. Just a week before the Baltimore Orioles were to leave for Havana for a March 28 exhibition baseball game, Jesuit Father William J. Watters was asked by the team's owner if the students at St. Ignatius Loyola School might be interested in going on the trip. Father Watters is pastor of St. Ignatius Parish and founded the school in 1993.

Taiwan envoy says Vatican-Beijing ties would mean more freedom

ROME (CNS) — If the Holy See were to establish formal diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China, it would mean China had become more open to freedom of worship, said Taiwan's ambassador to the Vatican. "I hope that the Beijing leadership will open up completely and allow the Chinese people to enjoy a political freedom akin to those enjoyed in the Western democracies — most importantly, respect for human rights and religious freedom," said Raymond Tai, Taiwan's ambassador to the Vatican.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Listening to the pope CD

Two Sisters of Nazareth at a London music store give a listen March 29 to a new CD that features reflections of Pope John Paul II. The disc, titled "Abba Pater," was made available worldwide.

Rochester bishop says schismhas caused him great pain

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester, N.Y., says that nothing has pained him more in his 20-year episcopacy than the split between his diocese and Catholics in a breakaway community led by a suspended priest. The split resulted in an announcement by the diocese March 1 that Father James B. Callan, 51, and a group of his followers were in schism and had in effect excommunicated themselves from the Catholic Church. "I'm up to my earlobes in conflict," Bishop Matthew Clark said in an interview he gave in Washington.

Reedy, Marquette dean and Johnson spokesman, dead at 81

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — George E. Reedy, press secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson and former journalism dean at Jesuit-run Marquette University, died March 21 at age 81. He came to Milwaukee in 1971 as dean of Marquette University's College of Journalism. Reedy, an Episcopalian, was born Aug. 5, 1917, in East Chicago, Ind., grew up in Chicago, and graduated from the University of Chicago in 1938. He was a Washington correspondent for United Press until 1951, when he went to work for Johnson, then a Texas senator.

Pope remembers French philosopher Guitton, dead at 98

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II bid farewell to the late French philosopher Jean Guitton and praised his contributions to the Second Vatican Council. "I remember with emotion his active participation in the Second Vatican Council, during which he expressed his great love for the church," Pope John Paul recalled in a telegram to Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris. Guitton died in Paris March 21 at age 98.

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Uniforms DIRECT 2U
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Come enjoy Seniors' Spring Fling '99
At the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Wednesday, April 21, 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Come from 9-10am for coffee and danish
Your day will be filled with fellowship, Mass with Fr. Ed Sheridan, music, lunch with friends, games, crafts, bingo, door prizes, and more...
For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Seniors' Spring Fling, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ____ Phone ____
Address ____
City ____ Parish ____

$7.50 per person. Make checks payable to Catholic Social Services.
Registration deadline: April 15
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Bishops ask everybody to work against capital punishment

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a Good Friday statement, the U.S. bishops urged an end to capital punishment, asking Catholics and all people of good will to preach, teach, pray and serve as witnesses against the "tragic illusion" of the death penalty.

"We oppose capital punishment not just for what it does to those guilty of horrible crimes but for what it does to all of us as a society," said the April 2 statement of the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

"Increasing reliance on the death penalty diminishes all of us and is a sign of growing disrespect for human life," it continued. "We cannot overcome crime simply by executing criminals, nor can we restore the lives of the innocent by ending the lives of those convicted of their murders. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life."

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony was to release the statement in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Administrative Board and chairman of the bishops' Domestic Policy Committee.

"On this Good Friday, a day when we recall our Savior's own execution, we appeal to all people of good will and especially Catholics, to work to end the death penalty," the statement said, noting that the church's teaching on the subject has evolved.

It refers to Pope John Paul II's request to governments to stop using capital punishment in his 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), and his observation in St. Louis in January that instances where the death penalty is necessary to protect society are "very rare, if not practically nonexistent."

> "We cannot overcome crime simply by executing criminals, nor can we restore the lives of the innocent by ending the lives of those convicted of their murders. The death penalty offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life."

"Sadly, many Americans including many Catholics still support the death penalty out of understandable fear of crime and horror at so many innocent lives lost through criminal violence," the Good Friday statement said. "We hope that they will come to see, as we have, that more violence is not the answer."

The statement goes on to observe that many Catholics are at the forefront of efforts to end capital punishment through lobbying, prayerful witness at execution sites, and education.

"We seek to educate and persuade our fellow citizens that this penalty is often applied unfairly and in racially biased ways," it continued. "We stand in opposition to state laws that would permit capital punishment and federal laws that would expand it."

It also encouraged Catholics to support crime victims and their families, through compassionate response to their pain and anger and by standing with them "as they struggle to overcome their terrible loss and find some sense of peace."

The statement refers to the increased rate of executions in many states. There are more than 3,500 people on death row and more than 500 have been executed since capital punishment was restored by the Supreme Court in 1976. In that time, there have been 74 death-row reversals late in the process.

"These numbers are deeply troubling," said the statement. "The pace of executions is numbing. The discovery of people on death row who are innocent is frightening."

It concluded by joining the pope in seeking abolition of capital punishment for the coming biblical jubilee. It asked "pastors to preach and teachers to teach about respect for all life and about the need to end the death penalty.

"Through education, through advocacy, and through prayer and contemplation on the life of Jesus, we must commit ourselves to a persistent and principled witness against the death penalty, against a culture of death and for the Gospel of life."

As the statement noted, the bishops have called for an end to the death penalty in the United States for more than 25 years. After a lengthy debate at their 1974 general meeting, the bishops issued a one-sentence statement: "The U.S. Catholic Conference goes on record in opposition to capital punishment."

A comprehensive 1980 statement by the bishops as a whole discussed the theological and sociological background to their opposition. Their arguments included the possibility of mistaken convictions, the bias against the poor and minorities inherent in the legal system, the inherent dignity of all human beings, and the value of following the example of Jesus in forgiving injustice.

Those sentiments have been echoed and expanded upon over the years in statements and pastoral letters issued by individual bishops or state Catholic conferences. They also are reflected in the USCC's and state Catholic conferences' political responsibility statements issued prior to general elections. ▼

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

[MODULARCORP]
*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT
- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

For First Communion
& Confirmations
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Vatican convenes NATO ambassadors, urges halt to military action

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a meeting with ambassadors from the United States and other leading countries, Vatican officials pressed for a halt to military operations in Yugoslavia and urged urgent humanitarian aid to Kosovo refugees.

The Vatican told the diplomatic representatives that in order to reach a rapid solution to the Kosovo crisis, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe should be involved in peace mediation.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, convened the unusual meeting March 31. He said the purpose was to clearly state the Holy See's position on the Kosovo situation and prompt a discussion of possible ways out of the conflict. Attending were 16 ambassadors representing countries in NATO and the U.N. Security Council, including the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, Lindy Boggs.

> Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, convened the unusual meeting March 31. He said the purpose was to clearly state the Holy See's position on the Kosovo situation and prompt a discussion of possible ways out of the conflict.

Cardinal Sodano expressed Pope John Paul II's deep concern about the fate of suffering populations in the Kosovo area. He also outlined the Vatican's diplomatic steps to promote an end to the fighting.

A Vatican statement issued afterward gave the clearest explanation to date of the Vatican's position on the NATO air strikes against Yugoslav targets, the ethnic violence by Serbian forces on the ground and the future path for negotiations on Kosovo.

The Vatican's position was summarized to the ambassadors in four points:

— Appreciation for the "efforts made in recent months by the international community" to resolve the dramatic situation in Kosovo. (Those efforts led to a proposed autonomy deal for Kosovo that was rejected by Yugoslavia, prompting NATO to begin air strikes in mid-March.)

— "The need to cease military operations so that violence does not have the last word."

— The immediate delivery of humanitarian aid for refugees and homeless in the region.

— Involvement of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the peace process. (NATO acted on its own in ordering the air strikes. The U.N. Security Council on March 26 defeated by a 12-3 vote a motion calling for an immediate end to military strikes against Yugoslavia.)

CNS photo from Reuters

A Macedonian soldier guides arriving Kosovar refugees across the border March 29. Refugees were flooding across the borders as the Serb army ordered people from their homes, often with just a few minutes' notice.

Before the group encounter with the ambassadors, Cardinal Sodano held private talks with Yugoslav Ambassador Dojcilo Maslovaric. In remarks to Italian reporters, Maslovaric said his country appreciated the Vatican's diplomatic moves and hoped they succeeded.

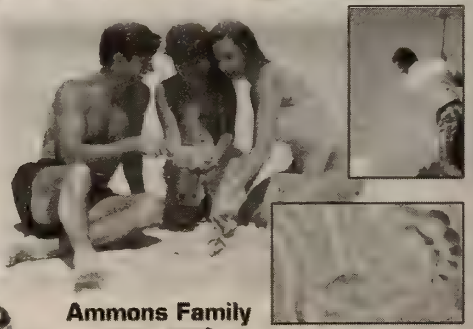
"The Holy See has some good ideas and is conducting good work," he said, but declined to discuss details.

Asked about his country's mistreatment of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, he said Yugoslavia was only trying to protect its national sovereignty "against terrorism fomented by the West and against external aggression." He described members of the Kosovo Liberation Army as "terrorists." ▼

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
K of C
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
ON THE SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN
Clarion Resort
Offering...Oceanview or islandside rooms and extra large efficiencies. Pool, Hot Tub, Sundry Store, Tennis Court, Bike & Beach Equipment rental
Bennigan's Irish American Grill & Tavern on Premise
SPRING SPECIAL
Rates From $55* Sunday- Thursday
Includes: Welcome cocktail and ½ day bike rental with picnic lunch.
*Limited Availability. Expires 4/22/99
Jekyll Island is located mid-way between Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. Restaurants and shops are plentiful, as are 63 holes of championship golf, historic district, bike trails, and miles of beach.
800-253-5955



Pay for two -
Stay for three!
MYRTLE BEACH
Why wait for summer to bring the family to the beach?
Our spring season is in full bloom!
Enjoy Myrtle Beach and all of its attractions at a Super-low rate.
From $56.00 per room per night
Stay 2 Nights get the 3rd Night FREE!
Rooms sleeps up to 4 people
Some restrictions may apply. • April Only
Ammons Family
Sea Mist
Oceanfront Resort
It Just Keeps Getting Better!
1-800-793-5606
1200 South Ocean Blvd. • Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-1551 • Fax: (843) 448-5858 CA
http//www.seamist.com • email:seamist@sccoast.net
ASK ABOUT OUR SUMMER FAMILY VALUE PACKAGE!

Theologians discuss what church means

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What did church mean to the Second Vatican Council? What does it mean to Pope John Paul II? What will it mean to Catholics in the next millennium?

Leading theologians grappled with those three questions in a half-day symposium on ecclesiology March 27 at The Catholic University of America. The symposium marked the 25th anniversary of the university's School of Religious Studies.

"Vatican II did not offer a simple definition of the church," said Father Joseph A. Komonchak, Hubbard professor of religious studies at Catholic University and co-editor of a five-volume history of the council.

"John Paul II's preferred category for ecclesiology is evidently that of communion," said Jesuit Father Avery Dulles of Fordham University. He is also theology professor emeritus at Catholic University and author of the widely known book on ecclesiology "Models of the Church."

How future generations in the 21st century understand church will depend partly on how contemporary challenges to church unity are resolved, said Benedictine Father Patrick Granfield, professor of systematic theology at Catholic University.

He said the use of communion theology as one of the primary ways of understanding church has many positive values, but "some cautions may also be raised. First, the concept of communion should not become a 'term of convenience' used to promote a particular ideological viewpoint with or without good reason. It has to be critically evaluated."

Father Komonchak said it would be a mistake to look for "a fully coherent, systematic and comprehensive ecclesiology" in the documents of Vatican II.

On the other hand, he said, "one should not speak of several ecclesiologies. ... There is no evidence whatever that the council fathers thought that they were juggling various images, notions or models of the church."

Focusing especially on the council's two main ecclesiological documents — the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World — Father Komonchak said that the council fathers worked "to achieve the greatest possible consensus, which, when achieved in conditions of freedom and charity within a common faith, is regarded as the work of the Holy Spirit."

"This method tends to frustrate intransigents of all colors," he said, because consensus statements "do not settle legitimately controverted questions but rather express what all can accept as statements of the common faith."

Many issues the council left unresolved, he said, to this day "remain unresolved in the life of the church, in the relationships between clergy and laity, between pope and bishops, between Rome and local church authority, between the whole church and the particular churches, between church and world."

Father Dulles used the five models of church he described in his book — church as mystical communion, institution, sacrament, herald and servant — to assess Pope John Paul's ecclesiology.

"In explaining what the church is in itself," he said, "John Paul II attends to its reality as communion, as institution and as sacrament. The remaining two models, however, are prominent in the pope's treatment of the church's mission to evangelize and to serve as a leavening influence in secular society."

He said the pope focuses especially on communion as a way of defining the church. "The supreme model for the church, he explains, is the divine Trinity as a 'communio personarum' (communion of persons)," Father Dulles said.

Father Granfield noted that the 1985 world Synod of Bishops affirmed the centrality of "the ecclesiology of communion" and that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1992 called it "a key for the renewal of Catholic ecclesiology."

One reason for its value, he said, is that "communion in its broadest sense refers to some sort of relation with another person or persons. It connotes interrelationships, solidarity and intimacy — all easily applicable to the church."

But he said that "communion is both gift and task," and achieving it means dealing with the challenges to unity that the church confronts today.

The first challenge, he said, is maintaining unity in the diversity of a world church composed of "a billion members with marked ethnic, racial, economic and theological differences."

Diversity enriches the church, he said, but "in some instances, the downside of diversity is polarization which divides rather than unites. It is a major problem in the United States."

A second challenge Father Granfield cited is "resistance to ecclesial authority in both the local and universal church." He said church authority seems to have been contested in every period in church history, but the problem "is especially widespread now."

Other challenges he listed were:

— "Relating clerical and lay ministries" in a situation of rapid change because of the shortage of priests.

— Developing "a balanced and mutually productive relationship between the church and the world in light of the increased secularism and pervasive relativism in our culture."

— "How to unite Christianity and how to evangelize the non-Christian."

Father Granfield argued that because of its richness, communion ecclesiology "is helpful in bringing together many issues. ... It can be used to relate the spiritual and institutional aspects of the church, pluralism and unity, evangelization and salvation, primacy and episcopacy, and the local church and the universal church." ▼

Living Water flows through a diocesan endowment.

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support
Every year, your "living water" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.

Ensure a Strong Future
Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.

Enact a Lasting Legacy
Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values: Your faith and the mission of the Church.

Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again.
— John 4:14

For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

Putting a new face to the world...

Come, retreat, rejuvenate, relax and enjoy the little things in life. Learn to appreciate their grandeur.

Retreats & Reunions

Banquets & Receptions

Worship & Liturgy Retreats

Staff Development Seminars

Organizational Retreats

Conferences

Recreation from horseback riding, hiking, fishing, golfing, camping, ropes course, quiet trail walks, reflective areas and wayside prayer chapels.

The Catholic Conference Center

www.catho conference.org 1551 Trinity Lane Hickory, NC 28602 (888) 536-7441

refugee, hispanic & immigration services — domestic & international adoption — counseling — material assistance — pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Books

New collection of Mother Teresa's prayers available

LIGOURI, Mo. (CNS) — Liguori Publications has released a book called "At Prayer with Mother Teresa" by Eileen Egan, which is a collection of prayers that were personal favorites of Mother Teresa or written by her.

Each prayer is preceded by a related story or anecdote from Mother Teresa's life written by Egan, a longtime friend of Mother Teresa's who traveled extensively with her.

Egan, who lives in New York City and is the author another book about Mother Teresa called "Such a Vision of the Street," has worked with Pax Christi, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Worker. She worked for CRS for almost 40 years, joining the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency when it was founded in 1943. She was the first layperson and first woman on the staff.

The book features nearly 100 prayers. It includes traditional ones such as the "Memorare" and "Anima Christi" and many prayers written by the saints.

But there are also very practical prayers such as "Prayer for Safe Travel," and "Prayer of Blessing for Water" and nontraditional prayers including a "Buddhist Prayer for Light" and a "Prayer of Rabindranath Tagore," India's poet laureate.

Many of the prayers reflect Mother Teresa's work with the poor and destitute such as "Prayer for the Hungry" and "Prayer for Poverty."

Mother Teresa's own description of prayer, found in the book, says: "Prayer is not meant to be a torture, not meant to make us feel uneasy, is not meant to trouble us. It is something to look forward to, to talk to my Father, to talk to Jesus, the one to whom I belong: body, soul, mind and heart." ▼

Word to Life

April 4, Easter Sunday, Cycle A
Readings:
1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23
2) Colossians 3:1-4
3) John 20:1-9

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Easter morning Mary arrives at the tomb. The stone is rolled away, and she is shocked. She flies to Peter and John and tells them: "The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!" John and Peter race to the tomb. They look inside and find the wrappings in which Jesus had been bound lying on the ground. None of the three knows what to make of all this because "as yet they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead."

Then, beyond the Scriptures for this Sunday, Mary, weeping, stoops to peer inside the tomb and sees two angels in dazzling robes. They ask her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She tells them it is because she doesn't know where they have carried "the Lord."

She turns and sees Jesus, but does not recognize him. He asks the same question as the angels: "Woman, why are you weeping?" and adds, "Who is it you are looking for?" She thinks him the gardener and repeats her concern, at which he says to her, "Mary!" and she turns to him and calls him "Rabbouni!" Hebrew for teacher.

Jesus chooses to reveal his resurrection first to the one who sought him with the most sincerity of heart.

It is Easter for all of us now, and a billion Catholics and a slightly smaller number of Protestants and Orthodox celebrate it with us as we approach the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' birth.

Our challenge is not to be the single individual who seeks Jesus' face the hardest and the most sincerely, but to be among those who are most fervent in their love of him.

And if we are, we will find, following close behind, our love for all of God's children.

Alleluia, he is risen! He is risen, indeed.

Question:

As we enter the Easter season, can you commit yourself to quiet time seeking the Lord, to celebrate all that his life, death and resurrection have done for us?

"Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb."
— John 20:1a.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 4 - 10, 1999

Easter Sunday, Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Easter Monday**, Acts 2:14, 22-23, Matthew 28:8-15; **Easter Tuesday**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Easter Wednesday**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Easter Thursday**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Easter Friday**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Easter Saturday**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 1999

Come and share in God's merciful love.

"Loving mercy surrounds those who trust in the Lord." — Ps. 32:10

1:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation*
2:00 pm	Rosary
2:30 pm	Chaplet of The Divine Mercy
3:00 pm	Concelebrated Mass
4:00 pm	Bookstore opens in library; Divine Mercy Film, library

Our Lady of Grace Church
2205 West Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403
(336) 274-6520

Novena to The Divine Mercy
Good Friday 3:00 pm
Holy Saturday 3:00 pm
Easter Sunday 12:30 pm
Monday thru Saturday 7:30 pm
Divine Mercy Sunday 2:30 pm

* We highly recommend confession at your local parish prior to coming in order to gain the indulgence.

Susan G. King (800) 786-7860
Associate Vice President, Financial Advisor (336) 727-8900
- *Retirement Planning*
- *College Savings Plans*
- *Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds*

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1998 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

"The Body of Christ in Art," various dates, PBS

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How artists over the centuries have pictured the Lord of the Gospels is the subject of the half-hour documentary, "The Body of Christ in Art," airing during the Easter season on many PBS stations.

Check with your local PBS affiliate for the date and time the program will air in your area.

The magnificent artworks shown come from a recent exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston devoted to Christian art produced in Europe and New Spain from 1150 to 1800.

Besides paintings and sculptures, there are also illuminated manuscripts, prints and fabrics, such as a chasuble with the crucifixion pictured on its back.

The works range in size from a large church altarpiece to private devotional works, among them a strikingly fashioned wooden prayer bead less than two inches high.

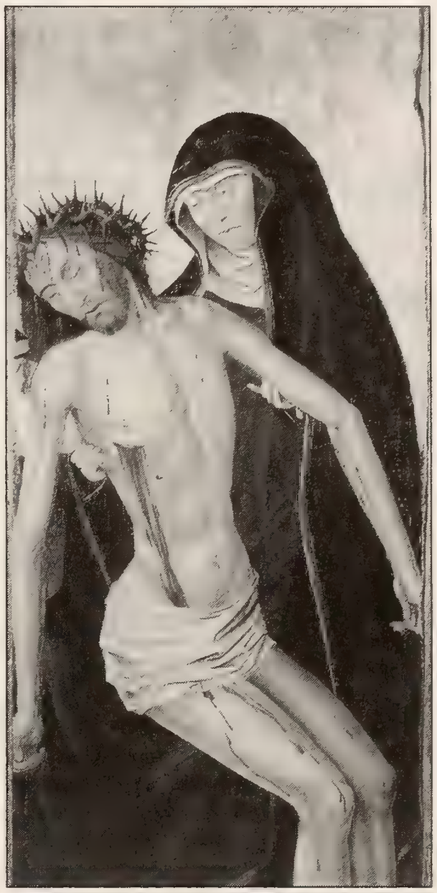
So too, the artists range from great masters like Duerer, Rubens and Tintoretto to unknown artisans whose skillful efforts reflected their faith.

Guiding viewers through the exhibit's riches is the informative narration written by museum director James Clifton and read by actor Edward Herrmann.

In examining the artistic qualities of the selected works, Clifton's commentary places them within their cultural context, explaining their references to Christian beliefs and religious practices.

The result is impressive not only as art tour but also as a spiritual journey to the Christian core of Western culture, with period music as inspirational as objects in the exhibit.

Produced by Voyager Productions in association with the Catholic Communication Campaign, the program is well worth searching for. ▼



CNS photo courtesy Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation

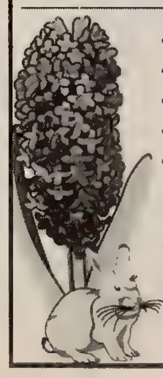
This Pieta from the 15th-century School of Picardy is one of the works featured in the half-hour TV special "The Body of Christ in Art." The program funded by the Catholic Communication Campaign is to air on public television stations in March and April.

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV film fare — Week of April 4

Sunday, April 4, 7-9 p.m. EDT (ABC) "The Little Rascals" (1994). Weak, overly cute comedy tries to update the "Our Gang" shorts of the 1930s to the present as Spanky (Travis Tedford) and the other little imps are horrified when trusty Alfalfa (Bug Hall) falls for a girl (Brittany Ashton Holmes) who is being courted by a spoiled rich kid (Blake Ewing). Director Penelope Spheeris strings together a succession of mildly comic scenes in which the youngsters look adorable but unconvincing in the role of rib-tickling mischief makers. Comic violence, mild double entendres and boyish disdain of girls. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG — parental guidance suggested.

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY



. Blooming Pots
. Calla & Easter Lilies
. Flowering Azaleas
. Tremendous Variety
. Landscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

New Name!
New Owners! New Hours!
Formerly Nine Choirs Catholic Books

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 3pm

Every Act Of Mercy Is Backed By The Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Mercy Hospital

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

The Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient/Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System
In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Bishops issue guidelines for Holy Land pilgrimages in 2000

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Administrative Board has approved guidelines to help Catholics traveling to the Holy Land in 2000 better understand their jubilee pilgrimage as a time of renewal, solidarity and reconciliation.

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., said in a statement, "These guidelines are intended as a practical tool to help those traveling to the Holy Land on pilgrimage to enrich their experience by gaining an appreciation for the living reality of the Christian — as well as Muslim and Jewish — communities there."

The archbishop chairs the bishops' Committee on International Policy, which issued "Guidelines for Holy Land Pilgrimages for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000" March 26 in Washington, following approval by the Administrative Board.

"We want to encourage Catholics undertaking visits to the Holy Land to do so in the spirit of true pilgrims, to walk prayerfully and devoutly in the steps of our Lord and with openness to the movement of the spirit of Jesus in their lives," the bishops said in the document.

They expressed hope that jubilee pilgrimages will build solidarity between American and Middle Eastern Christians.

"Solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land is particularly necessary at the present time," the guidelines state. "The pressures faced by Christians of all denominations throughout the Middle East region and the ensuing emigration are major concerns for the bishops of the region."

Observing that pilgrimages traditionally involve healing and reconciliation, the bishops also said these pilgrimages "can contribute to reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and the three monotheistic religions of the Holy Land: Judaism, Christianity and Islam."

The bishops added, "Pilgrimage today means meeting Christians, Jews and Muslims and learning about the difficult issues they face together in the land all three call holy."

The recommendations the bishops offer pilgrims, guides, chaplains and Catholic travel agencies include:

— Plan a Holy Land pilgrimage "as a genuinely religious exercise in the spirit of prayer," not as a religious or study tour.

— Arrange for "an accredited spiritual animator or licensed guide" to lead the pilgrimage; where Catholic or Christian ones are not available, supplement non-Christian guides with approved chaplains and spiritual directors.

— Allow ample time for prayer, celebration of the sacraments, special events such as renewal of baptismal and marriage vows, and personal and group reflection.

— Select liturgical and devotional music and identify musicians and song leaders in advance.

— At pilgrimage sites maintained by Franciscans, borrow specialized sacramentaries and lectionaries adapted to events associated with the site.

— Limit commercial contacts so pilgrims support local economies but don't become preoccupied with shopping.

— Show solidarity with the local church "by becoming acquainted with the faithful, by being attentive to their stories and by sharing their living faith."

— Use Catholic Relief Services and Pontifical Mission outreach programs to make contacts with local Christians, Muslims and Jews.

— Encourage meetings with local parishes, especially Latin and Melkite Catholics, and with local church leaders.

— Get a local calendar of events and, if possible, celebrate jubilee events with local Catholics.

— Learn about "issues of justice and peace from Palestinians, Israelis, Christians, Jews and Muslims."

— Explore ways to sustain a relationship between pilgrims and the local Christians they meet.

— Try to better understand the life and aspirations of Jewish communities in Israel by engaging in interfaith dialogue, arranging for a lecture or taking part in local symposia.

— Visit Jewish shrines and historic places, such as the Western Wall, ancient synagogues at Capernaum and Nazareth, and Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial.

— Participate in local Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue events planned for the jubilee.

— Meet Muslims by visiting a Muslim village where a Catholic agency such as Catholic Relief Services sponsors a project.

— Visit Muslim holy sites, for example, the

See PILGRIMAGES, page 15

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Please join us...

Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate

For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

COMMUNITY...

At Domino's Pizza of Charlotte we strive for just a little more than the perfect pizza.

We like to have a perfect relationship with our community.

Domino's is happy to partner and support the Catholic schools of Charlotte!

Happy Easter from your friends at Domino's!

Domino's Pizza

Charlotte's Pizza Delivery Experts!

Knights of Columbus provides $2,500 in LIMEX scholarships

CLEMMONS — On March 23, Knight of Columbus State Deputy John Harrison presented a check for $2,500 to Bishop William G. Curlin to provide scholarships for diocesan lay people participating in the LIMEX program. LIMEX, a Loyola Institute master's extension program, is offered at several sites throughout the diocese. Catholic lay people attend classes for credit towards a Master in Religious Education degree.

Last year, Father James Hawker, vicar for education of the Diocese of Charlotte, stated that there were several people in the Charlotte Diocese that wanted to participate but were financially burdened. He asked the Knights of Columbus for help. State Deputy Harrison stated that "the Knights of Columbus see this as a great way to assist the Catholic Church in meeting the education needs of its lay people. Many of the people in this program are or will be the future teachers of our children and leaders in our faith formation programs. We see this as a great way to answer the call for evangelization."

The first recipient of scholarship funds wrote in a letter that the LIMEX program "was the answer to my prayers." The recipient extended a "thank you to the Knights for your kindness and generosity in providing the financial means for me to take advantage of this great opportunity, because it would have been impossibility without this assistance."

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization, was founded in New Haven, Conn., in 1882 in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church by Father Michael J. McGivney and a handful of Catholic laymen. The aim of the founder and those first members was to set up a parish-based lay organization that offered insurance benefits. In an era when parish and fraternal societies were popular, Father McGivney felt there should be some way to strengthen the religious faith of his flock and provide financial support for families overwhelmed by illness or the death of the breadwinner.

Today the organization has grown from that one local unit, or council, to nearly 11,000 councils in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.

Membership is nearly 1.6 million dues-paying members plus their families — approximately 4.5 million people total — many of whom are actively involved in volunteer service programs for the Catholic Church, their communities, their families, young people and one another. In 1997, members reported over 50 million hours of volunteer service and $107 million raised and donated to charitable and fraternal projects. ▼

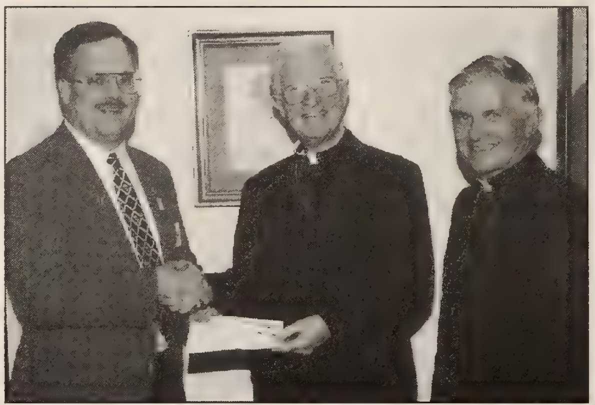


Photo by Joann S. Keane

Knights of Columbus State Deputy John Harrison, left, presents a $2,500 check to Bishop William G. Curlin and Father James Hawker, vicar for education, to be used for LIMEX scholarships.

Diocese of Raleigh Vicar General, Msgr. James McSweeney, dies at age 74

RALEIGH — Monsignor James E. McSweeney, a vicar general of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., died Sunday, March 28, at Western Wake Medical Center in Cary.

Msgr. McSweeney, 74, was a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh since his ordination May 17, 1950. A native of Lakewood, Ohio, he chose to minister in North Carolina because of his interest in mission development work.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Whiteville. He later served at 10 churches in the Diocese of Raleigh, which until 1972 covered the entire state. His pastorships included Immaculate Conception Parish in Durham, St. Michael Parish in Cary and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Raleigh.

Msgr. McSweeney served as chancellor for the diocese from 1962-67, and in March 1963 was named a domestic prelate by Pope Paul VI and given the title Right Reverend Monsignor.

In 1973, he was appointed administrator of St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital in Southern Pines. He served on the board of directors of St. Joseph of the Pines.

In 1981, Msgr. McSweeney was appointed vicar general of the diocese, a position he held until his death. He also served as judicial vicar of the diocesan tribunal, the office called to administer church laws as they apply to marriage.

Msgr. McSweeney retired in 1990. He lived in Cary and assisted in parishes as needed.

He is survived by a sister, Jane McSweeney Nicolay, and her husband, Anthony, of Mesa, Ariz.; a brother, Donald McSweeney, and his wife, Mary, of LaJolla, Calif.

A wake was held March 30 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Raleigh. The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated March 31 by Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman at Our Lady of Lourdes. Burial followed in the priest's section at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cemetery in Newton Grove. ▼

Students' Lenten activities provide 'hands-on' experience

By SUSAN deGUZMAN

Correspondent

CLEMMONS — Students and parents of the faith formation program at Holy Family church gathered earlier this month for Lenten Fair.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor, began the event with a prayer service. The children then broke into groups and rotated to different classrooms, participating in a variety of activities designed to enrich their understanding of the Lenten season.

"Hands-on, small activities are a helpful way for children to learn," said Rose Walsh, faith formation program coordinator.

Activities included decorating crosses, designing Easter cards for shut-ins, making prayer clocks, and building milk-box churches. Each activity was connected to passages from Scripture.

Parents had their own activity room, too.

Holy Family Church's Wednesday evening faith formation program comprises 300 students in grades one through five. There are also Sunday programs for students in pre-school and kindergarten, and for middle- and high-schoolers. ▼

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Curriculum and Professional Development

The Diocese of Charlotte, with 17 schools and 7,000 students, is seeking an outstanding candidate to provide strong curriculum and professional development leadership for the diocese.

Responsibilities include: 1) develops and implements inservice programs for the professional development of administrators, teachers and support staff; 2) coordinates state K-12 curriculum with diocesan standards; 3) assists teachers to implement a consistent curriculum by grade level and region; 4) coordinates the SACS accrediting process.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and have teaching and school administrative experience.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Twelve month position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by April 21 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Elementary School

St. Gabriel Catholic School, a kindergarten through 5th grade school enrolls 570 students with a professional staff of 40. St. Gabriel is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte and is in the application process for SACS accreditation.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and have teaching and school administrative experience. St. Gabriel is located in Charlotte, NC and is part of a regional school system: Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by April 21 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Scholar, from page 3

experience, and therefore accessible to each and every person who lives or who has lived or who will ever live on this earth."

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the diocesan Catholic Schools Office, agreed. "In the world today, through our knowledge of the diversity of many groups, we become aware of where we fit into the whole picture," said Sister Maureen, who arranged for the presentation.

"The importance of bringing in biblical scholars is to show us that we do have a beautiful heritage in Jesus, who fulfilled the prophetic role," she said, adding that events like this also "widen the visions of all of us in our respect for others."

Linda Lee, first-grade teacher at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, said the presentation offered good food for thought. "It opened up my eyes as to the way people in other religions think and how they process information," she said.

She said the presentation sparked renewed interest in "the importance for students to really understand their religion, but to also understand other religions, and how people think and feel and live."

Father Barone said that while each tradition is unique unto itself, certain tenets of faith are transcendent. There's the strong link among the three traditions of Abraham's role as a patriarch, for instance. Prayer life is important, as is a personal relationship with and submission to God, he added.

"We're dealing with an interconnected world, and the people that we deal with come from all directions," Father Barone reiterated. "The question is how do we maintain our own traditions without being close-minded toward other traditions?

"As we go into this 21st century, we're going to encounter ever more the need to not only be tolerant, but genuinely appreciative of other people's diversity." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Pilgrimages, from page 13

Haram el Sharif, or Dome of the Rock, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

— Where possible, arrange for meals and lodgings with Christian institutions that use the income to support their operations; be attentive to opportunities to support Christian businesses, including Christian travel agencies and guides.

— Stay alert to security concerns; in general, keeping to tour buses and avoiding public buses.

Regarding security, the bishops also said, "Potential pilgrims should not be discouraged by reports of millennial cultists and the ongoing political instability in the region. They should draw strength from the generations of Christians who have made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land before them."

The guidelines, which conclude with information about Holy Land contacts for U.S. pilgrims, were prepared in consultation with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Catholic Relief Services and the bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. ▼

On three religions ...

The following excerpts are from Father Robert J. Barone's presentation on three world faith traditions March 12 at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem.

• On Christianity and its great prophet, Jesus, also believed by the Christian faithful to be the Messiah:

"When you read the New Testament ... you're not getting simply a biographical narrative of the prophet Jesus. You're getting, rather, a theological document written from faith, for faith, in the light of the belief in the resurrection."

"Christian hope is not, of course, hope of resuscitation, but hope of a metamorphosis transformation. Faith begins that metamorphosis transformation in life, which ... the Christian believes is gradually permeated through the relationship the believer has with Jesus."

• On Islam and its great prophet, Mohammed, who lived from 570-632 A.D in what is now Saudi Arabia:

"Islam believes that God is the founder of Islam. Mohammed is the privileged prophet, the seal of the prophets, and the holy book is not the Bible but the Koran."

"There is always this distinction in Islam, something that has really gotten blurred in the Western world, that there is the sacred and there is the profane. This is a powerful idea. If you don't keep escaping profane time to sacred time, and you don't keep escaping profane space to sacred space, you'll become one of those arrogant people that the Koran speaks of who thinks everything you have, you earned. You'll start to take credit for everything. Islam has some very powerful ideas that transcend Islam."

• On Judaism and its great prophet, Moses, who is believed to have received God's commandments on Mount Sinai around the 13th century B.C.:

"Moses is very tightly woven into the story of the origins of Israel. ... He is the figure through whom the children of Israel have achieved freedom, and he is the figure through whom they have received the law."

"Two things are intertwined in the figure of Moses: law and freedom. The law of God, if lived, gives you freedom, and the freedom of God allows you to submit to his law. They intertwine, the two concepts."

— Jimmy Rostar

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Director of Development: The diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Social Services. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Appropriate experience in fund-raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communications skills, the ability to handle numerous tasks at once and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by April 30 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Full-time Music Director: St. Michael the Archangel is a new, fast growing parish located north of Atlanta in Cherokee County. The parish is seeking a full-time music director. The position will involve planning and coordinating music and choirs for Sunday and Holy Day liturgies. Applicants must possess good working knowledge of Catholic liturgies and music, play organ/keyboard, work well with people and be open to a diverse music program. Send resumes with references to: St. Michael the Archangel, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, GA 30188 or fax to (770)516-4664.

Elementary Principal: Blessed Sacrament School in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning July 1, 1999. With an enrollment of 410 students in grades Pre-K through 8, this SACS and FCC accredited school challenges its students to strive for academic excellence and high standards of faith and moral values. Applicants are to be practicing Catholics who can enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates should have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the State of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application from, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Phone: (912)238-2344 Fax: (912)238-2339.

Director of Liturgy: Opportunity to serve fulltime in welcoming, prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life. Vatican II community, 1900 families in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, staff. Requires master's degree or equivalent, knowledge of church rites and rituals; empowering, collaborative, pastoral; music skills welcome. Immediate opening; salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Phone (336)294-4696; fax (336)294-6149.

Elementary Principal: St. Paul the Apostle School in Spartanburg, South Carolina is seeking a Principal for the 1999-2000 school year. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, within proximity of Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA. St. Paul's School has a Pre-K through eighth grade academic and daycare program for our 200+ students. We are seeking a practicing Catholic with dynamic teaching, development and leadership skills. MA in Education Administration or related field, minimum of five years' teaching and/or administration experience. Letters of interest and resume should be addressed to: Very Rev. Michael R. De Antonio, V.F., St. Paul the Apostle Church, 161 N. Dean St., Spartanburg, S.C., 29302. Deadline for applications: April 30, 1999.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is hiring certified teachers in Math, PE/Health, English, Religion, Part-time Spanish, and a school-certified counselor for the 1999-2000 school year. For an application, please send resume to the school at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. — D.L.

Chrism Mass highlights union between bishop, priests, diocesan faithful

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — During one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses, Bishop Willliam G. Curlin presided over a recommitment to priestly service and blessed the holy oils priests will use throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Holy Week observances continued March 30 with the chrism Mass in St. Patrick Cathedral. The diocesan shepherd gathered with about 100 priests ministering in the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith they serve.

"This is a special day in the church," said Bishop Curlin to his brother priests during his homily. "This is a time to draw upon the graces that accompany us in our journey of leading the faithful to the kingdom."

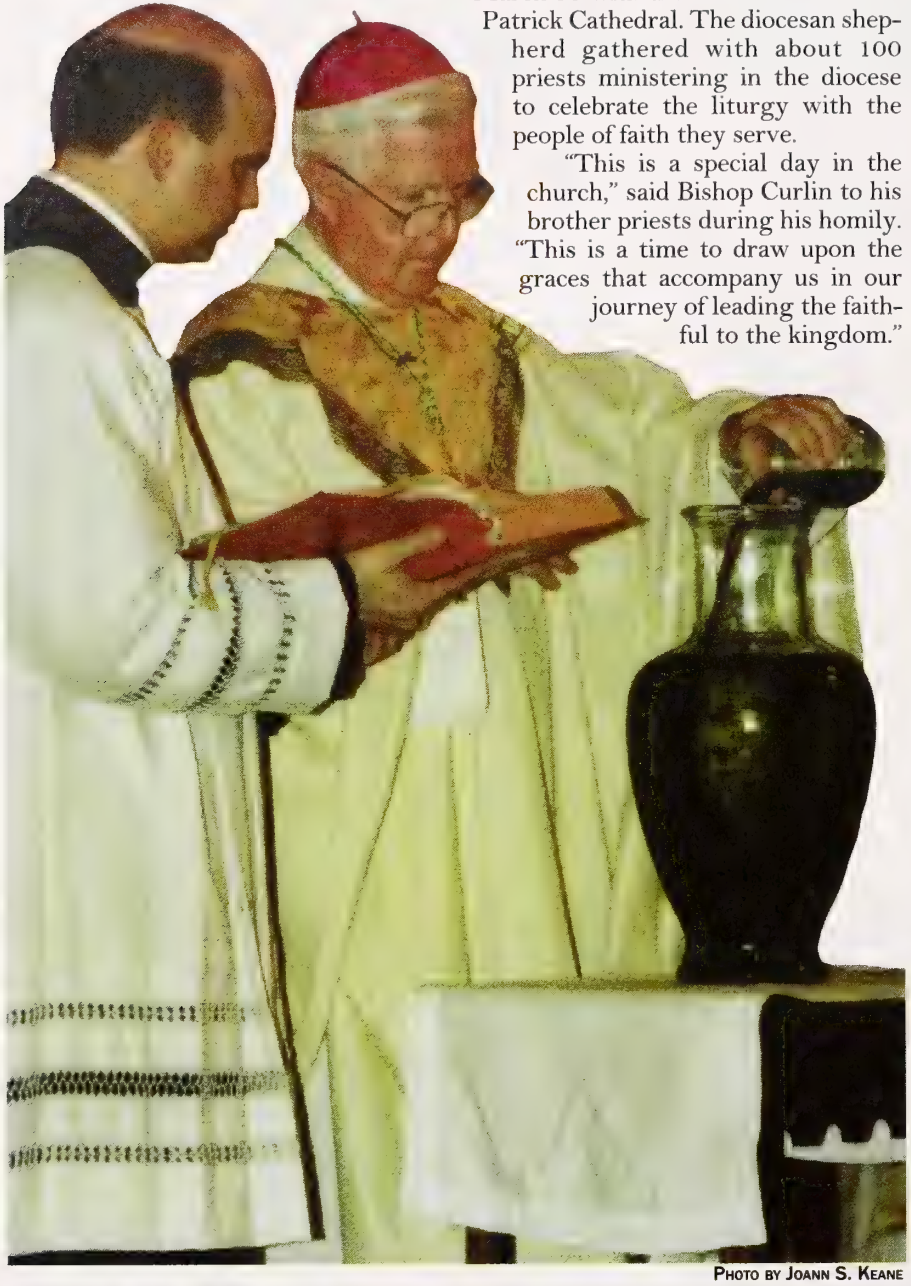


Photo by Joann S. Keane

The annual chrism Mass celebrated the ministry of priesthood and the role of the bishop as a spiritual shepherd. As principal celebrant of the Mass, presider over the priests' recommitment ceremony, and the person who blessed the sacred oils and consecrated the chrism, the bishop commended the priests in their ministry while being reaffirmed in his.

Bishop Curlin emphasized that at the heart of the ministry of priesthood is the Eucharist. "What a privilege it is to be a priest, to take bread and wine every day and have heaven come down on earth through the words of consecration," he said.

The bishop said the priest must root himself in the sacramental life, in a life of prayer, and in a daily recommitment to Christ. "Apart from this, there is nothing," he said.

"We must celebrate the Eucharist, as Paul VI said, with a transparency of faith that can nourish the minds, hearts and souls of our people," he added. "Jesus is our liturgy."

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of dedication as ministers of Christ, of striving to be more like Christ, and of being faithful to the sacred mysteries and sacramental life of the church.

The bishop also addressed the congregation, asking for their continued spiritual support. "My brothers and sisters, pray for your priests," he said. "Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, to help them be faithful ministers of Christ the high priest, so that they will be able to lead you to him, the fountain of your salvation.

"Pray also for me that despite my own unworthiness I may faithfully fulfill the office of apostle which Jesus Christ has entrusted to me."

Also during the Mass, Bishop Curlin blessed three large vessels of oil whose use is significant in liturgies throughout the year.

The oil of the sick, used to anoint the ill, was blessed first. Next came the blessing of the oil of catechumens, which is used during the rite of baptism. The consecration of the chrism — a privilege that belongs to the bishop alone — took place near the close of the Mass. Chrism, which is perfumed with balsam, is an oil of consecration used after baptisms and during confirmation, the ordaining of bishops and priests, and the blessing of churches and altars.

Vials of the oils are dispersed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves in the ministry they and their bishop share — the priests returned to their parishes rededicated in spiritual union with the bishop and the people to whom they minister.

"People are hungry for God," Bishop Curlin said. "It's our privilege to put them in contact with Jesus Christ, to help them understand the mystery of how God lives in them, and how the Holy Spirit gives them the grace to bring Christ to the world." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

LIFE'S A JOURNEY...

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE PATHS?

- Do you wake up some days to a nagging voice telling you there's more to life?
- Are you looking for a balance of service, prayer and a deeper relationship with God within a supportive community?
- Has your career choice left you feeling empty, disconnected?
- Are you a woman looking to make a difference in the world?

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANSWERS!

If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to explore vowed religious life with the Sisters of Mercy.

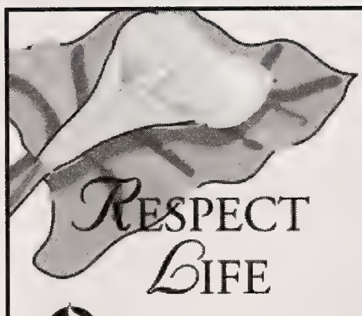
Women are invited to join us as we share our journeys in Mercy at "Exploring Mercy," on May 8, 1999 from 9:30am - 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, NC. Call Lizz at 704.829.5260 by April 28 to register.

A Marian Pilgrimage

May 5-14
Registration ending soon — Call today!
(704) 370-3336

Join Father Anthony Marcaccio on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For more information:
E-mail or send your name, address and phone number to:
Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org


RESPECT LIFE

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
—John 1:4

Easter Blessings

A ministry of Catholic Social Services

*********************3-DIGIT 275
42083 5296 F2
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 16, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 31

Inside

Educators gather for national conference ...PAGE 7

NFP helps decision on 'responsible parenthood' ...PAGE 16

Extended coverage of the Balkan crisis ...PAGES 8-9

Local News

Country music-loving priest wins contest ...PAGE 3

Friends remember business, church leader ...PAGE 15

Every Week

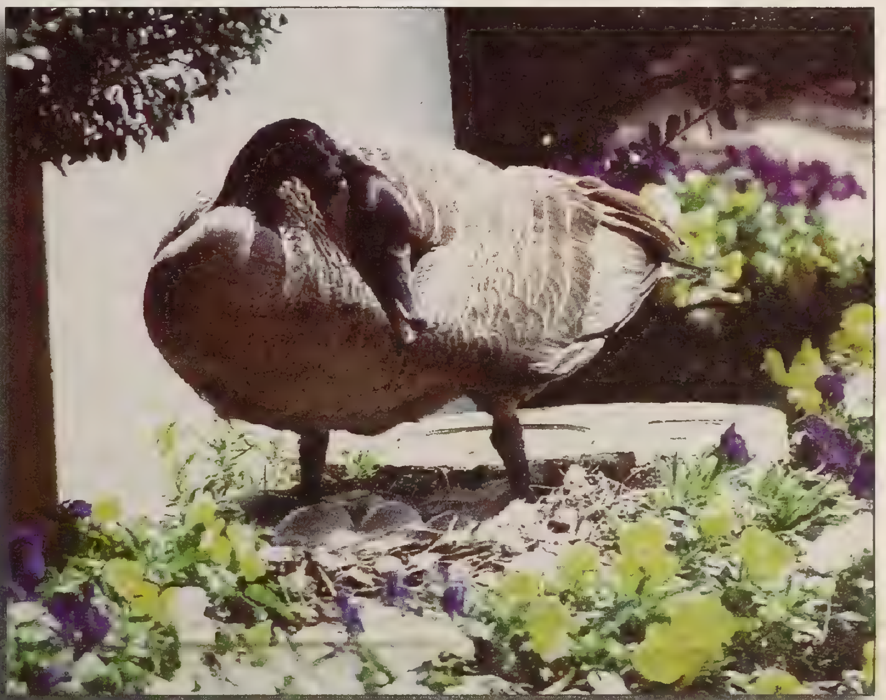
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25 ...PAGE 13

Geese adopt parish home

Then God said, "Let the waters teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on earth let birds fly under the dome of the sky."
... And God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth."
— Genesis 1: 20, 22



PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

For their nesting habitat, a pair of Canadian geese snuggled into a space at the foot of the cross outside the parish of St. John Neumann in Charlotte. On Holy Thursday, the female goose laid eggs and the two birds established their domain for the season. On occasion, the female goose will raise up to inspect the eggs. She may nudge them carefully and primp the downy soft lining of the nest. Some time around the first of May, parishioners will take their first gander at the new goslings. It is said that a pair of Canadian geese will stay together, mate for life and are very protective of one another. And, if Mother Nature stays on a steady course, the pair of Canadian geese will return to the same nesting area from year to year.

Macedonia's Brazda camp:

Dante's 'Inferno' with angels of mercy

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BRAZDA, Macedonia (CNS) — On the edge of a sprawling refugee camp in northern Macedonia, things were coming unraveled.

A man suffering from Down syndrome was trying to figure out how to put on a disposable diaper before it was too late. Beside him, an emotionally disturbed boy rolled in the dirt.

In the tent next door, six elderly men and women lay on mattresses and called out in faint voices for help. In front of them, a schizophrenic man suddenly moved into a performance of strange poses and gestures.

Then a 4-year-old boy appeared, crying and bedraggled, separated from his family. Nearby, a woman wandered aimlessly, asking about her missing daughters.

This single small patch of the Brazda refugee camp, where some 20,000 Kosovars landed in early April, looked like something out of Dante's "Inferno." Except that there were angels of mercy, too.

Within minutes, the Down syndrome man, diaper in place, and the disturbed boy were sitting calmly, being spoon-fed by a young Kosovar volunteer, Albjona Blakaj.

Another volunteer, Ilir Latifi, spoke to the bedridden elderly, one by one, and made sure someone brought a carton of milk or carried them to the bathroom.

And thanks to a "lost-child" messenger, an excited woman from Kosovo soon approached the area and was reunited with her lost little boy. She smiled and cried and hugged him; he burst into tears.

These emotional payoffs are few and far between in Brazda, a tent city that sprang up overnight after more than 100,000 ethnic Albanian refugees poured down the valley from Pristina, capital of Kosovo, and crossed over into Macedonia, a country that has its own ethnic tensions and is leery of

SEE BRAZDA CAMP, PAGE 8

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

An ethnic Albanian man from Kosovo eats biscuits behind a group of tents in a refugee camp in Brazda, Macedonia, April 5.

Bishop says U.S. pushing U.N. on abortion, family planning

NEW YORK (CNS) — The United States is taking a leading role in attempts to get the United Nations to go even further on abortion and family planning than the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, according to Coadjutor Bishop James T. McHugh of Rockville Centre. He said the U.S. delegation pushed "very hard" in the committee preparing for a special meeting of the U.N. General Assembly to review developments since Cairo. Bishop McHugh was on the Vatican delegation to the recent meeting of the Commission on Population and Development at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Bill boosts rights of health systems opposed to assisted suicide

SALEM, Ore. (CNS) — A key panel in the Oregon Senate has approved a bill that would give more clout to health providers opposing doctor-assisted suicide. Senate Bill 491, OK'd unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee April 1, would give institutions such as Providence Health Systems clear authority to penalize doctors who aid in suicides on health system grounds. Providence — a network of Catholic hospitals, assisted-living communities, clinics and hospices — is Oregon's largest health system. Founded by the Sisters of Providence, it tends about 1,500 licensed beds in the state. The bill would allow groups such as Providence to penalize violating doctors by canceling office leases and nixing some privileges.

Wal-Mart urged to design policies that respect human dignity

NEW YORK (CNS) — Church groups involved in the corporate responsibility movement have stepped up pressure on Wal-Mart to design business policies that contribute to "sustainable community and the dignity of the human person." An open letter April 5 to David Glass, Wal-Mart CEO, said the company's growth raised concern that its "strategic vision to achieve success in the marketplace" came "without an ethical standard of measurement for its decisions." Betsy Reithemeyer, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman, told Catholic News Service April 8 that company executives had met on several occasions with groups represented among the signers, and Wal-Mart thought it had been responsive to their concerns.

WE
NEE
PEACE
KEEPIN
FORC
PAT

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Timorese protest

East Timorese men in Jakarta, Indonesia, protest April 9 a recent attack on a Catholic church in East Timor. At least 25 people died the April 6 attack by a paramilitary group in Liquisa.

Vandalism attacks on Italian churches believed related

ROME (CNS) — Two Italian churches were set on fire and several were spray-painted in what investigators believed to be a series of Satanist incidents. During the night of April 6, vandals in the village of Versasio, near the Swiss border, broke into a 16th-century church and sprayed it throughout with occult symbols. They then stacked up the pews and chairs and set them ablaze. Only a statue of Mary and a shrine were spared the red paint and flames. One message sprayed on the walls was, "Satan, lord of hell, is among us."

More than 25 killed at church, rectory in East Timor

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — More than 25 people were killed when a militia group attacked a church and rectory in East Timor, said Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of Dili. The parish priest, Father Rafael dos Santos, said 45 people were killed in the April 6 incident. He accused pro-Indonesia paramilitary groups from East Timor of hacking to death some of the victims. In a Dili press conference April 7, Bishop Belo said the military told him "there were 25 bodies inside the priest's house, but according to other witnesses outside, around the church, there were other bodies; I don't know exactly how many."

Sectarian riots in Indonesia disrupt Holy Week services

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Sectarian riots in Tual, a town in Indonesia's Maluku province, interrupted Holy Week celebrations as local Catholics and others fled the town for safety. Meanwhile, police and local media said 40 people were killed in Christian-Muslim clashes throughout Indonesia April 6-7, including 17 in Tual, where nearly 100 people were injured and more than 140 houses were burned or badly damaged. Ethnic tensions developed after rioting in Ambon Jan. 19. In Tual March 31, the tension broke into Christian-Muslim clashes, reportedly sparked by graffiti insulting Islam.

CRS, other groups call on Congress to release hurricane aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of Hispanic, religious, development and human rights organizations, including Catholic Relief Services, is urging Congress to promptly release the $956 million in hurricane reconstruction aid for Central America that is now languishing in conference committee. At a Capitol Hill press conference April 7, Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., said the funds to aid reconstruction following last year's Hurricanes Georges and Mitch in Central America and the Caribbean had been proposed by President Clinton and approved by both houses of Congress. But it was not being acted upon because of wrangling in conference committee over cuts in other programs to fund the reconstruction package, he said.

Catholics help stop death penalty in Massachusetts

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The successful campaign to keep the death penalty out of Massachusetts led local Catholics to rejoice — and to pledge to continue their efforts. "A big thank-you to all people for any effort they made," said Rachelle Comtois, director of the Worcester diocesan Office of Social Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, following the 80-73 House vote March 29.

Connecticut bishops issue statement on Communion teaching

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — Concerned about apparent misconceptions and lack of information about the Eucharist among Catholics and others, the Connecticut Catholic bishops have issued a formal statement on receiving holy Communion. Only those who "accept and believe what the Catholic Church teaches in general, and specifically about the Eucharist" can receive Communion in a Catholic church, they said. This would include all Catholics, whether of the Latin rite or Eastern rites, and members of the Orthodox churches and the Polish National Catholic Church "if they spontaneously request it and are properly disposed," the bishops said.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

April 16, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 31
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part the following events:

April 22 — 7 pm
Confirmation
For the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Jefferson and its mission, St. Francis of Rome in Sparta

April 24 — 5:30 pm
Diaconate Ordination
Shawn O'Neal
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

April 25 — 11 am Mass
Youth Conference
Camp Thunderbird, Clover, SC

April 25 — 4 pm
Confirmation
St. Joseph, Newton

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church is selling parish cookbooks with more than 300 recipes for appetizers, main dishes, desserts and a host of other recipes sent in by parishioners and friends. Cost is $10 each. Cookbooks can be purchased from St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 525 Camden Dr., Statesville, N.C. 28677, or by calling (704) 872-2579.

April

21 CHARLOTTE — A series of classes on spirituality for the home begins today from 7:15-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery in Boonville facilitates. The first session relates the sacraments to human experiences. Other sessions are April 28 and May 5. For more information, call (336) 699-4005.

HICKORY — Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry presents the 13th Annual Spring Fling today from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. Cost is $7.50. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

23 BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College hosts an "Abbey Experience" today for prospective students. Students will have opportunities to meet current Abbey students and professors, tour the campus, attend classes, have lunch with the campus community, and attend a financial aid seminar. For reservations, call (888) 222-6665.

25 CHARLOTTE — The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., hosts its annual chicken dinner today from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Dinner includes baked or fried chicken, dessert and a beverage. Cost is $6.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A "Spirit Day" for middle-school youth in the Smoky

Country music-loving priest hits contest jackpot

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Thanks to a lucky number, a childhood recollection and a love for country music, Father Martin Schratz was reminded that persistence has its reward — $2,735, to be exact.

For a month and a half, the Capuchin Franciscan friar called in twice a morning to his favorite radio station, WKKT 96.9 FM, in Charlotte to guess the station's secret sound.

Father Martin Schratz, OFM Cap

The person who correctly guessed the source of the echoing "plink, plink, plink" would win a cash prize. Listeners were given clues along the way: there were two objects creating the sound; one could be microwaved while the other couldn't; one has a handle and one doesn't.

Father Schratz had a pretty good idea what was creating the sound. A certain hint evoked a memory that convinced him. "One of the clues was they both contain liquid," he said. "When we were kids, we used to scrape the covering off of golf balls. Inside there was a little ball; there's a blue liquid inside.

"That's how I knew what it was."

His guess was a golf ball bouncing in a coffee mug.

Father Schratz, who has the station's number programmed into the speed-dial function on his phone, made it through the busy signals a few times over the weeks. But he couldn't seem to be the right caller.

Then Easter Monday morning arrived.

"It was funny, because that day it was caller number 23," said Father Schratz, a parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and a country music aficionado. "I got all excited because that's my lucky number. I was born on the 23rd."

The station — "Kat Kountry" to fans — began the contest a couple of months ago with $1,096. A wrong guess meant another chance and more money. Several callers came close, but guessed only the coffee mug part correctly.

By the time of Father Schratz's correct guess, the jackpot had grown to $2,735. He'll turn the money in to the Capuchin community.

"No matter who wins the money, you're happy for them," said Paul Schadt, who hosts the station's morning show with Shannon Alexander. "But sometimes it's special. That was one of the cases there."

"Really, I thought we were still at least a week away from somebody getting it," he added. "When he said it, it almost caught me off guard. I looked around the room and it was like, 'Holy cow, he got it!'"

By the time of Father Schratz's correct guess, the jackpot had grown to $2,735. He'll turn the money in to the Capuchin

The contest took some diligent listening. "He had to know the jackpot amount ... and if you don't listen all the time, you miss some of the clues," said Schadt. "Obviously he used the clues to his advantage and was able to decipher the sound. He had to be right caller, too. Everything lined up just right."

Father Schratz has won radio contests before, including one that yielded front-row Garth Brooks concert tickets from "Kat Kountry" last year. He sees his latest stroke of good fortune as a spiritual lesson.

"I used it in a homily — not that I won, as much as it was perseverance," he said. "I could have heard the busy signal and given up. That's the way it is with prayer sometimes. We pray, and we don't think God is answering us.

"Sometimes it sounds like we're getting a busy signal, but we just have to persevere." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

April 16, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ,

From dioceses where a few Catholics are scattered across tens of thousands of square miles to those that struggle with overwhelming numbers concentrated in smaller areas, the home missions find challenges in bringing the faith to all.

Your contribution to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal on the weekend of April 24-25, 1999 will help provide funding for priests to celebrate Mass in these areas as regularly as possible; it will help support religious education programs, so that our faith can be handed down to the generations that will follow; it will also help the smallest parishes of our country keep their doors open.

Our brothers and sisters are depending on this Appeal; help us strengthen the "Church at Home" by responding generously.
Wishing you the blessings of this holy Easter Season, I am

Sincerely in Christ,
Mauricio W. West
Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

P.O. BOX 36776, CHARLOTTE, NC 28236
PHONE: (704) 370-6299 FAX: (704) 370-3379

Mountain Vicariate is at the Living Waters Reflection Center today from 12:30-6 p.m. Call (828) 669-0524 for details.

27 CHARLOTTE — A spiritual growth group meets today and May 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. at 2010 Countrymen's Court #69, off Sharon Lakes Road. Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery in Boonville facilitates. Call (336) 699-4005 for details and directions.

28 CHARLOTTE — A workshop on the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is today from 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The workshop will take participants through the topics of charity, education, advocacy, action and empowerment for the working poor. It will include prayer, reflection and discussion. For more information, call Greg Kurts at (704) 544-8406.

30 MAGGIE VALLEY — A women's Emmaus retreat, with Father Ray Berg as spiritual advisor, is today through May 2 at the Living Waters Reflection Center. Space is limited for this retreat, which focuses on an encounter with Jesus through relaxation and reflection. For more information, call Bobbie Mukosiej at (828) 665-2722, or Nancy Sparacino at (828) 255-0095.

May

1 GREENSBORO — Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School hosts a car lease raffle and "Monte Carlo Night" to raise funds for technology in the school today. The raffle prize is a two-year lease of a two-passenger 1999 Mercedes SLK 230. Five hundred tickets will be sold at $60 each, or two or more for $50 each. A scrip raffle of $250 is also planned. Tickets are $5 each. The Monte Carlo Night social features games, auctions and a catered buffet dinner. Tickets are $75 each. All profits will be directed to library and classroom computer upgrades. For tickets and other information, call the school's Office of Development at (336) 725-4247.

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets today at 9 a.m. in the Wal Mart parking lot on Battleground Avenue for a hiking trip at Hanging Rock. Call Annie at (336) 454-3343 for details. The group meets regularly for a variety of social and spiritual events.

GREENSBORO — North Carolina Right to Life sponsors Pro-life Day 1999 today with a series of discussions at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Topics to be covered include the abortion and breast cancer connection; new discoveries about fetal development; post-abortion syndrome and the adolescent; and euthanasia and assisted suicide. For schedule, registration and other information, call (800) 392-6275. Group, senior and student discounts are available.

7 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr. Praying of the rosary is at 6:30, and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass. Call (336) 884-0244 for more information.

14 GREENSBORO — "The Love of the Father," a statewide conference on preparing for the new millennium, is today through May 16 at Greensboro College, 815 W. Market St. Featured speakers are Catholic evangelists Peter Herbeck and Jim Murphy. Fees start at $55 for meals and a shared room on campus. Private rooms and suites are also available. For details, call Hannah in Greensboro at (336) 273-9205, or Joyce in Charlotte at (704) 547-1836.

20 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., at 7:30 p.m.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

God's love requires response, correct behavior, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the love of God the Father is abundant and unending, it requires a response of love and correct behavior, Pope John Paul II said.

In addition to loving his children, God "also has the task of guiding them, admonishing them with severity if necessary," like any father, the pope said April 7 at his weekly general audience.

The pope, who was spending several days at Castel Gandolfo south of Rome, returned to the Vatican by helicopter for the audience but was scheduled to go back to the papal summer residence until April 10.

With St. Peter's Square still decorated with flowers from the Easter morning Mass, Pope John Paul said that by dying on the cross, Jesus showed that the greatest response to God's love lies in giving one's life for others.

"While he proclaimed the love of the Father, Jesus never stopped recalling that it is a compelling love," a love which requires doing God's will and following his law, he said.

"The law which God gives to his people is not a weight imposed by a tyrannical master, but an expression of that paternal love which points out the correct path for human conduct and the conditions for inheriting the divine promises," he said.

While God's law flows from his love, "transgressing it is not without consequences, bringing painful results," the pope said.

"If one detaches himself from the Creator, he necessarily falls into evil, death and nothingness," he said. "On the other hand, adhesion to God is the source of life and blessing."

The law given to the people of the Old Testament was not abolished by Jesus, as he told his disciples, but was deepened and expanded, the pope said.

"Jesus points out that the heart of the law is the precept of love," he said. And, Jesus "develops its radical requirements," telling his disciples they must love their enemies as well as their friends since all are children of God.

"With Jesus there is a jump in quality," Pope John Paul said. "He synthesizes the law and the prophets in just one norm — as simple in its formulation as it is difficult in its realization: 'Do to others that which you would have them do to you.'"

With Jesus, he said, "the law is transformed and deepened as the law of love, the only thing which matches the paternal face of God."

Pope names officers for European synod, scheduled Oct. 1-23

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II tapped church leaders to head the Synod of Bishops for Europe, scheduled Oct. 1-23 at the Vatican. In a statement released April 6, the Vatican said Pope John Paul chose as the three synod presidents Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow, Poland; Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne, Germany; and French Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

What teens don't like about themselves

When 13-year-old Lisa — trim and pretty as a picture — came to my office, she obviously was near tears. "What brings you here?" I probed.

Lisa's sobbing and her words began at almost exactly the same time. "I hate my best friend." It was an unusual complaint. "What's that about?"

"Janine is so perfect. She's pretty, and she's nice, and she gets good grades, and everybody totally hangs around her. When I look at her I feel fat and gross and stupid. I need to go someplace where I won't see her for at least a week so I can stop feeling so horrible."

"This one guy asked me for my pager number, but when he paged me, all he did was ask if I could hook him up with Janine."

"The worst thing is," Lisa said with obvious amazement, "she's not even conceited. It's like she doesn't even notice all this stuff, and then she goes and says she thinks nobody likes her. I can't believe it."

I recognized a familiar story. Lisa was seeing how Janine looked on the outside — but she didn't know anything about life inside Janine's skin.

That's the way it is with all of us. We all live in our own messy, uncomfortable, confusing inside worlds, but with others all we see is their polished, shiny, put-together outsides. Often the inside and the outside don't match at all.

Almost every teen-age girl hates her own nose. It's true — they stare into the mirror, convinced that the big lump in the middle of their face is a disaster. Interestingly, they don't hate their friends' noses, they only hate their own.

Most teen-agers are quite dissatisfied with some part of their lives, and it is often their looks. I learned that Lisa was deeply unhappy with her appearance, largely as a consequence of some very unkind teasing by an older brother. She thought she was ugly — and it didn't matter what anybody else said.

When you think you're dumb and funny looking, whatever happens feels like proof. If somebody says, "Hey, that's a cute jacket," you hear, "It hides those big hips."

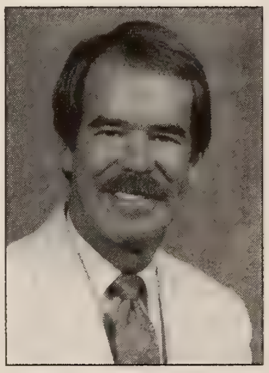
I can't prove this, but I'd bet that Lisa's friend, Janine, meant it when she said nobody liked her. She wasn't just making Lisa feel good.

No matter how put-together she is on the outside, Janine is living in her own messy inside. Inside, she worries if boys like her, and she worries whether or not she'll match up with the internal standards she carries. And Janine may worry that Lisa is so pretty that all the guys will go for her. If Lisa pulls away, Janine will worry about that. "What's happening? Now my best friend is disappearing — I must really be a mess."

The solution is simple, but hard. If Lisa values her friendship, she'll need to use words. That means telling Janine openly and honestly what she feels.

If Janine is a good friend, she'll take what she hears seriously. Honesty binds friends together. And then, maybe, she'll tell Lisa about her own fears and concerns. When Lisa hears and understands, both girls — and their friendship — will be made stronger.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.



Strategic Planning

GEORGE REPASS
Guest Columnist

Strategic Planning: Catholic Education Sub-committee for Catholic Schools

The work of this task group engaged in assessing the needs for our schools is energized by the present health and the future prospects for this important ministry in the diocese. With a total current population of more than 7,000 students in grades pre-K through 12, the system has experienced a record of astounding growth since the Diocesan Synod issued its planning document in 1986-87.

In its review, the subcommittee has revisited those recommendations as an aid in forming its baseline understandings of both the accomplishments and goals of the schools during the past decade. These understandings have been augmented by reference to emerging trends in Catholic school education both locally and nationally and the refinements in the schools' sense of mission, which have resulted from their ongoing self-study.

One current development which promises to yield great insights for our planning efforts is the body of results from the self-study currently being conducted by our elementary and middle schools in their effort to obtain accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This type of accreditation, already possessed by our high schools, will be a recognition of quality in our system and will help to offset the negative impact of the state of North Carolina's intent to disengage itself from the business of accrediting non-public schools by the year 2000.

During the initial stage of its efforts, the subcommittee has sought school administrators' views regarding issues and themes which dominate their thinking as they see the needs of the system from their professional perspectives. Assisted by Superintendent Mike Skube, Assistant Superintendent Sister Mona Wingert, and Director of Religious Formation Sister Maureen Meehan, the committee has identified some twenty focus areas categorized under philosophical/mission concerns, social dynamics and needs in the schools resulting from demographic and cultural diversity trends, academic needs and the resources necessary for supporting programs for growth in these areas, student health services goals, staffing and staff development concerns, and the ongoing needs for facilities expansions in light of the growing population of students seeking Catholic school education at all grade levels.

A critical concern in assessing all dimensions of these issues and planning needs is the focus on sustaining a firmly Catholic identity in our schools. It is our conviction that all improvements must be undertaken in light of this overriding concern, which is at the core of our schools' sense of their mission. And it is this sense of mission, shared by all those involved in the work of our schools, which is best expressed in the words of St. Paul that "the love of Christ urges us on."

George Repass is principal of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem and vice-chair of the Catholic Education Subcommittee for Catholic Schools.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Positive anger?

Anger is an emotion that most of us believe should be suppressed. "Count to ten" is the standard antidote to blurting out our frustrations. Yet my experience in counseling suggests that there are certain circumstances when we heal or recover our balance in life by becoming angry first.

For example, people who are ill and in pain often get angry. I have observed that terribly sick people actually affirm life and their attachment to it through anger.

Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen of the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine and author of "Kitchen Table Wisdom" puts it this way: "Anger often represents an engagement with life, not always the most comfortable style of engagement, but perhaps the only style the person can manage at that particular time. It is far healthier than apathy, hopelessness, and resignation."

But there is the possibility that left unresolved, long-term anger can lead to bitterness and resentment, attitudes that can be far more debilitating than any disease.

A few months ago, PBS televised a touching documentary, "Travis," about a little boy who was born HIV positive and now suffers from AIDS. The program was so compelling that we gave it a Christopher Award at the annual presentation this February. That's where I met Travis, now 10 years old, and his grandmother, Geneva Jefferies. Since his mother, a crack addict, is unable to take care of him, Travis' beloved grandmother gives him the affection and care he needs. And this unforgettable boy needs so much.

He suffers from painful sores in his mouth and throat, and can eat only from a tube inserted into his stomach. Over the years, Travis has been on more than 275 drugs. Right now he takes 20 different ones every day. But what amazes people most about Travis is his endearing, positive personality.

"Don't worry about me," beams Travis. "I'm breathing, I'm happy to be breathing, and I can feel the sun on my face!"

There isn't a trace of "Why me?" in this youngster. Whether a person is angry at a life-threatening illness or some event that is simply contrary to expectations, the rage is still really an expression of "Why me? This isn't the way my life's supposed to be. This isn't fair!"

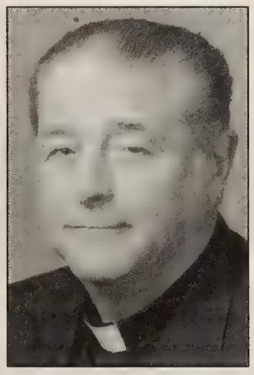
Children, I think, are so close to the essentials of life itself, they often see things more clearly than many adults do. As we grow older we become attached to our preferences for living life in a certain way, where everything goes our way. For us to deal more effectively with anger, we might take our cue from all those who retain that vital connection to life, no matter what shape it takes.

Directed at solving a problem or focusing our energy, anger is valuable and constructive. The real difficulty with anger is that we can become stuck to it. Rather than contend with the emotion, admit it, experience it, and let it go, some of us get so attached to the feeling of anger that it can dominate us indefinitely. Then there are those others who manage anger and move on.

All emotions, including anger, can serve a purpose. And they are potentially life affirming. But only if we choose to make them so.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Can't seem to forgive

Q. Father, my soul is in deep mourning. Several months ago our 11-year-old son was shot and killed by a neighbor boy one year older. He had found his older brother's unlicensed gun and shot our son in the face.

I didn't go to therapy or counseling groups because my questions are not for these groups, but I hope you can help.

I've searched the Bible on the death of a child, but found nothing that helped. My son did receive Communion and the other sacraments before he died. Does he have the gift of eternal life with God? Is there such a thing as my being able to speak with him and he be aware of it?

What about the soul of the child who killed my son? He received a very light sentence, which was like a slap on the wrist. Is his soul in danger, or mine, because I can't seem to find forgiveness?

A. You and your husband have a heavy load to carry, and I'm sorry for your hurt. No one can take away the pain, but there are a few things that may be helpful in light of your questions.

Can you speak with your son and he be aware of it? Can he speak to you?

One of the most consoling and remarkable ancient beliefs of our Christian faith, one we too often don't think about, is the Communion of Saints. It proclaims that there is a conscious communion, a living interaction, between those of us still here on earth and those who have gone before us into eternity.

This truth was specifically reaffirmed at Vatican Council II, and later in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "For all who belong to Christ," says the council, "have his Spirit, form one church and cleave together in him (see Ephesians 4:16). Therefore the union of the pilgrims with the brothers and sisters who have gone to sleep in the peace of Christ is not in the least interrupted" (Constitution on the Church 49; Catechism 954-955).

That is an astounding statement. It says that even though your son's bodily presence is no longer here, your union with him "is not in the least interrupted" by death.

On the contrary, the catechism continues, "according to the constant faith of the church, this union is reinforced by an exchange of spiritual goods." Those in heaven continually help us in our weakness and intercede with the Father for us, putting their merits at our disposal "through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus" (955-6).

How all this works in God's providence we don't know, of course. But it is an instinct of Christian faith that goes back to the earliest centuries, which we announce each time we say the Apostles' Creed.

How about forgiveness? In spite of the remark we often hear to forgive and forget, forgetting a terrible hurt is probably not possible, and anyway has nothing to do with forgiveness.

Forgiveness, as we are reminded in the Our Father, is rooted in God's forgiveness of us. It is not an exercise in mental or emotional gymnastics, trying to maneuver our feelings into the way we "ought" to feel. It is profoundly and simply a matter of love, a response to Our Lord's command that we love one another as he has loved us (Jn 13:34).

Your questions about the other child's soul show that your love and faith, your concern and care, are there, even though you may not feel it a lot at this point. That love is not negated or diminished by the fact that you remember with tears and still hurt terribly.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

Reflections on my Y2K compliance-readiness

What is it with this Y2K stuff? Even churches, which are supposed to have their minds focused on things eternal, are worried about it. Of course, we would be silly not to take the problem seriously. We have become a computer-dependent world in many ways.

Recently we received a survey form in the mail from our local electric company, which rents our parish hall sometimes. They said they wanted to be sure that all their "contractors" were "Y2K" compliant. It had a lot of questions. I did my best to respond to them honestly.

The last question was the one that stumped me. "Will your essential functions be affected?"

Now, I had to give this question a little more consideration. Just what are our essential functions?

The church is primarily a community of charity and prayer. Probably we could continue our essential functions pretty well. We should be able to celebrate the sacraments, do works of charity, study the Scriptures and teach the faith, even if the computers shut down.

We might not be able to fill in all those forms that come to us from the diocese and the government, which would be God's justice. We probably wouldn't be able to generate so much paper, which would save the rain forests. We might not be able to schedule so many events, which would give us all a needed Sabbath rest.

The power company survey made me wonder: What if we sent out a similar "doomsday survey" to determine if people were "Second Coming" compliant? What would we ask?

— Have you fed the hungry lately?

— Have you given drink to the thirsty?

— Are strangers welcomed in your community?

—What provisions have you made for clothing the naked and sheltering the homeless?

— Are your programs for visiting the sick and the imprisoned working?

— Do you worship God in spirit and truth?

— Have you been building each other up with words of encouragement?

— What provisions have you made for the meek to inherit the land?

— Have you been reconciling enemies, making peace and comforting those who mourn?

— How much mercy have you shown?

— In what way have you hungered and thirsted for justice?

— Have you preached the good news to the ends of the earth?

— Have you baptized all nations and told people of God's love?

— Have you stored up sufficient treasure in heaven?

I'd be willing to bet that most of us would have a lot harder time filling out the second form than the first. I'd also be willing to bet that it would be a lot more important to get compliant with the second one.

One way or another, we will muddle through the computer glitches of Y2K. But if we don't get compliant with the concerns of the Lord's survey, we might not get through the Last Judgment unscathed.

Now that's a survey to take seriously.

Interfaith efforts need more careful thought, says priest

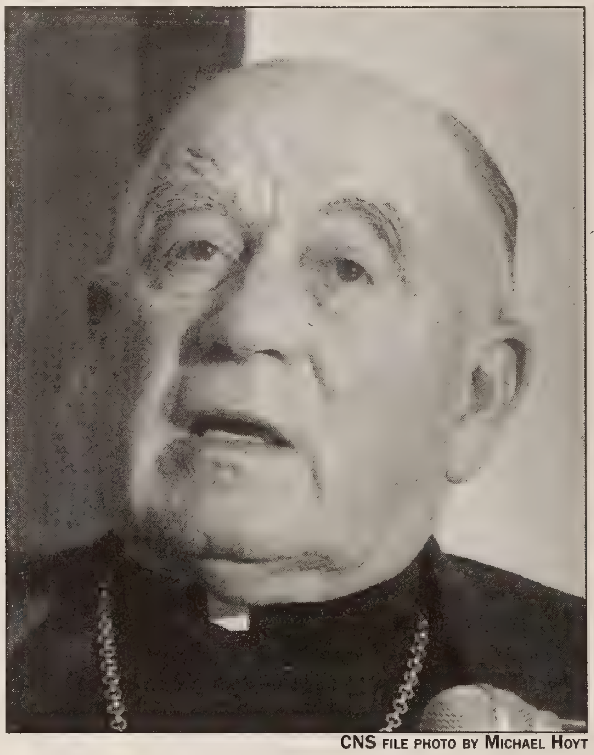
NEW YORK (CNS) — Interfaith dialogue and programs need more careful thought about the differences between religions, a priest told an interfaith gathering in New York. "It is time for us to go a bit deeper," said Passionist Father Luis M. Dolan. "There is a lot of fuzziness in this." Father Dolan, a native of Argentina who is now a U.S. citizen and lives in New York, has spent many years working in interfaith activities, including efforts to relate them to the United Nations. He is senior adviser to an Interfaith Council of New York, formed in 1995, and was a member of an interfaith panel speaking at a council program attended by about 100 people April 10 at the Catholic chapel of New York University.

Parish prays for POW held in Serbia

EMMETT, Mich. (CNS) — The capture of three American soldiers near the border of Serbia and Macedonia has had special meaning for the people of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Emmett. Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, one of the men held captive since March 31, is the son of Jim and Edith Stone of Avoca, who joined the parish about a year ago. It is in the Detroit Archdiocese. "On Holy Thursday, before the Mass, we had the rosary for him, and over 100 people showed up," Marian Pratt, parish secretary at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, said April 5.

Top basketball player earns sports awards, fan mail

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — Jason Williams reads a letter from one of his many young fans. "Could you please send me anything you've worn, maybe an old practice shirt? I play basketball, too, and I would love to be as good as you are someday," the fan writes. The 6-foot-2 All-American point guard, a senior at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Metuchen, smiles at the request and marvels at the attention he's getting. Williams, 17, has been named to the first team of Parade magazine's All-America High School Boys Basketball Team; was named the McDonald's national player of the year following that high school all-star game, which was shown on the ESPN cable channel; has been a guest on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show"; and, on April 7, met President Clinton at the White House.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT

Cardinal Silva dies at 91

Retired Chilean Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez died April 9 in Santiago, Chile. He was 91. Cardinal Silva served as archbishop of Santiago during the military coup that brought Gen. Augusto Pinochet to power. He is pictured here in Washington in 1987.

Vatican official says Germany undergoing religious crisis

ROME (CNS) — Germany is undergoing a religious crisis and therefore confronts issues such as abortion with "political correctness" rather than moral consideration, said the German head of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation. "This situation creates the possibility that God will be considered a distant hypothesis (in Germany), and that everything which concerns religion will be pushed into the realm of the subjective," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said in an interview published April 4.

Actor donates $250,000 to CRS for Kosovo refugees

WESTPORT, Conn. (CNS) — Paul Newman, actor and creator of Newman's Own food product line, has donated $250,000 to Catholic Relief Services to assist refugees and others suffering from the current crisis in the Balkans. Newman presented the $250,000 check April 7 at Newman's Own headquarters in Westport to Gerald Stanton, major gifts officer for CRS.

Irish priests in America a dying breed, says sociologist

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Irish-born and Irish-seminary priests working in U.S. dioceses are a dying breed, according to Catholic sociologist William L. Smith. Smith, who teaches at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, said that they "will likely be the last of a long continuous line of Irish priests to serve in the United States." Approximately 3,365 Irish priests have served the U.S. church since the 1800s. But, said Smith, "there's a vocation crisis in Ireland, so these guys are not there to be exported anymore."

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
. Blooming Pots
. Calla & Easter Lilies
. Flowering Azealas
. Tremendous Variety
. Landscape Consulting Available
10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• DEBT CONSOLIDATION
• LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
• CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

[MODULARCORP]
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Inspire students to 'give themselves away,' priest urges teachers

By PETER FINNEY JR.
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Catholic educators who inspire students to "give themselves away" rather than teach them how to "obtain things" will find the greatest fulfillment in their work and change the world, says Father Michael J. Himes.

The priest, a professor of theology at Boston College, made the comments April 6 at the 96th annual National Catholic Educational Association convention in New Orleans.

He opened the four-day gathering of more than 12,000 educators at the city's Ernest N. Morial Convention Center with a keynote speech on the meeting's theme, "Catholic Education: Good Times, Good News."

> **"The most religious activity that goes on in school is not religion. It is simply teaching – chemistry, biology, economics, history – bringing that student into a fuller, more authentic human life, and that is making him holy."**

Father Himes said his favorite explanation of why he became "a priest, a theologian, a teacher" is contained in the poem "Prelude" by William Wordsworth: "What we have loved, others will love, and we will teach them how. Instruct them how the mind of man becomes a thousand times more beautiful than the earth."

"My God, my God, why would anybody be anything but a teacher?" Father Himes said.

He focused on three principles that mark Catholic education — an emphasis on the Trinity, the Incarnation and the sacraments.

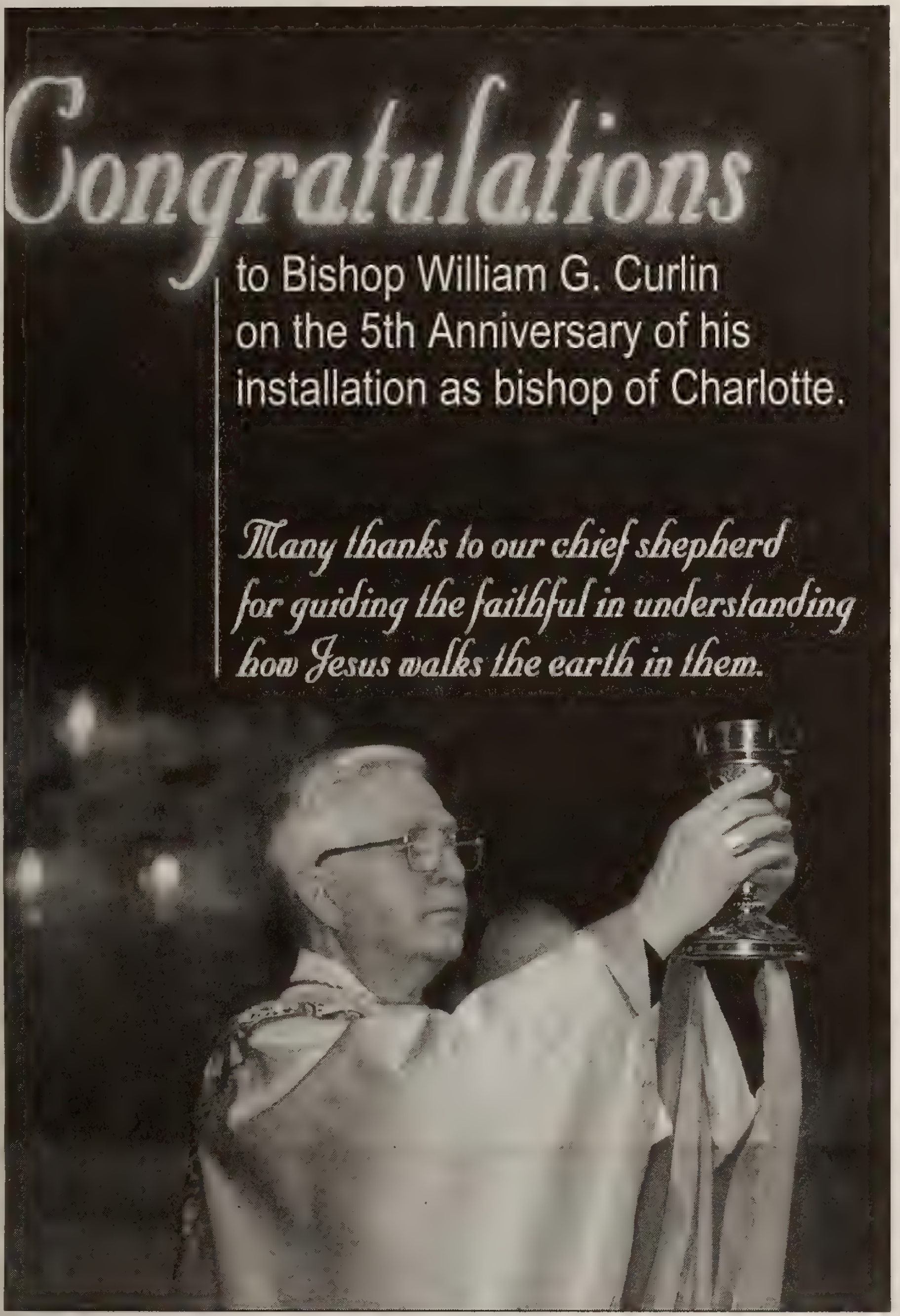
"Has it ever struck you that the Trinity is not 'a' doctrine of our faith; it is the whole of our doctrine," he said. "The whole creed is a Trinitarian statement. The whole doctrine of the Trinity is about not only God but about us."

Since we have been created in God's image and likeness, Father Himes said, and if God is, as St. Augustine says, "lover, beloved and the love between them," it follows that love is "the keynote of making a human person human."

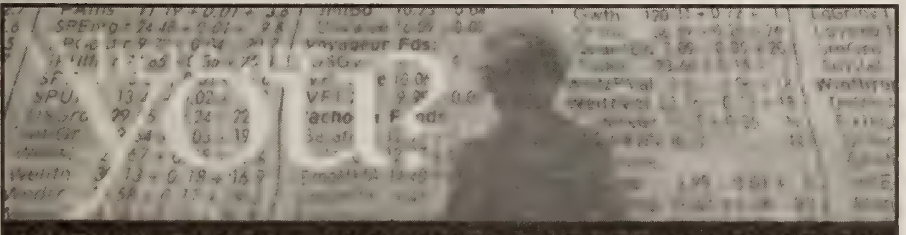
"We have the capacity to give ourselves away," he said. "We are creatures who are able to love. What do you have to do to educate someone to be a human being? If you are a Christian, you have to train this young person in how to love people, in how to give themselves away.

"Some believe education is for teaching people how to get things, how to obtain things," he added. "I'm claiming the hallmark of Christian education isn't how to gain things but to give things. It's all about self-gift."

See NCEA-HIMES, page 14


Congratulations
to Bishop William G. Curlin
on the 5th Anniversary of his
installation as bishop of Charlotte.

Many thanks to our chief shepherd
for guiding the faithful in understanding
how Jesus walks the earth in them.


MUTUAL FUNDS • ANNUITIES • ASSET ALLOCATION

Are you thinking about the future? Do you have an investment plan? Have you saved? **How confident do you feel about going it alone?** We are here. To make sure you don't have to. To introduce you to a Wachovia Investment Counselor who can help you define a plan based on where you want to go, not someone else's agenda. To help you find a comfortable balance between risk and reward. To find ways to help you make your money work harder for you.

1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM

We are here.

WACHOVIA

We want you to know that these financial projects are: Not FDIC insured • Not bank guaranteed • May lose value

Annuities, other than variable annuities, are sold in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina through Wachovia Insurance Services, Inc., a licensed insurance agency and subsidiary of Wachovia Bank, N.A. In Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, variable annuities are sold jointly by Wachovia Bank, N.A. and Wachovia Insurance Services, Inc. Wachovia Investments, Inc. is an affiliate of Wachovia Bank, N.A. and a member of NASD and SIPC

Let's get started.SM

© 1998 Wachovia Corporation

The Oratory Religion Camp

- Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 11-17, 1999 and July 18-24, 1999.
- Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
- Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
- The fee is $90.

For information and application:
The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store

BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

White tents dot the landscape over the Brazda refugee camp in Macedonia. Catholic Relief Services is among the aid agencies assisting refugees from Kosovo at the camp.

Brazda camp, from page 1

gaining more.

NATO set up the Brazda camp to help absorb a massive refugee population trapped near the border without food, water or proper hygiene. The camp has functioned well, but in mid-April, NATO troops were preparing to leave Brazda, turning over security to Macedonian police and management of the facility to Catholic Relief Services.

As CRS coordinated macro-issues like food distribution, toilet construction and refugee registration, a small team from the International Catholic Migration Commission, known as ICMC, focused on the Brazda camp's most vulnerable: the elderly, physically disabled and emotionally disturbed, all of them unaccompanied.

The ICMC set up six large tents at the north end of the camp and went to work recruiting volunteers among the healthier Kosovar refugees.

Ilir Latifi said he stepped forward because he could see that these elderly and disabled, who somehow were separated from their families during their flight, desperately needed help.

"I haven't slept for two days. They need assistance day and night. Many of them are confused and don't know what has happened to them," Latifi said. One 74-year old woman, for example, routinely gets up and announces she is walking home; the volunteers lead her back to the tent.

NATO set up the Brazda camp to help absorb a massive refugee population trapped near the border without food, water or proper hygiene. The camp has functioned well, but in mid-April, NATO troops were preparing to leave Brazda, turning over security to Macedonian police and management of the facility to Catholic Relief Services.

Latifi has his own trauma to deal with, too. As he kept a watchful eye on a tentful of older women, Latifi — dressed in jeans, a windbreaker and a blue baseball cap, his only set of clothes — described his journey.

He said he left Pristina on the advice of his family, who thought that as a young male his life would be in danger from Serb soldiers. He was put on a train "just like in 'Schindler's List,'" he said, and was dumped at the southern Yugoslav border with thousands of others.

Then he spent four days at the infamous makeshift camp at Blace, in a section of no-man's land between Yugoslavia and Macedonia. He said the camp, without water, food and hygiene, was simply a "catastrophe" for the estimated 40,000 people there.

"I have no words to describe the situation at Blace. Too many people died — old people and even babies," he said.

Latifi, who lived in Austria for five years, said he probably could be approved for transit to another European country, but preferred to remain in the camp. He said he wants to go back to Kosovo as soon as possible, to find out the fate of his parents and his younger brother and sister. But unlike many other young Kosovar males, he said he will not go back to fight with the Kosovo Liberation Army.

"No, I will not go back to kill. I would rather stay here and help," he said.

Nearby, ICMC's Davor Gazivoda listened to another desperate case: Eight days earlier in Blace, 53-year-old Useni Batia had become separated from her daughters, aged 7 and 15. The older girl was taking the younger one to find a doctor when Macedonian police broke up the camp and ordered refugees to board buses and trucks.

"I can go to another country maybe, but not before I find my girls," the woman said despondently. Like hundreds of others at the camp, she has tacked a missing-person message to a wooden wall at the camp's entrance.

Gazivoda, who has seen similar camps in Croatia, predicted tough times ahead for those who do not leave Brazda quickly.

"At first, they all think they'll go home in a few weeks. After a year, they start thinking differently, like this will never end," he said. Camp management becomes much more difficult, he added.

In a tent near the camp gates, CRS official Mark Schnellbaecher was chairing a meeting of nongovernmental organizations in preparation for the departure of NATO soldiers. The topics ranged from straightforward — how to keep trash out of rapidly filling latrines — to the more complex issue of how to stimulate community leadership among the refugee population.

Workers also discussed improving the distribution of food and material so that it does not all end up in the hands of the fastest and strongest refugees, leaving the weakest with nothing.

Although most of the refugees said they were determined to return soon to Kosovo, the relief organizations were thinking long-term. Already, OXFAM was making test drillings for a permanent well to be built when the local stream dries up in the summer. ▼

Pope calls for quick end to escalated fighting in Kosovo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Concerned about the suffering of civilians and the danger of a wider war, Pope John Paul II called for a quick end to the escalated Kosovo fighting and a return to serious negotiations.

The pope made his remarks after NATO forces launched air strikes against Yugoslavia, following refusal by Yugoslav leaders to accept a U.S.-brokered autonomy plan for the Kosovo province.

Meeting with young people from the Rome Diocese March 25, the pope said that "the conflict which is staining Yugoslavia with blood" had brought pain to the victims and potential consequences for Europe and the whole world.

"I deeply hope that the weapons can be silenced as soon as possible and that the dialogue and negotiations can begin again so that finally, with the contribution of all, a just and lasting peace can be reached in the whole region," he said.

The Vatican, meanwhile, said its diplomats were in contact with the Yugoslav, Russian and other governments to promote a return to negotiations. It asked Yugoslavia to demonstrate cooperation with the rest of Europe on the Kosovo question to find a solution "honorable for all."

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope was following "with deep concern the suffering of the populations stricken by the painful situation in which they've come to be found."

"This is a solidarity that extends to all, Albanians and Serbs, Muslims and Christians, Orthodox and Catholics, because all are children of the Father in heaven," the spokesman said.

For several days, the pope had warned against an escalation of the Kosovo conflict. As last-minute mediation efforts failed March 21, the pontiff urged leaders to end the chain of violence that has ravaged the Balkans in recent years.

"Those communities have already undergone a long 'Via Crucis' and are awaiting solutions that are respectful of history and of rights," he said. He asked those responsible to show courage in taking steps toward a negotiated settlement.

Speaking a few hours before the bombs and missiles struck targets throughout Yugoslavia March 24, the pope closed his weekly general audience with "a special prayer to the all-merciful God, that he grant the gift of peace, which is above all needed in Kosovo and Europe today."

After the bombing began that evening, Navarro-Valls said that "recourse to force is always a defeat for humanity."

"One cannot help but think of the eventual victims and sentiments of hatred that will inevitably arise. One is reminded of what Pope Pius XII said on Aug. 24, 1939: 'Nothing is lost with peace. Everything can be lost with war,'" the spokesman said.

One informed Vatican source said while the Vatican recognized that previous mediation did not have the hoped-for outcome, "the idea of bombing until (Yugoslav President Slobodan) Milosevic accepts negotiations seems too simple." He said a new diplomatic path should be found to end the crisis.

The NATO attacks pounded military targets in Kosovo and throughout Yugoslav territory. Yugoslav authorities said that among the victims of the first strikes were a group of Serbian refugees, including women and children, who were being temporarily housed at an army barracks.

NATO ordered the attacks after months of unsuccessful diplomatic efforts to reach agreement between the Yugoslav government of Milosevic and an ethnic-Albanian separatist movement in the southern province of Kosovo. ▼

Want to help?

The Diocese of Charlotte will consolidate all donations received through parish relief efforts and those made directly to the Diocese of Charlotte, and send all funds to Catholic Relief Services.

Catholic Relief Services is the only international organization with access to provide immediate needs relief to the refugees stranded between the Serbian and Macedonian borders.

CRS was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United states to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country.

Contributions may be sent to:
Diocese of Charlotte — Kosovo Relief
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Archbishop says all in Yugoslav conflict must recognize consequences

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's chief diplomatic concern in the Balkans crisis is to get both sides to recognize the consequences of their actions and end the suffering of innocent civilians, the Vatican's foreign minister said.

Finding a balance between combating evil and "the consequences of the therapy applied is always delicate," said Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's chief diplomat.

In a mid-April interview with the Italian Catholic magazine Famiglia Cristiana, the archbishop said the Vatican "always hoped that the political problems could be resolved through dialogue with respect for history and for the law, while also recognizing a need for humanitarian intervention."

"No state can violate human rights hiding behind the screen of national sovereignty," Archbishop Tauran said.

The archbishop said the Vatican appreciates the intense diplomatic efforts that preceded the conflict in Yugoslavia.

"Political leaders made the judgment that, having exhausted all diplomatic instruments, only force remained as a way to impose a solution that could favor peaceful coexistence among the populations of Kosovo," he said.

"Obviously, the responsibility for such a choice is with those who maintained it opportune to adopt it," the archbishop said.

"The Holy See took note of the decision, but has tried to make a reflection on its consequences," he said.

He said Pope John Paul II asked U.S. President Bill Clinton, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana Madariaga for a cease-fire to give the people of the region "a bit of serenity and peace" for Easter.

The pope, he said, also hoped a cease-fire would "give the conflicting sides the possibility of a few days for reflection."

"When populations are forced to leave their homes or when bombs are falling, it certainly is not a propitious moment for diplomacy and negotiation," Archbishop Tauran said. "It was hoped that the principal actors in this crisis would have accepted this initiative to let peace win."

Archbishop Tauran said the Vatican also was disappointed that, so far, Milosevic has not responded to the pope's Easter Sunday appeal for the opening of a "humanitarian corridor" in the Kosovo region.

The difficulty, he said, lies in the conditions necessary for setting up the corridor: "Halting military operations and ethnic cleansing on the part of the federal government in Belgrade; suspending the NATO bombardments; and allowing the return of refugees and the displaced with the help of humanitarian organizations, but guaranteed by an international intervention force."

"Obviously," Archbishop Tauran said, "all of this would require reciprocal concessions which, for the moment, have not yet matured."

The archbishop said all Vatican offices and agencies are united to promote peace in the Balkans and lessen the suffering of the region's people.

"It is important everyone understand that Europe cannot end this second millennium devastated by catastrophe and desolation," he said.

"Sentiments of humanity, respect for international law and peace for all absolutely must win," he said. ▼

Warm welcome:

Impoverished Albania opens heart, homes to refugees

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Reuters

An ethnic Albanian man reaches out for bread during a rush for food at the refugee camp in Kukes, Albania, April 12. About 300,000 people from the Yugoslavian province of Kosovo have fled to neighboring Albania.

TIRANA, Albania (CNS) — When Anila Mjeda graduated as a research physicist last year after nearly six years of studies, something in her heart told her she would be happier in a more people-oriented career.

This spring, the people arrived — 300,000 of them, refugees from war-ravaged Kosovo — and Mjeda was ready to greet them as a community services operator for Catholic Relief Services in Albania.

She drove to the northern border city of Kukes and met desperate families with a smile. She listened to their painful stories and helped them calm down. She gave them water and food. She helped separated family members find each other.

After 10 days in what was perhaps the most chaotic spot on earth, she knew she had found her calling. It was not quantum physics, but it was real.

"I enjoyed the direct contact and trying to find the best possible solution to their problems. I was proud of our work. We did something concrete for these people. You could just see their faces change as we welcomed them," said the 27-year-old Albanian.

Mjeda's actions were similar to responses by many in Albania, an impoverished nation that has nevertheless found something to share with an unprecedented influx of refugees, their ethnic Albanian cousins chased at gunpoint from the province of Kosovo in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia.

"I had never seen or experienced anything like Kukes. It reminded me of scenes from the biblical Exodus," Mjeda, a Catholic, said in early April.

Many of the arrivals related eyewitness accounts of violence. One 11-year-old boy had been shot in the jaw by Serb soldiers, after seeing his friend killed. A 30-year-old man had serious burns and told the relief workers he was lucky to have escaped a deliberate burning of young males by the rampaging soldiers. Many had been shaken down for money by masked Serbs — the price for not being beaten on their way out of their homeland, they said.

The trauma in the Kukes entry point was tangible, and Mjeda, along with five other CRS workers, adopted a simple methodology: Trying hard to stay calm, they offered hugs and sympathy, explained what would happen to the refugees in Albania and listened closely to their wrenching stories. In between, they handed out "BP5" protein biscuits and other essentials.

By the second week in April, the refugees slipped from the media spotlight as they were systematically relocated throughout Albanian regions. More than half were temporarily welcomed into private homes.

In one of the camps, just outside the capital city of Tirana, about 1,000 Kosovar families were adapting to a new and strange way of daily life.

Bukorie Shala, 23, changed her baby's diaper in a tent occupied by seven other people. Her face drawn, she recounted how 29 members of their extended family had fled the city of Prizren in a truck, after Serbian soldiers gave ethnic Albanian residents 20 minutes to leave. None of the group had seen anyone killed, but they all said the threat was real.

"They would have killed my children," said Shala, whose two older boys were playing soccer on a small patch of concrete in front of her tent.

"Our trip down here was so hard. We ate only bread and spent one week in the mountains, where it was terribly cold. I wrapped every scrap of clothing I had around my baby. Only God helped us survive," she said.

As she spoke, an Albanian relief worker walked down one of the camp's two main paths distributing shoes. A pack of children picked through the lot, some holding up a pair like a trophy, others finding nothing that fit. As the shoes came out of the box, it became apparent that all were well-worn, many down to the heels.

Charity is relative, and Albanians are giving what they can. Many of the Kosovar families were wealthier and better connected to international sources of income than their Albanian hosts before the recent crisis. At a credit-card pay phone in the Tirana camp, refugees lined up to try to phone relatives in Germany, Switzerland or elsewhere.

Some fear that if the country has to host the Kosovars for long, Albania's social fabric will be stretched to the breaking point.

"The capacity to absorb 250,000 people in Albania is just not there. From a humanitarian point of view, our job is to convince the world that Albania needs support," said Phil Oldham, CRS' newly arrived country representative in Tirana.

The hope is that the world will respond before the Albanian welcome mat is worn out. ▼

> **"Our trip down here was so hard. We ate only bread and spent one week in the mountains, where it was terribly cold. I wrapped every scrap of clothing I had around my baby. Only God helped us survive."**

Book Review

Concise catechism can fit in pocket or purse

By JOHN FRANKO
Catholic News Service

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — A pocket-size guide to the teachings of the Catholic Church is now available to those who seek a better understanding of the faith.

The book is "What Catholics Believe," a catechism co-written by Mike Aquilina, editor of New Covenant Magazine and former editor of the Pittsburgh Catholic diocesan newspaper, and Father Kris Stubna, secretary for education for the Pittsburgh Diocese.

Published by Our Sunday Visitor, the book has already drawn national attention for its concise, yet thorough approach.

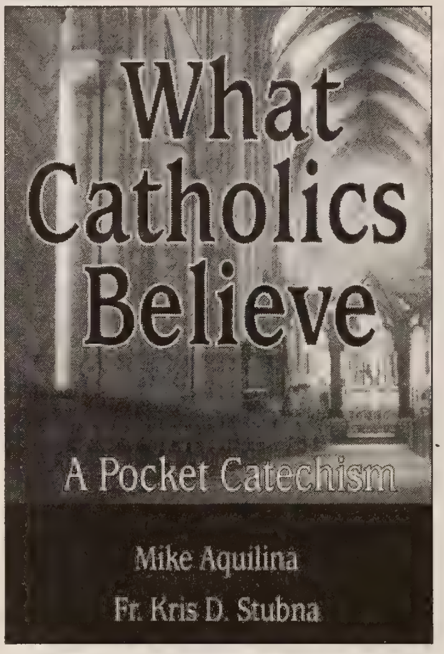
"It's a brief, succinct serving of the faith," said Brian Keane, coordinator of assessment in the U.S. bishops' Office for the Catechism in Washington. "It's an easy reference for the kinds of questions people who want to know more about their faith would ask."

Aquilina said his days in the corporate world showed him that many people have a misunderstanding of the faith.

"For a long time, I've seen the need for a small, easy-to-understand book that would give people a better understanding of the doctrines and practices of the faith," he said.

The book is based on the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and on the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Father Stubna said the catechism is a handy way for people to study the faith. He noted it could be particularly helpful for people such as RCIA candidates, high school students or students going off to college.



"What Catholics Believe," by Mike Aquilina and Fr. Kris D. Stubna, Published by Our Sunday Visitor

"There isn't anything out there that presents the most important elements of the faith simply and clearly to the people," he said.

Father Stubna noted the size of the book prohibits it from containing everything about the faith, but he said he hopes it gets people excited about picking up other books such as the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," Pittsburgh Bishop Donald W. Wuerl's "The Teaching of Christ" and the Bible.

"Hopefully, by opening up other doors it will get people excited about other dimensions of the faith," he said. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 18 - 24, 1999

Sunday, Acts 2:14, 22-28, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35; **Monday**, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday**, Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday**, Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday**, Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday**, Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday**, Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69

Word to Life

April 18, Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A, Readings:

1) Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
2) 1 Peter 1:17-21
3) Luke 24:13-35

By DAN LUBY

Thunderheads filled the sultry afternoon sky. I was 5 or 6, playing outside and hoping for rain to break the heat. Suddenly a fissure appeared in the clouds, and the sun blazed through, igniting the sky with radiance and shooting thick beams of light earthward.

It looked exactly like the sky in a holy card I'd seen in which Jesus was coming down from heaven for the Last Judgment. I was transfixed, waiting for his arrival.

When, after a moment, nothing happened, I felt a hollow ache of disappointment. I had expected to see Jesus — actually see him — and he had not appeared.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus in this Sunday's Gospel story had thought Jesus was the one to come. He had seemed to fit their expectations of what the Messiah would be like, but in the end they were disappointed. When he greets them on the road, they don't recognize him because they are blinded by the limitations of their rigid expectations.

On that hot summer day so long ago, I was blind to the glorious beauty of those sunlit clouds as a kind of sacrament of God's presence. And day after day, when our expectations are too rigid, when our list of places and circumstances and people in whom Christ can appear is too limited, we miss him again.

The good news is that Jesus doesn't give up on us, but keeps appearing. Whenever we see human needs, or displays of generosity, or demonstrations of courage, or signs of hope, Christ is there, just beneath the surface, never imposing himself but eager for us to open our eyes, to let go of our limited expectations and invite him to stay with us so that we may proclaim his resurrection with passion and conviction.

Questions:

What is there about the Jesus of the Gospels that challenges your expectations of what God is like? What's one time when you recognized God's presence in your life only after looking back on it?

"In the course of their lively exchange, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them."
— Luke 24:15.

The Catholic News & Herald

YES, IT WORKS!

The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...

"In just the first week of my ad I received inquiries about garden statuary — even from potential customers 90 miles away!

— Michele Smith, owner
Colchester Place Gardens & Nursery

Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...

For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will: *"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."*

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

CNS PHOTO FROM TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

"Never Been Kissed"

Drew Barrymore and David Arquette star in "Never Been Kissed." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Dreamlife of Angels" points out how acts of kindness and cruelty affect others

By GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "The Dreamlife of Angels" (Sony Classics) is a sensitive, sorrowful tale set in the northern French city of Lille where dead-end garment factory jobs bring together two 20-year-old Frenchwomen.

Spunky Isa (Elodie Bouchez), just arrived in town with only a backpack to her name, meets somber piece-worker Marie (Natacha Regnier) on the job, but is soon let go. With no place to sleep, Isa persuades Marie to let her stay in an apartment Marie is safeguarding for a mother and daughter who were gravely injured in a car crash.

Despite dissimilar personalities, upbeat Isa and withdrawn Marie become friends, going to nightclubs together and stringing along a pair of beefy club bouncers. Marie begins a listless affair with one (Patrick Mercado), but when his spoiled playboy boss (Gregoire Colin) roughly seduces Marie, she is hooked.

Lacking her own sense of self-worth, Marie sees the rich club owner as her one chance at rising above poverty, even though he is only using her — and Isa tries to tell her as much.

When Marie refuses to listen, Isa turns her attention to Sandrine, the comatose girl hospitalized after the car wreck. Having read Sandrine's diary, Isa visits her daily, filling in new observations for her while she hovers near consciousness.

As Isa determines to nurture Sandrine out of her coma, Marie becomes more desperate to hold on to the cad who has already decided to ditch her.

Director Erick Zonca makes an impressive directorial debut in a film of such minute and stark realism it resembles a docudrama. The no-frills lensing and simple storytelling allow the focus to remain on character studies of the two young women, both equally impoverished, but worlds apart in attitudes.

Isa is resourceful, optimistic and caring of others and their feelings. Marie, we gradually learn, had an abusive father, a coldly critical mother and as a result has not learned how to love herself or others. Rejection by her callous lover only increases her self-loathing.

Bouchez and Regnier are remarkably naturalistic as the two 20-year-olds and shared best actress awards at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival. Just as believable is Colin as the crass womanizer, but the surprise is tough bouncer Mercado, who actually cares about Marie even after she jilts him without a glance backward.

Although the narrative is not uplifting, the drama points to how much acts of kindness or cruelty can affect others in life-altering ways. There is a delicacy to the way the tragic tale unfolds that makes it poignant and memorable.

Subtitles. Due to a suicide, a harsh sexual encounter, brief recreational drug use, intermittent nudity and an instance of profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

EWTN to show live coverage of Padre Pio's beatification

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — The EWTN cable channel will show live coverage of the beatification of Padre Pio, but viewers will have to get up early — or stay up late — to watch it.

The ceremony, which takes place in Rome, will be shown Sunday, May 2, at 4:30 a.m. EDT, which is 1:30 a.m. PDT.

EWTN will repeat the beatification rite the same day at 6 p.m. EDT, 3 p.m. PDT.

From April 29 through May 7, EWTN will present special programs on Padre Pio da Pietrelcina, the famed Capuchin confessor and spiritual director from southern Italy, who died in 1968. Padre Pio, born in 1887, allegedly had supernatural powers and bore the stigmata, the marks of Christ's crucifixion. ▼

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Express Press Ltd. FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS • ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) *Member St. John Neumann*

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen-Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Cuban Catholic press, film work thriving, lay leader says

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The church in Cuba has significantly expanded its work in communications over the past few years, a lay leader reported in New York.

"The situation of Catholic publications is not altogether clear, but we don't wait for the situation to clear up to do things," Gustavo Andujar said in an interview April 1.

Since 1994, he has been president of the Cuban office of the International Catholic Organization for Cinema and Audiovisual, which has its world headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The Cuban office got no official permission to publish a magazine, but is publishing one called Ecos (Echoes) every two months and getting expressions of interest from government officials related to the movie industry, Andujar said.

Although Ecos has a circulation of only 400 copies, it is distributed all over the country and, like other Catholic publications, passed from hand to hand in a way that greatly increases readership, he said.

Andujar was in the United States to address Latin American specialists at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., and the Columbia University School of International Affairs in New York about the significance of the Cuban visit of Pope John Paul II.

In the interview and the addresses, he said the papal visit was a significant step forward for the church, even though the pope did not "overthrow the government," as some people seemingly expected. He said the papal visit did not bring an absolutely new stage, but built on a process of change initiated in a national meeting of the church in 1986, and the preparation for it begun in 1979.

The church decided at that meeting to become active in reaching out to the Cuban people, he said.

For some 30 years, Andujar reported, the church in Cuba had only a single-sheet Sunday newsletter, Vida Cristiana (Christian Life), produced by the Jesuits. Now, there are more than 20 diocesan publications and several special-interest periodicals, he said.

Andujar said the goal of the cinema office was "to assume a place for the church in the professional world of movies and audiovisuals."

It tries to promote good movies by giving awards and publishing reviews that "underscore the ethical aspects," he said.

The Cuban cinema office also produces and distributes its own films for pastoral use, he said. "We produced two documentaries to prepare people for the pope's visit, and now we are producing five on the teaching of the pope during the visit," he said.

Andujar's work for the church, which includes serving on the board of Caritas Cuba, is done on a volunteer basis. He is a chemical engineer who

See ANDUGAR, page 14

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or **(800) 334-4401**

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsor . . . and I invite you to join me. CFCA is a dedicated organization working on behalf of the poor at Catholic missions worldwide."

Most Reverend James P. Keleher
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas – Sponsors José Muños of Honduras

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Many children in the developing world live in poverty with little hope for the future. Can you help a poor child? Become a sponsor today!

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program,* can show you the affordable way to sponsor a child.

Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children*.

Your sponsorship helps provide a poor child with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most.

You receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
420

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ **$20** ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ______ Exp. Date ______
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

CNH4/99

Name ______
(please print)
Address ______
City/State/Zip ______
Phone (____) ______

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

April 25, 1999

Holy Spirit... It is you who open the heart
and the mind to the Divine Call;
it is you who make effective every impetus
toward good, toward truth, toward charity...
Open the hearts and minds of men
so that a new flowering of vocations
may show forth the fidelity of your love,
and all may know Christ,
the true light come into the world,
to offer to every human being,
the sure hope of eternal life. Amen.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
Office of Vocations
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28206
704.370.3353

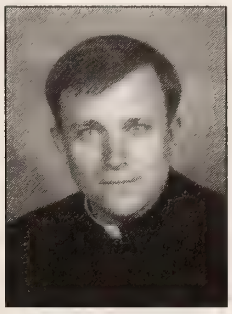
Some Characteristics of Potential Candidates for Priesthood

- Charity toward others
- Sociability
- Desire to do some good
- Commitment
- Leadership
- Positive self-image
- Prayerful
- Searching for meaning in life

Eli understood that the Lord was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel,
"Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, Lord, for your servent is listening."
— 1 Samuel 3:9

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The hallmark of our faith is that prayer can and does make a difference, prayer changes things, and prayer can touch the hearts and minds of young men and women seeking direction in their lives.


FATHER ERIC HOUSEKNECHT
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is an opportunity to pray for all men and women whom God calls to serve. Men and women who will witness to all that we've been promised through the mystery of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is a time to prayerfully support the priests, deacons, brothers and sisters who already serve and others who have yet to respond to God's call of love.

The season of Easter is a time for new beginnings, a time to find our hearts and minds moved by the gift of God's great love, and a time for deepening our response to the many blessings of God.

Within each of your parishes are men and women in need of your prayers. Men and women who are already feeling and hearing God's call to serve, and yet need the extra help and support your prayers can give. It is within the heart of each of the Diocese of Charlotte's faith communities that God's call to service will be heard, nurtured and brought to bear much fruit.

I ask all of you in the Diocese of Charlotte to lift your voices in prayer for vocations. ▼

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

"VISIONS IN FAITH"
Sunday, June 13 -
Wednesday, June 16, 1999
Fr. Tom Richstatter, OFM

Sacraments is the theme for Father Tom's presentations during this annual update in theology and spirituality.

For more information write:
VISIONS IN FAITH
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 28731

Tuition: $100 Room & Board: $150

NCEA-Himes, from page 7

Father Himes said the doctrine of the Incarnation, that God became human, is "the oldest statement in Christian faith," dating to the second letter of St. Paul to the Philippians. "It is an extraordinary claim" in light of the Genesis image that man was made in God's likeness, he said.

"If you want to be like God, the definition of holiness is to be as human as you can because humanity is what you and I and God share in common," Father Himes said.

The relevance for Catholic educators is that "whatever makes a student more fully or authentically human — opening his mind, encouraging his ability to act and choose, giving courage and hope and inspiration — makes him more holy," he said.

"The most religious activity that goes on in school is not religion. It is simply teaching — chemistry, biology, economics, history — bringing that student into a fuller, more authentic human life, and that is making him holy."

Father Himes said the church offers the sacraments because "whatever is always and everywhere true must be noticed, accepted and celebrated somewhere, sometime" so that it is not overlooked.

Grace is ever present, but since the entire universe is "grace top to bottom," it may go unnoticed because it is always there like a beating heart or another breath.

"We must train people to see sacramentally," he said. "But not to have rose-colored glasses on. The goal is to see things as they are in their depth. That's why teaching science is a universally holy action. The goal is to see what is there in the conviction that if you really see what is in front of you, you see it sacramentally, you see it as embodied grace, you see the truth of things."

Father Himes borrowed an incident from "The Life of Samuel Johnson" about the value of providing this kind of an education to people.

When a young, uneducated oarsman was rowing Johnson's boat upriver for picnic in 1777, Johnson reflected on what it would profit the boy to learn Latin and Greek. So he asked the boy.

"Sir, I would give everything I have," the boy replied.

"The true patron saint of education is an anonymous boat boy who would have given everything to have known," Father Himes said. "Why? Because it is true, and there is no measure of the value of truth." ▾

Andugar, from page 12

makes his living doing research for the government's food ministry.

Born in 1947, he had Catholic schooling until halfway through high school, when the government took over church schools. After that, the challenges to his faith were sometimes "pretty rough," with teachers trying to drill Marxist ideology into their students and presenting religion as backward.

Asked how he maintained his loyalty to the church, he replied, "I don't know. It was the work of God."

Andujar said the standing of the church with Cuban intellectuals was better now than ever before in the 20th century. At the beginning of the century, he said, they associated the church with the colonial past and became anticlerical.

But today, artists, scientists, philosophers and other intellectuals are more willing to enter into collaboration with the church, even if they are not churchgoers themselves, he said. ▾

LIFE'S A JOURNEY...

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE PATHS?

- Do you wake up some days to a nagging voice telling you there's more to life?
- Are you looking for a balance of service, prayer and a deeper relationship with God within a supportive community?
- Has your career choice left you feeling empty, disconnected?
- Are you a woman looking to make a difference in the world?

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANSWERS!

If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to explore vowed religious life with the Sisters of Mercy.

Women are invited to join us as we share our journeys in Mercy at "Exploring Mercy," on May 8, 1999 from 9:30am - 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, NC. Call Lizz at 704.829.5260 by April 28 to register.

Bishops urge celebration of jubilee day for women in March 2000

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dioceses and parishes across the nation should plan events to mark the international Jubilee Day for Women, scheduled for March 25, 2000, urges the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church.

The bishops have called for U.S. celebrations and chose as the day's theme "Women Saying Yes to God," a reference to the feast of the Annunciation, observed that day.

"We've just completed a century in which women have made great strides both in society and in the church," said Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., in a statement. "We have much to celebrate, but we must also ensure that progress continues. In both the church and society what is permitted by law often moves slowly into practice."

According to Paul Henderson, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office for the Third Millennium/Jubilee Year 2000, "The jubilee days provide a wonderful opportunity to honor women for their contributions to society and to the church, to pray for them, and to reflect with them on the challenges of the next century."

The bishops' Committee on Women has discussed possible activities with several national organizations, including the National Council of Catholic Women and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Suggestions for celebrating the day range from sponsoring liturgical celebrations and discussion sessions about women's gifts and equality to providing ways to recognize local women leaders.

Later this year, the bishops' committee will make available a list of suggested resources that can be adapted for local use. These can be accessed through the bishops' jubilee Web site at www.nccbuscc.org/jubilee/index.htm. ▾

1999

A time for fun, prayer and family closeness at the beach!

Catholic Summer Family Program

June 13-18 Family Week
June 20-25 Family Week
June 27-July 2 Family Week
July 4-9 Hispanic Week
July 11-16 Family Week
July 18-23 Single Parent Week
July 25-30 Family Week
August 1-6 Family Week
August 8-13 Family Week
August 15-20 Family Week
August 22-27 Family Week
August 29-Sept 3 Family Week

Other Weeks:
June 6-11 Adult Week, Centering Prayer
Sept. 6-10 Adult Week

The summer program begins Sunday afternoon at 5 with Mass and concludes Friday afternoon. The cost includes food, room and program fees. Each family has separate A/C room.

Strengthening Christian family values
Daily Mass
A place to get away & recharge
Fun at the beach
Making friends with others who think spirituality is important

Contact the Center Director for more information & application

(910) 328-1584

2006 Wicker St., North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen

6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336

"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Friends remember business, church leader

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — The only thing missing at Miriam Williams' memorial service in Greensboro a few weeks ago was her laughter and wit. That would have been the crowning touch to an evening filled with stories about this talented woman.

The long-time member of St. Pius X parish and diocesan lay leader died Feb. 15 at Maryfield Retirement Center in High Point, where she resided in recent years and had become active in her new parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Williams' multi-faceted life included a career as legal counsel to a major manufacturing company and leadership roles in her parish and the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Miriam gave birth to a lot of things," said Father George Kloster, former St. Pius pastor. "Among them were Dolan Manor (subsidized housing for the elderly), Jubilee (St. Pius' annual parish retreat program), and ministry to the poor in Peru."

When plans for Dolan Manor appeared doomed, Williams applied her legal expertise to hammer out final details so building could proceed. Today, the 30-unit apartment complex behind St. Pius Church is fully occupied and a second building is under construction.

"Miriam was one of the first group of parishioners to go to Illinois to experience a parish Jubilee there. She was so enthusiastic about the program that she provided financial support for the group to attend three more weekends," said Father Kloster, now pastor of st. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville. "She was a positive kind of person and knew the program could work at St. Pius."

> "Miriam's spirit goes on in all these things and more," Father Kloster said. "Miriam brought herself to North Carolina and became a rich part of this city, this parish. She contributed richly to all of it."

The first time some St. Pius parishioners including Williams traveled to Peru, it was merely to visit. "We went with no real sense of mission," Father Kloster said. "Miriam insisted that we must be doing something. I suggested she explore ideas and give a report to the parish council. I thought that would soothe her conscience. She came back with such a detailed report that it became the framework of what we do as a parish there today." St. Pius' Peru ministry includes financial support of a school and church in the village of Manazo.

"Miriam's spirit goes on in all these things and more," Father Kloster said. "Miriam brought herself to North Carolina and became a rich part of this city, this parish. She contributed richly to all of it."

Williams arrived in Greensboro in 1972, when she was named assistant general counsel of Burlington Industries. Her career as a lawyer was spent mostly in the company of men. Williams, never one to be intimidated by others or the challenges of her profession, was recognized as a leading authority on international trade agreements in the textile industry. She once told a reporter, "I started as any other young lawyer and fortunately was accepted from the start as a professional. When I am in a meeting, it never occurs to me to stop and ask: 'Am I the only woman here?'"

Perhaps the most amazing part of her career was how she got there. Williams earned her law degree in 1953 from New York University, where she attended evening classes. During the day she worked as a legal secretary for a New York City firm. In 1966 she joined Klopman Mills as a legal counsel. That corporation was eventually acquired by Burlington.

"Miriam played a pivotal role during trade negotiations with the Chinese in the '80s," said her former boss, Lanty Smith, at the memorial service. "Despite the fact that in the Chinese culture women are not considered equals to men, it was Miriam who was able to work out an agreement."

Her strength as a leader carried over into her faith life. Williams served as parish council president and as chair of several parish committees over the years. Eventually she was tapped to serve as chair of the diocesan Synod which convened in 1987. Through her efforts on the Synod's Poverty Commission, Williams was able to help birth yet another worthy ministry — a program to teach illiterate adults to read.

In reflecting on her role in that project, Williams wrote: "I recognize that, without my part in this 'evolution,' Reading Connections may have come to be anyway but it is nice to think that I did make a difference. After all, this is why God made me — to use my talents in ways to promote His kingdom. I believe that teaching one who is in poverty to read is 'feeding the poor.'"

In addition to her diocesan and parish activities, Williams was one of the first Catholics in Greensboro to join the Franciscan Lay Order and avidly promoted events at the Franciscan Center in downtown Greensboro. Speaking of her dedication, Franciscan Father Greg Gebbia said, "Imbued with the spirit of Vatican II, Miriam understood the significant role of the laity. Faith in action is what she lived and promoted."

In his closing remarks, Father Kloster summed up the gift Miriam bestowed on all who knew her. "She has given us a challenge to keep her spirit alive by continuing to give birth to ideas and programs. Her presence made us better people."

Right to the end, Williams had a zest for life. Shortly before her death, she told some friends that she did not think she'd be so young when she died. Miriam Williams died at the age of 81. ▼

Mary Coyne Wessling is a free-lance writer living in Greensboro.

For First Communion
& Confirmations

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!

Carolina
Catholic
Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

BE PREPARED
FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION
PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary!

On Time — Every Time.
United Mailing Service, Inc.
UMS
(704) 392-2805
(704) 392-2807, fax
Our modern 50,000 square foot facility allows us to offer you complete,state-of-the-art mailing services— with our emphasis on service!

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Director of Development: The diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Social Services. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Appropriate experience in fund-raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communications skills, the ability to handle numerous tasks at once and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by April 30 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Elementary Principal: Blessed Sacrament School in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning July 1, 1999. With an enrollment of 410 students in grades Pre-K through 8, this SACS and FCC accredited school challenges its students to strive for academic excellence and high standards of faith and moral values. Applicants are to be practicing Catholics who can enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates should have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the State of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application from, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Phone: (912)238-2344 Fax: (912)238-2339.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Elder Ministry: Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC has an opening for a Regional Coordinator of Elder Ministry for the Morganton/Hickory, NC area. Selected candidate will contribute as a team member to development of elder programs and activities, will engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues, and provide on-site assistance to Catholic parishes within the designated region. Bachelor's degree desired and travel required throughout the 46 counties of the Diocese. 30 hours per week ($16K-21K) plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Gerard Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

Life
MEDICAL PROGRESS | ETHICAL ISSUES

Contraception and abortion

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The only form of birth regulation sanctioned by the Catholic Church is natural family planning.

But this isn't your parents' natural family planning.

"People think it's just rhythm," said Theresa Notare, special assistant in the U.S. bishops' Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning. Also known as the "calendar method," rhythm is the often unsuccessful method of avoiding pregnancy by monitoring a woman's menstrual cycle and abstaining from sex during likely days of ovulation.

But scientific advances in the more than 50 years since the rhythm method was first used have resulted in a set of family planning methods that can be up to 99 percent reliable for couples who understand and are committed to the program.

The natural family planning methods in use today are: the basal body temperature method, which monitors changes in a woman's waking temperature; the ovulation method, which monitors changes in the woman's cervical mucus; and the sympto-thermal method, which combines observations of temperature and cervical mucus with other indicators such as changes in the cervix and secondary fertility signs. Each requires a couple to abstain from sex between eight and 15 days a month to avoid pregnancy.

The reliability of natural family planning depends entirely on how well a couple learns the method they are using, how well they communicate and how strong their commitment is to spacing or limiting births, Notare said. "It totally, totally relies on couple behavior," she said.

One woman who had used natural family planning for more than 12 years to plan three pregnancies said the necessary periods of abstinence can be a blessing to a marriage.

"You can take on the attitude of courtship and honeymoon in your marriage," she said. "Courtship is the time of abstinence, where you show your love and affection for each other in a nonsexual way. And then there's the anticipation of the honeymoon, which adds excitement and anticipation to the marriage."

> An understanding of natural family planning – and why the Catholic Church promotes it – is crucial to grasping the reasoning behind the church's ban on artificial means of contraception, from condoms and spermicides to the birth control pill, barrier methods like the diaphragm and the now-discredited IUD.

An understanding of natural family planning — and why the Catholic Church promotes it — is crucial to grasping the reasoning behind the church's ban on artificial means of contraception, from condoms and spermicides to the birth control pill, barrier methods like the diaphragm and the now-discredited IUD.

All of those methods separate the act of lovemaking from one of its primary purposes — the creation of children. Natural family planning, on the other hand, brings the couple together in making decisions about "responsible parenthood," Notare said.

In his 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), Pope John Paul II criticized "the negative values inherent in the 'contraceptive mentality' — which is very different from responsible parenthood lived in respect for the full truth of the conjugal act."

The pope also linked abortion and contraception, saying that "despite their differences of nature and moral gravity," they are "often closely connected, as fruits of the same tree."

Abortion — whether surgical or chemical, as with the French abortion pill RU-486 or the "morning-after pill" — is always condemned by the church as a grave evil. In their statement marking the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that lifted most state restrictions on abortion, the U.S. bishops declared: "Abortion is an assault on human dignity, an act of violence against both mother and child and the whole human family."

But Notare said the church's clearly articulated stands on abortion and artificial contraception have led some to unfairly deem the Catholic Church as anti-sex.

"The church doesn't want you to not have sex; it wants you to have the best sex possible," she tells married couples. "But that shouldn't be the focus, it should be the fruit." ▼

For information on NFP programs in the Diocese of Charlotte, call (704) 370-3262.

NORTH CAROLINA RIGHT TO LIFE SPONSORS

Pro-Life Day '99

MAY 1 at the EMBASSY SUITES, GREENSBORO

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

JOEL
BRIND,
PhD.

WANDA
FRANZ,
PhD.

DAVID N.
O'STEEN,
PhD.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- *Abortion/Breast Cancer Connection*
- *New Discoveries about Fetal Development*
- *Post-Abortion Syndrome and the Adolescent*
- *Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*

REGISTRATION LIMITED — CALL NOW!
(Group, senior and student discounts available)

For further information and registration:
Call 800-392-6275
or 274-5433 (Greensboro)

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42083
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930
S298 P1

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 23, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 32

Inside

Pope prays for dialogue in Yugoslav conflict ...Page 3

Confessor and mystic Padre Pio to be beatified ...Page 7

Reproductive technologies and Catholic teaching ...Page 12

Local News

Editor's Notebook ...Page 4

Knights of Columbus donate to Special Olympics ...Page 10

News around the diocese ...Page 11

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5

Entertainment ...Pages 8-9

Don't miss **Comuniquémonos** in this week's issue of The Catholic News & Herald

Churches fill in wake of school shootings

By PETER DROEGE
Catholic News Service

LITTLETON, Colo. (CNS) — Community-wide gatherings of prayer and support took place the evening of April 20 at Light of the World and St. Frances Cabrini churches in Littleton just hours after the deadliest school massacre in U.S. history at nearby Columbine High School.

More than 1,200 students, parents, teachers and community members filled each church for the evening prayer services. Priests, prayer teams and counselors were on hand to provide assistance to the students and parents.

Father Kenneth Leone, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church, and Father Jerry Rohr, administrator of Light of the World Church, led the prayer services at their respective churches. At each service, a letter of condolence from Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput was read.

Archbishop Chaput attended a midday prayer service and visited the injured and their families in area hospitals.

Waves of emotion filled the churches during the prayer services as young people broke into tears of joy at the sight of friends and classmates they had not seen since the shooting that left at least 15 dead and another 28 with life-threatening injuries.

The young men and women would embrace, and then quietly share whatever eyewitness or secondhand information they had. The words, "Oh my God, no!" followed by tears of sorrow were heard as students shared the names of the injured and the dead.

"I was in the choir room when the shooting began," Janelle Behan, a parishioner at Light of the World Church, told the Denver Catholic Register, the archdiocesan newspaper. "There were 16 of us in a small office designed for about two people."

"We stayed there from about 11:45 until about 3:30 until the SWAT team came and took us out," said the Columbine High School senior. "They had us crawl out on the floor — on the way out I saw two bodies," she added, breaking into tears.

"I was outside by the stairs when they walked into the school," said Brad Jenkins, describing the shooters. "They were shooting into the school through the windows and throwing pipe bombs down by where the cars were parked.

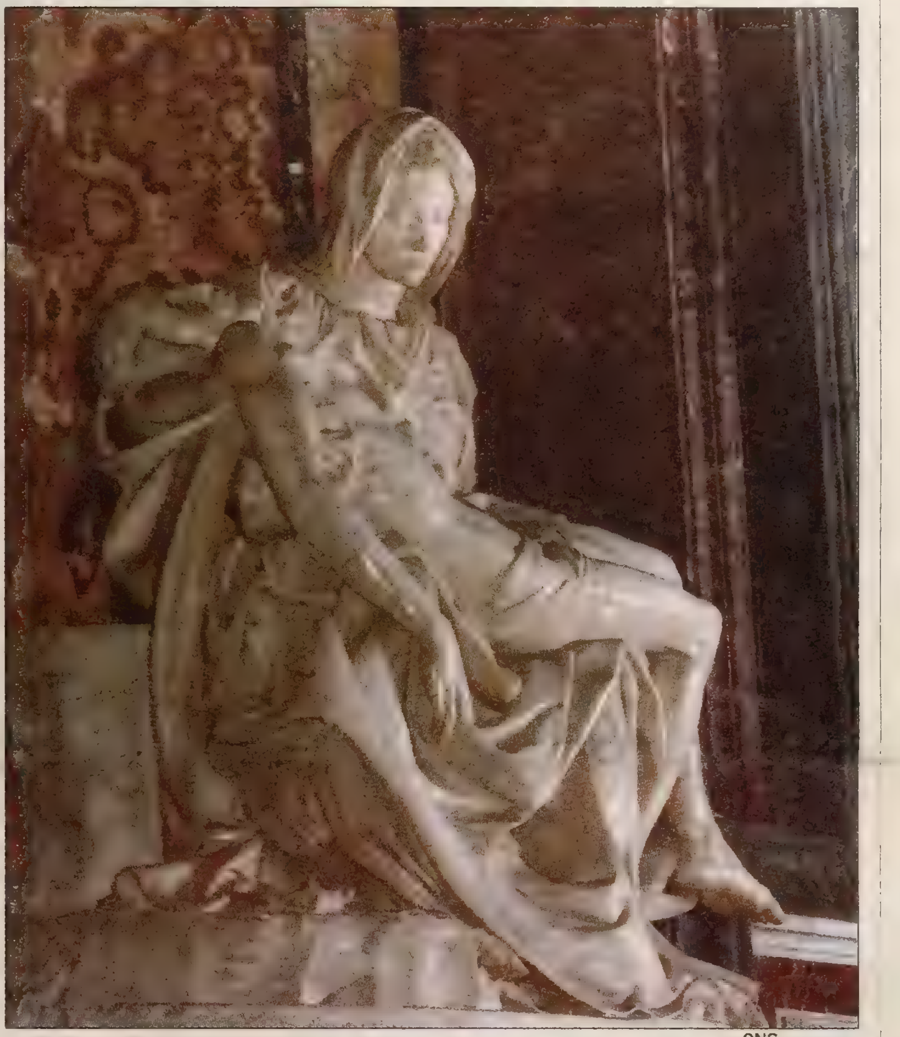
"At first I thought it was a joke," he continued. "Then I realized it wasn't, and jumped into my truck. A bunch of teachers and students got in and I brought them down the street," he added.

"The hardest thing right now is hearing the names of the people who were killed and not knowing who else might have died," said Cory Hardison, who was in the school when the shooting began.

Asked why he had come to the prayer service, Hardison, who is not Catholic, said: "I came here to see my friends and to hear the names. I am kind of in-between having any faith right now."

Nancy Love, whose daughter Crystal is a junior at Columbine High

See LITTLETON, page 10



CNS file photo

Christ visualized in art

A panel of theologians and historians from Catholic universities throughout the nation recently named Michelangelo's "Pieta" as the best representation of Christ visualized in art. The "Pieta" is on permanent display in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

A Statement from Bishop William G. Curlin

I join with all who share in sorrow at the tragic deaths that occurred in Littleton, Colorado. The death of these young students has brought anguish to the nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to the parents and family members of the young victims and the teacher who were injured and killed.

These senseless fatalities are reason for all of us to pause and reflect on the moral values offered America's youth. Today families face the challenge of raising their children in a culture filled with mixed messages and confused moralities. Each of us - families, schools, churches - shares in the responsibility of the total education of America's sons and daughters.

These recent events should unite rather than divide us. In seeking the source of this crime, we need to commit ourselves to working together to provide every student the help they need in addressing problems as they arise. The soul of the Nation is at stake. The future of every student is at stake.

The World in Brief

Catholic-Muslim dialogue to focus on educational values

CAIRO, Egypt (CNS) — Catholic and Muslim leaders said their dialogue should be practical and, as a first step, decided to focus on the values taught in Catholic and Islamic education programs. "We need to defend real religious values against fanaticism, violence and terrorism," said Ali al-Samman, deputy chairman of the Muslim delegation at the April 13-14 meeting in Cairo.

Australian bishops endorse joint document

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — Australia's bishops endorsed a document signed by representatives of Australian bishops and Vatican officials that spoke of a "crisis of faith" in the Catholic Church. The bishops said it was time for Catholics in Australia to engage in "prayer, reflection, discernment, responsibility and action to which the pope calls us." At their April 5-15 meeting in Sydney, the bishops also released a pastoral letter accepting Pope John Paul II's "personal" directive that use of the Third Rite of Reconciliation, or general absolution, in Australia be kept strictly "within the conditions laid down by church law."

Kevorkian murder sentence applauded

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A pro-life advocate applauded the 10- to 25-year sentence given Jack Kevorkian for second-degree murder in the death of Thomas Youk. "This sentence affirms that people with disabilities deserve the same quality of justice as those who are able-bodied," said an April 13 statement by David O'Steen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee. O'Steen added his hopes that "this will serve as a deterrent against pushing people with disabilities further down the slippery slope toward a 'duty to die.'"

Church leaders welcome decision to permit Pinochet's extradition

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic officials in England welcomed a British court decision that a former Chilean dictator detained in London can be extradited to Spain, but Chilean bishops said Gen. Augusto Pinochet should be tried in Chile. Meanwhile, British Home Secretary Jack Straw said April 15 that extradition proceedings should move ahead for Pinochet, wanted in Spain on charges of torture and murder of thousands, including dozens of Spaniards, during his 1973-1990 dictatorship in Chile.

Fatima Children
Jacinta and Francisco Marto are pictured with their cousin Lucia dos Santos (right) in a file photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal. The beatification process for the Martos has cleared a major hurdle, said a priest involved in the process. The Marto children died young. Lucia, a Carmelite nun, is still living.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Guatemalan church plans commemoration of bishop

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Church authorities in Guatemala called on Catholics to participate in commemorations of the first anniversary of the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City. "The celebrations are a way ... for the Catholic Church to keep the memory of (Bishop) Gerardi alive," the head of the archdiocesan pastoral action office, Carlos Aldana, told reporters April 12. The aim is also for Catholics to hold onto their strong demand to resolve the murder, he said.

Vatican expresses concern over planned mosque in Nazareth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican expressed concern over plans to build a mosque in front of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Israel, saying the project was proposed by outsiders and is seen by many as a "provocation." In a statement, the Vatican also called on Israel to take measures to curb violence at the site, where clashes between Muslims and Christians broke out on Easter. The Vatican said the papal nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, had expressed the Holy See's concerns to the Israeli government April 14. It denied reports that Pope John Paul II had written to Israeli authorities about the mosque plans.

Black priests urge South African bishops to admit racism, end it

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — About 25 black South African priests have called on the bishops to admit that racism still exists in the church and to eradicate it. "We are a divided clergy, primarily along racial lines," the African Catholic Priests Solidarity Movement said in a "call to action" letter to the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. Bishops plan to discuss the letter at a meeting in May at their Pretoria headquarters.

Palm Beach cathedral's tabernacle re-blessed after desecration

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (CNS) — The rector of the Palm Beach diocesan cathedral re-blessed its altar and tabernacle April 11, three days after thieves broke in, ripped the tabernacle from its moorings and left it smashed in a drainage ditch, leaving the hosts scattered in the grass. Msgr. Thomas Klinzing, rector of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola and head of the diocesan marriage tribunal, said police believe the break in probably took place about 10 p.m. April 8. The thieves took only the ciboria, or cups, inside the tabernacle, probably because they thought they were of some value.

Sri Lankan bishop asks military to respect Marian shrine

MANNAR, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Bishop Rayappu Joseph of Mannar has protested the presence of armed government soldiers within the area of the national Marian shrine in Madhu. In an April 5 letter to President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Bishop Joseph wrote of the presence of uniformed army personnel and weapons within the demarcated 400-acre area of the shrine, contrary to an earlier agreement. The shrine is in northern Sri Lanka, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The bishop also reported that the troops had been partying and drinking alcohol in the area, which for some 10,000 refugees serves as a safe haven from fighting between government forces and ethnic Tamil rebels.

Italian missionary in Sierra Leone freed by rebels

ROME (CNS) — Xaverian Father Vittorio Mosele, an Italian missionary in Sierra Leone, was released after being held for almost two months by rebel soldiers. "In 37 years of priesthood and 28 years in Sierra Leone, I never prayed so much," the 63-year-old priest told MISNA, a Rome-based missionary news agency. The priest, who was kidnapped Feb. 11 from the Catholic mission at Kambia, Sierra Leone, spoke to MISNA April 12 from the Vatican nunciature in Conakry, Guinea, which he was able to reach three days after his April 6 release.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

April 23, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 32
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 25 — 11 am
Mass
Youth Conference, Camp Thunderbird
Clover, SC

April 25 — 4 pm
Confirmation
St. Joseph, Newton

April 26-27
Ecumenical Meeting, Hickory

April 28 — May 6
Personal Pilgrimage
Lourdes, France

May 8 — 5 pm
Confirmation
St. Mary, Shelby

Diocesan planner

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — "Shining Stars Adult Day Respite" is a privately owned not-for-profit providing care for men and women experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's. The group meets each Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on the parish campus of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Cost is $35, which includes lunch and activities. For details or to apply, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

April

25 CHARLOTTE — The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., hosts its annual chicken dinner today from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Dinner includes baked or fried chicken, dessert and a beverage. Cost is $6.

27 CHARLOTTE — A spiritual growth group meets today and May 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. at 2010 Countrymen's Court #69, off Sharon Lakes Road. Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery in Boonville facilitates. Call (336) 699-4005 for details and directions.

28 CHARLOTTE — A workshop on the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter, "Of One Heart and One Mind," is today from 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The workshop will take participants through the topics of charity, education, advocacy, action and empowerment for the working poor. It will include prayer, reflection and discussion. For more information, call Greg Kurts at (704) 544-8406.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry sponsors a healing Mass for anyone in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing today at 7 p.m. in St. Joan of Arc

Pope hopes shootings convince Americans to teach moral values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his prayers and expressed his hope that the shootings by two teen-age gunmen in a Colorado high school would convince Americans of the need to teach young people moral values.

The pope's shock and sadness over the shootings that left at least 15 people dead and 20 critically injured was conveyed in a telegram to Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver. The telegram, signed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, was released April 21 at the Vatican.

In addition to offering his prayers for the victims and their families, the pope expressed his hope that the tragedy would convince all Americans of the importance of teaching young people moral values, especially respect for human life.

The pope, Cardinal Sodano said, "expresses the earnest hope that American society as a whole will react to this latest act of violence among the young by committing itself to promoting and transmitting the moral vision and the values which alone can ensure respect for the inviolable dignity of human life."

> **"He commends the victims to almighty God and invokes divine strength and comfort on the injured an on all affected by this awful event," Cardinal Sodano wrote.**

Cardinal Sodano said the pope was "deeply shocked by the news of the terrible tragedy" and had asked Archbishop Chaput "to convey to the families and school community the assurance of his prayerful closeness at this very difficult time."

"He commends the victims to almighty God and invokes divine strength and comfort on the injured an on all affected by this awful event," Cardinal Sodano wrote.

The April 20 shooting at Columbine High School in the Denver suburb of Littleton left at least 15 people dead, said Steve Davis, spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

Among the dead were 12 students — nine boys and three girls — found in the school library, including the two suspected gunmen, who were believed to have committed suicide. The body of a male adult, thought to be a faculty member, was found outside the library.

The suspected gunmen, identified as seniors Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, both 18, were said to belong to a group at the school called the "Trench Coat Mafia." The group was said to have an interest in guns, violence and Adolf Hitler. Witnesses said the suspected gunmen appeared to be targeting minority students and popular athletes.

Davis said he heard speculation that the attack may have been connected to Hitler's birthday, April 20.

Here is the Vatican text of the April 21 papal telegram to Archbishop Chaput:

"His Holiness Pope John Paul II has been deeply shocked by news of the terrible tragedy which has caused many deaths and injuries at a school near Denver, and he asks you to convey to the families and school community the assurance of his prayerful closeness at this very difficult time. He commends the victims to almighty God and invokes divine strength and comfort on the injured and on all affected by this awful event. He expresses the earnest hope that American society as a whole will react to this latest act of violence among the young by committing itself to promoting and transmitting the moral vision and the values which alone can ensure respect for the inviolable dignity of human life." ▼

Pope prays dialogue be given new chance in Yugoslav conflict

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After more than three weeks of air strikes and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, Pope John Paul II prayed that dialogue be given a new chance to resolve the conflict.

Speaking at the end of a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square April 18, the pope said he was deeply worried about continuing bloodshed in Yugoslavia, which he described as "a suffering and martyred land."

"May the strength of peaceful coexistence and dialogue prevail over ethnic abuse and the violence of weapons!" he said.

The pope's remarks came a day after a Jesuit magazine, La Civilta Cattolica, outlined a possible cease-fire plan based on an immediate halt to ethnic cleansing and NATO bombing. The plan was believed to reflect Vatican thinking, because the magazine's articles receive prior review by the Vatican's Secretariat of State.

The main points of the plan were:

— An immediate halt to military operations by the Yugoslav army and the Serb police against the Kosovo population.

— The suspension of air strikes by NATO to open the way for negotiations to provide Kosovo with a proper degree of autonomy.

— Delivery of relief assistance to civilians, in line with international agreements.

— A peace conference that would involve neighboring states.

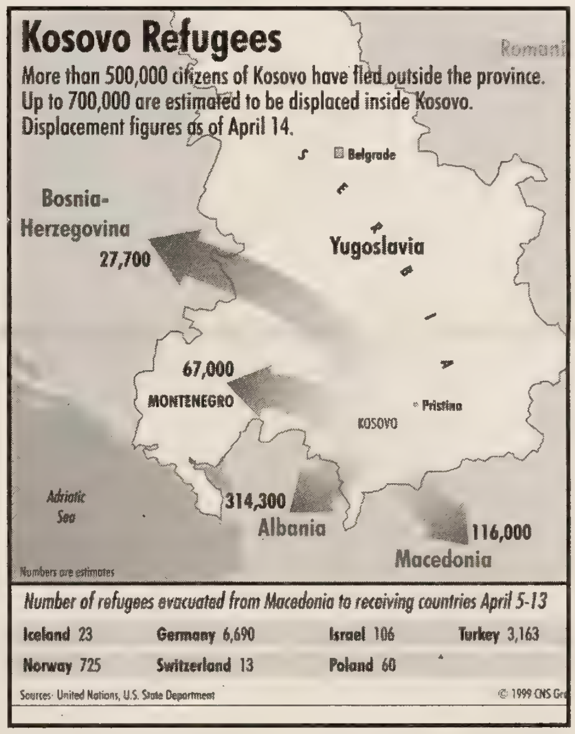
— Creation of an international peace force to maintain order in Kosovo.

— The reinsertion of the United Nations and its agencies in the peace process.

— A key role for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has valuable experience in the area.

Meanwhile, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, which has criticized the escalation of the conflict, condemned what it called the "atrocious practice" of ethnic cleansing against the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo.

"No one fails to see how un-Christian and inhuman such a 'cleansing' is," the newspaper said April 17. ▼


Kosovo Refugees

More than 500,000 citizens of Kosovo have fled outside the province. Up to 700,000 are estimated to be displaced inside Kosovo. Displacement figures as of April 14.

Number of refugees evacuated from Macedonia to receiving countries April 5-13

Iceland 23	Germany 6,690	Israel 106	Turkey 3,163
Norway 725	Switzerland 13	Poland 60	

Sources: United Nations, U.S. State Department

© 1999 CNS Gr

Church, 919 Haywood Rd. Father John Pagel, pastor, is celebrant. Refreshments will follow.

CHARLOTTE — The drama department at Charlotte Catholic High School presents "Godspell" today at 7:30 p.m. An encore presntation is May 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 each and can be purchased at the door. For details, contact Dottie Tippett at (704) 543-1127.

May

1 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are today at Mary Help of Christians Basilica, with Mass at 9:30 a.m., praying of the rosary at 10, and the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:30. For details, contact Terri or Phil DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic campus ministry center at Appalachian State University, 232 Faculty St. A covered dish dinner precedes the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.

CLEMMONS — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today and each first Saturday at 7:15 p.m. in Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For details, call (336) 766-8133.

GREENSBORO — Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School hosts a car lease raffle and "Monte Carlo Night" to raise funds for technology in the school today. The raffle prize is a two-year lease of a two-passenger 1999 Mercedes SLK 230. Five hundred tickets will be sold at $60 each, or two or more for $50 each. A scrip raffle of $250 is also planned. Tickets are $5 each. The Monte Carlo Night social features games, auctions and a catered buffet dinner. Tickets are $75 each. All profits will be directed to library and classroom computer upgrades. For tickets and other information, call the school's Office of Development at (336) 725-4247.

GREENSBORO — The Single Again Catholics group meets today at 9 a.m. in the Wal Mart parking lot on Battleground Avenue for a hiking trip at Hanging Rock. Call Annie at (336) 454-3343 for details. The group meets regularly for a variety of social and spiritual events.

GREENSBORO — North Carolina Right to Life sponsors Pro-life Day 1999 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. today with a series of discussions at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. Topics to be covered include the abortion and breast cancer connection; new discoveries about fetal development; post-abortion syndrome and the adolescent; and euthanasia and assisted suicide. For schedule, registration and other information, call (800) 392-6275. Group, senior and student discounts are available.

2 CHARLOTTE — The 46th Semi-annual International Family Rosary Day is observed today at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Christopher Davis, parochial vicar at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, is the featured speaker. The event will include the rosary, hymns, a homily and a procession.

7 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr. Praying of the rosary is at 6:30, and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass. Call (336) 884-0244 for more information.

11 CHARLOTTE — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX), which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Learning groups meet in the Charlotte area. For details, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope warns that secularization, atheism can destroy society

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope John Paul II warned that, as history has repeatedly shown, secularization and atheism can destroy a society and leave humanity "detached from God."

Speaking to visitors in St. Peter's Square at his April 14 general audience, the pope did not refer directly to specific historical or current events, but voiced his views on the causes of war and intolerance in general, choosing different languages to convey his message.

During a special greeting to Spanish-speakers, the pontiff prayed that God would "make us feel like brothers to each other, who always seek peace and reject hatred and divisions which can lead to any form of war."

In German he explained that secularism "manifests itself particularly in the economically and technologically developed countries. Through indifference toward belief, it tries to take people away from God. Alongside it works systematic atheism, which with time can develop into intolerant ideologies."

As part of a continuing series of talks on God the Father, Pope John Paul addressed the possible consequences of apparent disbelief in God.

"In today's world, affected by different forms of atheism," he said, the "vital and intimate relationship with God is frequently weakened by doubt and sin. The secularization of society leads many people to live as if God did not exist.

"As history shows," the pope continued, "atheism can also result in a rejection of God in the name of the absolute self-sufficiency of man, nature or science."

Pope John Paul noted that the Bible emphasizes God's power to work wonders that guide human history.

As is his custom, the pope delivered the entire catechesis in Italian and summarized it in English and five other European languages.

To French-speaking visitors, he said, "Man's religious orientation comes from the fact that he is a creature.

"In fact," the pope added, "because he was created in the image and likeness of God," a human being "ardently desires to be with him. This intimate and vital tie to God has been marked by sin since the start of history. And in our century, atheism and above all secularization present a model of man detached from God.

"Created things cannot be idolized," Pope John Paul said. "They block the ways which lead to God."

The pope pointed out that the Catholic Church "does not undervalue studies of the psychological or sociological components of religious phenomena, but it refutes the interpretation of religion as being a projection of the human psyche."

At the end of his catechesis summary in English, the pope added a "special welcome" to a group of Jewish and Catholic authorities from the United States, led by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnist

The best Easter ever

Driving home Easter evening, our 13-year-old son, Marty, announces, "This was the best Easter and Lent ever!" Sixteen-year-old Andréa quickly concurs. After a brief discernment over the events of the previous few weeks, we both nodded in agreement.

Certainly this had been a very unusual Easter for us. And the prayerfulness of the Lenten season had been extraordinary. Something about entering into a new phase of our family — adolescence, had deepened our experiences around the Paschal Mystery.

What lead us to this unusual Easter were several events and experiences. Marty's confirmation and his emerging maturity over the past several months, our participation as a family in the "Disciples in Mission" program sponsored by parish, and the parish Seder meal contributed to a more prayerful journey for us as a family during Lent.

Individually, Andrew gave a reflection addressing the question "Who is Jesus to me?" at a parish mission in Chicago. The kids both participated in our parish's teen retreat, and an enactment of "The Passion" for Palm Sunday. We each chose something to do or not do during Lent, and we all stuck with it.

These kinds of prayerful experiences are not unusual for us adults. However, what distinguishes this year from others was the full participation of our children. They didn't do the things they did simply because that's what we do during Lent. They prayerfully engaged themselves in Lenten activities and events voluntarily. And that's what made it extraordinary and powerful.

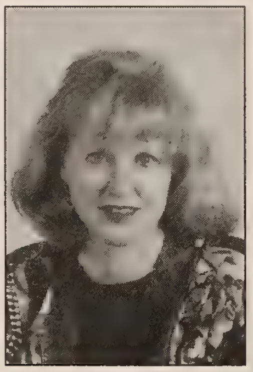
Easter Sunday we spent the morning and afternoon preparing and serving food at a soup kitchen in one of the more blighted areas of Chicago. Our usual Easter rituals of egg hunts, candy and new clothes on parade were forgone for service to the poor. The symbolism of the washing of feet at our Good Friday liturgy was made real in our service to the poor. What better way to celebrate the Resurrection than to encounter Christ in their faces?

This is something we couldn't have done when the kids were younger. Adolescence has been a gift to our family because our kids now give witness to their faith in ways that are significant in their lives. The table has turned somewhat and we are now being lead in some ways by them. As adults, it is our privilege (and relief) to walk behind them in their faith journey. There are things we missed along the way that we now experience.

When they say that "This was the best Easter and Lent ever!" we respond by saying to them, "Thanks for making it that way."

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Send your letters to the editor to:
Joann Keane, Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
or send e-mail to: jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Editor's Notebook

JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Hoping to ease a relentless hell on earth

Nine-year-old Ardita lost her family. This young girl finds herself on the road to Albania, terrified and alone in the world. Her family was murdered in public display. Those she loves and those who loved her are gone. Her tearful face is splashed across the online world. Yet another casualty of war.

Within hours the name and face will change online, but the story will resound with a similar, painful tone.

Perhaps for the first time in the 20th century, we are front and center with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. We are pulled in via radio, TV, cable and the Internet. We're witness to real-time accounts of the atrocities that have displaced thousands.

Some of those considered fortunate enough to make the painful journey to a refugee camp find themselves knee deep in excrement, quickly falling prey to yet another deadly force, lethal viruses that threaten and consume what is left of a seemingly hopeless existence.

Visual descriptions of land mine sabotage, the human tragedies and virtually every possible inhumane scenario in photos, video and words instantaneously are at your fingertips. This may be the first war 'online.' With more and more homes connected to the Internet, it's no small wonder we are drawn so closely into this crisis.

And while Pope John Paul II and the world call for an end to these crimes against humanity, the barbaric acts continue. No matter where you stand regarding the NATO involvement, our responsibility as Catholic Christians calls us to assist with humanitarian aid.

We pray for the victims of this horrific war. Last week, Bishop Curlin encouraged parishes to consider second collections for aid to Kosovo. Our prayers are crucial, but beyond the prayers that come so naturally, our dollars can be life-and-death salvation for the hundreds of thousands forced from their homes.

Concurrent to Bishop Curlin's rally for aid, The Catholic News & Herald published in-depth accounts of the human casualties of war. In preparation for that edition, our skin crawled as we read the descriptive comparison where one writer likened the Brazda refugee camp to that of Dante's Inferno. We felt this was a critical story for our readers. Graphic? Yes. Tragic? Yes. Call for our response as Catholics? Absolutely.

The Diocese of Charlotte is coordinating efforts for all parishes. Second collection donations will be sent to the diocese, consolidated and forwarded to Catholic Relief Services. As a fully sanctioned arm of the Catholic Church, CRS is positioned in such a way to provide immediate needs relief to refugees.

Right now, it's a tough and seemingly endless road for CRS as the victims continue to stream across the border. These refugees — victims of unscrupulous terrorists who ravished the former homelands — had their lives turned upside down against their will. In addition to their physical needs, they bear scars of loss and suffering.

While we offer prayers for these victims, our hearts ache for their safety. We take comfort in knowing this diocese has a history of rapid response to those in need.

Want to help? Contributions may be sent to: Diocese of Charlotte - Kosovo Relief, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Celebrities, heroes and you

Who would you describe as a hero? Who do you think today's young people would pick? Several recent youth polls provide convincing evidence that there is confusion about what makes a true hero.

A World Atlas study reports that the majority of 11 to 17 year-olds in the U.S. bestow hero status on sports stars, rock musicians and movie actors. Less than six percent of the respondents named Jesus Christ as their hero. A CNN poll shows that while teens often list their parents as heroes, names like Leonardo DiCaprio and the Spice Girls get equal billing.

One poll really gave me pause. It listed Pope John Paul II as youth's number one hero. Number Two? Dennis Rodman, the erratic gender-bending "bad boy" of the NBA.

These surveys illustrate the way heroes and celebrities get lumped together. In fact, it is something that many adults as well as young people do everyday. And when we confuse the two, we come dangerously close to depriving ourselves of all real models.

As Daniel Boorstin puts it: "We lose sight of the men and women who do not simply seem great because they are famous, but are famous because they are great."

Fame and celebrity may equate, but heroism is far more. It seems to me that whomever we call "hero" is a person whose actions command our attention and respect. Here is someone we want to imitate because something she or he has done exemplifies a quality, not of inaccessible perfection, but of human excellence.

Heroes give evidence that the Lord has assigned to each of us a mission to fulfill, a particular job to do, that he has given to no one else. Heroes are living examples of how God sends his love and truth to humankind through each of us. Heroes focus our attention on the power of one person, with God's help, to change the world for the better.

And because that person embodies a certain standard of behavior, an authentic hero prompts us to look inside ourselves to discover our own possibilities and talents for action. Put simply, true heroes bring out the best, the heroic, in each one of us.

The mere fact that you are alive and reading these words, no matter your age or background, the state of your health or finances, means that you too have been chosen by God to perform some work that no other person can do. It may bring you fame, celebrity, and even money, and it may not. One thing is certain: authentic heroes don't worry about such things. They simply act for the best, whatever the personal cost, and whether or not anyone knows their name.

Nineteenth-century author Frederick Farrar observed, "To live well in the quiet routine of life, to fill a little space because God wills it, to go on cheerfully with an inconspicuous round of duties and little diversion, to smile for the joys of others when your heart is aching — you who do this, you are one of God's heroes."

The quiet success of a humble act of service done not for the eyes of our brothers or sisters, but for the eyes of our Father in Heaven, is heroism indeed. Now if only we act like we believe that — and teach our young people that if we want to follow someone's example, it should be an example worth following in the first place.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Questions by one who mourns

Q. I recently lost my wife of 37 years. She suffered seven months before God decided she suffered enough. My question is, how can people in heaven be so happy if they can see how miserable those left behind are?

People tell me my wife is preparing a "place" for me in heaven. If there is no marriage in heaven it wouldn't seem she is preparing a place.

And if she can see me, she must know I am not happy and can never be happy again without her. So how can she be really happy? Maybe her memory of those left behind must be wiped out completely to be happy. Am I wrong?

A. As I'm sure you realize, the sadness and pain you feel over the loss of your wife's presence is shared by millions of others who have experienced the death of a spouse or close friend.

Some of that hurt not even time can heal. Remembering a few truths, however, can bring us some peace and wisdom when things like this happen.

From the very limited vision we enjoy in this earthly life, some realities easily appear to be incompatible. Intense suffering and happiness are two of them. How can you or your wife be happy, you ask, when you are so miserable?

The answer, when we are able to receive it, is that things will look infinitely different when we eventually view them with the eyes of God, with the eyes of eternity, which is the way your wife sees them now.

Suffering — bodily, emotional and spiritual — does fit into God's loving plan of creation and salvation. If there were no other proof, we have Jesus Christ's life and death and resurrection to assure us of that truth.

We know from the Gospels that the Father was intimately present to Jesus always, including in the midst of his suffering. Yet he did not take that suffering away. In his knowledge of what makes us, his human creatures, come to human fullness and goodness, he knew that suffering has an intimate and essential role, even for his Son.

Perhaps it all comes down to being humble enough to acknowledge the possibility that some important realities of human existence simply lie beyond our comprehension in this life, the life your wife now comprehends in a way once impossible for her.

Like her, you and the rest of us will then, I believe, know much more clearly and certainly that without suffering we would never know what we can become, and we would never know the greatness of God.

As the Father was with Jesus in his times of trial, so she is with you in the Communion of Saints, supporting you, even in some mysterious way hurting with you. She is also brilliantly aware, however, that in spite of all our doubts and fears, it will all fit together when we together see all things as they really are.

It is true, of course, that there is no married life in heaven, obviously not in the reproductive dimension we experience here. However, several decades ago Pope Pius XII had some enlightening and consoling words to say about that.

Speaking to married couples, he noted that, while marriage itself may not continue in heaven, married love will continue. What does that mean? First of all, part of heaven will be our conscious intimacy and communion with those who were dear to us here on earth.

Beyond that, however, is the fact that our personalities, our ways of loving and being, which we will each carry into eternity, are molded greatly by the people with whom we have shared this life and how we have shared it.

Fire Rally

MICHAEL COYLE
Guest Columnist

A regional event for the great Jubilee 2000

We in the Diocese of Charlotte have a wonderful opportunity to respond to Pope John Paul II's recent plea to stir up a new springtime of holiness on this continent.

It is called FIRE, and it is coming to the Wheeler Athletic Center at Belmont Abbey College, in Belmont, on Saturday, September 18, from 9 am to 6 pm; doors will open at 8 am.

A FIRE Rally is a one-day, Catholic, evangelistic event. It is comprised of four powerful talks by the nationally recognized four-member FIRE Team; the topics for these inspiring talks arise from the four words for which FIRE is an acronym: **Faith** (presented by Mr. Ralph Martin), **Intercession** (given by Sr. Ann Shields, SGL), **Repentance** (presented by Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR), and **Evangelism** (delivered by Fr. John Bertolucci). A special three-hour high-school age Youth Breakout Session with music is hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, bishop of Charlotte, is the presider and homilist of the closing liturgy. A bookstore and a ministry fair will be available at the event; lunch is also offered.

The mission of the FIRE Ministry, which began 16 years ago, is threefold: to apply the teaching of the Gospel to the current confusion and error in the world, to invite persons who have never done so to make a personal commitment to Christ and His Gospel, and to challenge and strengthen the commitment of faithful Catholics. FIRE Rallies have been held in over 20 states, three Canadian provinces and 11 foreign countries. This dynamic ministry has literally reached hundreds of thousands of Catholics across the globe, in North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

I have participated in five FIRE Rallies around the country, and I can personally attest to the phenomenal success of this outstanding event for igniting or rekindling faith awareness.

A FIRE Rally is part of the "new evangelization" called for in the Church by Pope John Paul II, whereby persons are brought to a point of deep conversion, and personally experience within themselves, the Father's manifold blessing of the Holy Spirit, through His Son, Christ Jesus. Such an encounter with God is life-changing, and does much to spark and to foster growth in the spiritual, the communal, and the apostolic life, as it awakens an alertness to the action of the living God among the faithful.

Bishop Curlin fully supports the upcoming FIRE Rally, and has stated: "I pray that the FIRE Rally will stir up the flame of faith in all who attend, that we might embrace the ministry of evangelization with renewed enthusiasm."

Participation in this FIRE Rally is indeed a marvelous way to inaugurate our regional celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000!

Persons interested in obtaining more information about, or in registering for, the Southeast Regional FIRE Rally should contact the Southeast FIRE Rally Committee at (704) 519-0786, or visit their website at www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews.

Michael Coyle is assistant coordinator of the Southeast Regional FIRE Rally.

British Cardinal Hume diagnosed with inoperable cancer

LONDON (CNS) — Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster said he is "calm and at peace" after discovering that he is suffering from inoperable cancer. A spokesman for the cardinal said the nature of the cancer had not been made public. Cardinal Hume said he intended to work as much and as long as he could.

Polish prelate sees pop icons distracting search for truth

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The eternal truths sought by thinkers like Socrates are too often superseded in modern times by the distractions of pop icons like Mickey Mouse, a Polish archbishop said in a philosophy lecture at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Archbishop Josef Zycinski of Lublin, the chancellor of the Catholic University of Poland, spoke on the pope's recent encyclical, "Fides et Ratio" ("Faith and Reason"). The Polish archbishop worried aloud that the modern fascination with pop culture can be a distraction in the search for truth and beauty.

Charges against Good Friday debt protesters dropped

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Charges were dropped April 12 against the seven people arrested 10 days earlier at the International Monetary Fund for breaking the law in a prayerful Good Friday protest against Third World debt. "We showed up at court for the arraignment, and they said, 'You can go, the charges have been dropped,'" said Scott Wright, a member of St. Aloysius Parish in Washington and a former lay missioner in El Salvador. Wright, who works with EPICA, the Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean, was among those arrested.

March of the Living Misti Debrowski of St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., places a stone near Oskar Schindler's name along the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem April 19. Looking on is Father Jack Sutton of St. Joan of Arc Church in Boca Raton, Fla. The two were among the first Christians to participate in the Jewish "March of the Living" tour which visited Polish concentration camps before coming to Israel.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Vietnamese bishop named following diplomatic mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In the wake of a Vatican diplomatic mission to Vietnam, Pope John Paul II named a Vietnamese bishop with the government's assent. The diplomat who led the mission said the announcement was a sign of progress in relations with the Southeast Asian country. On April 15 the Vatican announced the retirement of 77-year-old Bishop Andre Nguyen Van Nam of My Tho and the nomination of Msgr. Paul Bui Van Doc, the vicar general of the Da Lat Diocese, as head of the My Tho Diocese.

Catholic, Jewish leaders promise to work to overcome tensions

ROME (CNS) — Lighting candles on a Holocaust memorial menorah, Catholic and Jewish leaders promised to increase education programs and dialogue to overcome tensions between the two faiths. The 4-foot-tall menorah, designed by Israeli artist Aharon Bezalel, was dedicated at Rome's North American College April 13, Holocaust Memorial Day, by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Rabbi David Lincoln of Park Avenue Synagogue, New York. While united in prayer for the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, the participants acknowledged a need for greater Catholic-Jewish understanding.

Children's loss of spirituality seen challenging church

FORT MITCHELL, Ky. (CNS) — Dominican Sister Jamie T. Phelps says two of the great challenges facing the Catholic Church are children's loss of spirituality and oppression by institutions. Sister Phelps, a visiting professor of theology at Loyola University in Chicago, made the remarks in her opening address for the 11th Workshop on Pastoring in African-American Parishes April 11 in Fort Mitchell. "I hear children who say, 'Jesus — I don't know anything about him,'" said Sister Phelps, who has taught at the elementary, secondary and college levels for nearly 40 years.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

ModularCorp

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald
23 de Abril de 1999
Comuniquémonos
MINISTERIO HISPANO

Música salvadoreña en la Iglesia de San Pedro

CHARLOTTE — El próximo 4 de mayo a las 7 de la noche se ofrecerá un concierto en la Iglesia de San Pedro, en Charlotte, interpretado por "El Grupo Morazán".

Este grupo está compuesto por seis jóvenes cuya música cuenta la historia de la opresión del pueblo salvadoreño a través de los años.

En los años ochenta, cuando estos jóvenes tenían entre 3 y 8 años, sus familias tuvieron que huir de la provincia Morazán debido a las masacres que se estaban originando en el área. Estas y otras familias que no estaban vinculadas al ejército militar ni a las guerrillas se establecieron en campos de refugiados en Honduras.

En estos campos los niños usaron música y canciones para hablar del trauma de su experiencia. Un maestro belga, Mia Vercrysse, que vino al campo de refugiados "descubrió" al "conjunto" y trabajó con los niños enseñándoles música, a leer y a escribir. Al llegar a la adolescencia estaban listos para que el maestro los sacara del lugar y los llevara de gira a otros lugares.

Ahora tenemos la oportunidad de oír su contagiosa música, historias y experiencias.

La iglesia de San Pedro está situada en la esquina de las calles Tryon Sur y Primera, en el centro de la ciudad de Charlotte. El concierto es gratis, pero se aceptan donaciones voluntarias. Después del concierto habrá una recepción en el salón de actos de la iglesia.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Comunidad en acción

Por JESÚS GUADARRAMA

Foto por Hector Andrade

Grupo de los hombres que participaron en el Retiro de Evangelización en Clemmons.

Grupo que participó en el Retiro de Evangelización de mujeres en Arden.

Foto por Hector Andrade

La Pascua significa camino y encuentro con Cristo resucitado.

Muchos han sido los momentos en que la comunidad hispana de la Diócesis de Charlotte ha hecho realidad la presencia de un Dios vivo y presente en medio de nosotros.

Eventos de esta presencia han sido los Retiros de Evangelización que fueron realizados los días 26, 27 y 28 de marzo en Clemmons y Ardcn, donde participaron mas de 200 personas de diversas comunidades de la diócesis.

Esperamos que todas estas personas se incorporen a sus parroquias y formen pequeñas comunidades eclesiales de base para mantener el entusiasmo y lo aprendido y seguir propagando la palabra de Dios.

Por otra parte los jóvenes del grupo "JOCONFE" (jóvenes con fe) celebraron la Pascua Juvenil en la ciudad de Winston-Salem del 29 de marzo al 3 de abril. Durante estos días los jóvenes tuvieron la oportunidad de desarrollar sus talentos artísticos por medio de talleres de danza, música, teatro y pintura También reflexionaron y compartieron los temas centrales del triduo pascual, realizaron una misión bajo el lema "Joven de acción haz de tu vida una misión", visitaron algunas áreas donde viven hispanos y les llevaron despensas a familias necesitadas. Esperamos que el próximo año más parroquias celebren la Pascua Juvenil al igual que estos jóvenes.

La Semana Santa estuvo muy bien organizada por diferentes comunidades. El Viernes Santo, cuando es tradicional celebrar el Viacrucis en nuestros pueblos hispanos, fue escenificado en las comunidades de Newton, Monroe, Thomasville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Yadkenville, Dobson y otras más. Las personas quedaron muy contentas porque en comunidades como Monroe y Winston Salem nunca se había celebrado de esa manera. Otra comunidad que estuvo muy animada fue la de Greensboro donde se celebró el Viacrucis en un terreno de la ciudad.

La Vigilia pascual fue muy animada en la comunidad de Charlottc donde asistieron más de 600 personas. Actualmente se está preparando una misión evangelizadora en Monroe y Charlotte. Queremos que el mensaje del amor de Dios llegue a todos los hogares donde aun no conocen a Cristo. ▼

Parroquias oran por prisioneros de guerra retenidos en Serbia

EMMETT, Michigan (CNS) — La captura de tres soldados estadounidenses cerca de la frontera entre Serbia y Macedonia ha tenido una significación especial para los feligreses de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo en Emmet.

El Sargento Christopher J. Stone, uno de los retenidos desde el 31 de marzo, es el hijo de Jim y Edith Stone, de Avoca, que se unieron a la parroquia hace un año. Dicha parroquia pertenece a la Arquidiócesis de Detroit.

"El Jueves Santo, antes de la Misa, rezamos el Rosario por él, y más de 100 personas asistieron", dijo el 5 de abril Marian Pratt, secretaria de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo.

Junto con Stone fueron capturados otros dos exploradores, el Sargento Andrew A. Ramírez, de 24 años de edad, de Los Angeles, y el alistado Steven M. Gonzáles, de 21 años de edad, de Huntsville, Texas.

Los tres son miembros del 4o. Regimiento de Caballería de la Primera División de Infantería del Ejército de los Estados Unidos, que presta servicios con una misión de las Naciones Unidas en Macedonia.

Un servicio al amanecer de Pascua de Resurrección en Fort Sam Houston incluyó oraciones por Stone y sus compañeros.

Los soldados apresados estuvieron también presentes en las oraciones de los asistentes a las Misas de Pascua de Resurrección en la Iglesia de San Alfonso, en el Este de Los Angeles, donde creció Ramírez, y en la Primera Iglesia Bautista de Huntsville, donde vive la familia de Gonzáles.

El Padre Simón Orozco dijo a una multitud que colmaba la Iglesia de San Alfonso que "oraran por los muchachos y los mantuvieran en sus corazones", según dijo un informe de la Agencia Reuters.

En la iglesia de Huntsville, el Reverendo Jack Harris pidió a Dios que ayudara a poner fin a la crisis de Kosovo, informó Reuters.

Gonzáles creció en Palestine, a 50 millas al norte de Huntsville, y permaneció allí hasta terminar la enseñanza secundaria, cuando sus padres se mudaron a Huntsville hace dos años para trabajar en la prisión estatal. ▼

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vincente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas en Cristo:

Se nos acercan los días de la Semana Santa, días en que el Señor nos invita a que reconozcamos nuestra pobreza frente a El, nuestra realidad como pecadores, la realidad de que sin El, no somos nada. Son días especiales cuando el Señor nos invita a depender únicamente de El y de su amor por nosotros, a conformar nuestra voluntad a la de El. Esta Cuaresma, el Señor me invitó a vivirlo en el hospital, en el ambiente y con la cruz de la enfermedad. Me invitó a vivir día a día, a depender de otros para recibir su ayuda, a no adelantar su voluntad, a aceptar que no siempre se hacen los planes bonitos del Padre Vicente.

Ya me siento mejor pero quedan semanas de recuperación. Espero que sigan pidiendo por mí. Pronto nos veremos. En este tiempo de Semana Santa y de la Pascua de la Resurrección pido al Señor que nos dé a todos la capacidad de purificarnos siempre y entregarnos a El y a su Reino con mayor generosidad y amor.

Nota de la redacción: Este mensaje lo escribió el Padre Vicente cuando todavía estaba en el hospital en Greensboro. Desde entonces el padre salió del hospital y fue a recuperarse a Philadelphia por unas semanas. Esperamos que si se sigue sintiendo mejor y que esté con nosotros la próxima semana.

"Mi paz les dejo mi paz les doy"

Después de la Resurrección, cuando Cristo se le aparecía a sus discípulos, su saludo era: "PAZ A USTEDES", sabiendo que ésa era su mayor necesidad. Eran momentos difíciles para ellos. Cristo les había enseñado un nuevo estilo de vida, les enseño cuál era el verdadero amor.

El vino a revelarnos todo el amor del Padre, y hacía signos y prodigios para testificar lo que decía, y lo crucificaron. Se preguntaban cuál sería el rumbo de sus vida: ¿Tendrían la misma suerte que el Maestro? Toda esa incertidumbre la vivían los discípulos. Hoy, en las incertidumbres, inseguridades y sufrimientos que viven nuestros pueblos, debemos confiar en su sabiduría, su bondad, su misericordia, estar a su escucha y seguirle, porque también hoy el Señor nos dice: "PAZ A USTEDES".

Jesús nos dijo: "Mi paz les dejo, mi paz les doy", no como la da el mundo. Paz como realidad interior, como bienaventuranza asumida, como orden personal, la fuente de toda esta realidad es Cristo-Jesús; desde él podemos presentar al mundo la paz como fruto de amor. Amar al otro es mirarlo, admirarlo, respetarlo, comprenderlo, perdonarlo.

El Señor nos ha prometido su paz, sólo hay que buscarla, acogerla, abrirse al don de Dios, sobre todo luchar por construirla. Seamos artesanos de la paz. ▾

La Pascua

En esta temporada estamos celebrando el triunfo definitivo de Cristo sobre el pecado, cuando venció a nuestro enemigo más terrible: la muerte.

El mensaje, la doctrina y toda obra de Cristo tiene su fundamento en el acontecimiento que llena de gozo y esperanza a todo aquel que cree y espera en Cristo: la Resurrección.

Si la Pascua del pueblo judío significó liberación, posesión de tierra, un sin número de prodigios, milagros y bendiciones, la Pascua de Cristo, real y definitiva, abarca a la humanidad totalmente dándole toda respuesta a sus más refinadas aspiraciones.

¿No deseamos la inmoralidad? ¿No queremos la máxima comodidad de la vida.? ¿No aspiramos a tener vida divina? Pues bien esto sólo se alcanza con Cristo, el Resucitado. Por las noches oscuras de los siglos la humanidad anduvo errando buscando el camino que la llevara a Dios. Tuvo que esperar este momento de la revelación divina, la plenitud de los tiempos, para constatar que el camino hacia la felicidad y hacia Dios es el camino de la cruz, el olvido de uno mismo y el fiel cumplimiento del mensaje evangélico. Ya no podemos perdernos porque el camino es Cristo, el Resucitado.

Cristo nos invita a su camino, el de la Cruz. Nos quiere limpios de pecado, adheridos a sus enseñanzas y con fe absoluta en su Resurrección.

Todos rezamos en el Credo pie creemos en la Resurrección de Cristo y de los muertos. Pero para que nuestra resurrección sea una realidad como la de Cristo, debemos seguir muy de cerca al Maestro divino.

No sólo es necesario proclamar nuestra fe, sino que tenemos que vivirla según las enseñanzas y ejemplos de Cristo.

"Cristo nuestra Pascua, fue inmolado; muriendo, destruyó nuestra muerte y, resucitando, restauró la vida".

La Pascua es la expresión máxima del amor que Cristo nos tiene y quiere que cada uno de nosotros le demos una respuesta , más que con nuestra palabra, con nuestra vida. ▾

Tomado de "Unidos en la Oración" con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
todos los domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 4:30 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

El huracán niveló la situación entre pobres y ricos en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — En octubre último, el Huracán Mitch niveló la situación entre las vecindades acomodadas de la parte central de Tegucigalpa y las zonas rurales remotas donde las familias viven en casuchas de adobe y "arañan la tierra" para existir.

Incontables personas de Honduras se hallan aún en el camino largo de la reconstrucción, pero los Servicios Católicos de Socorro (CRS en inglés) han enfocado su atención sobre las zonas rurales afectadas en gran medida.

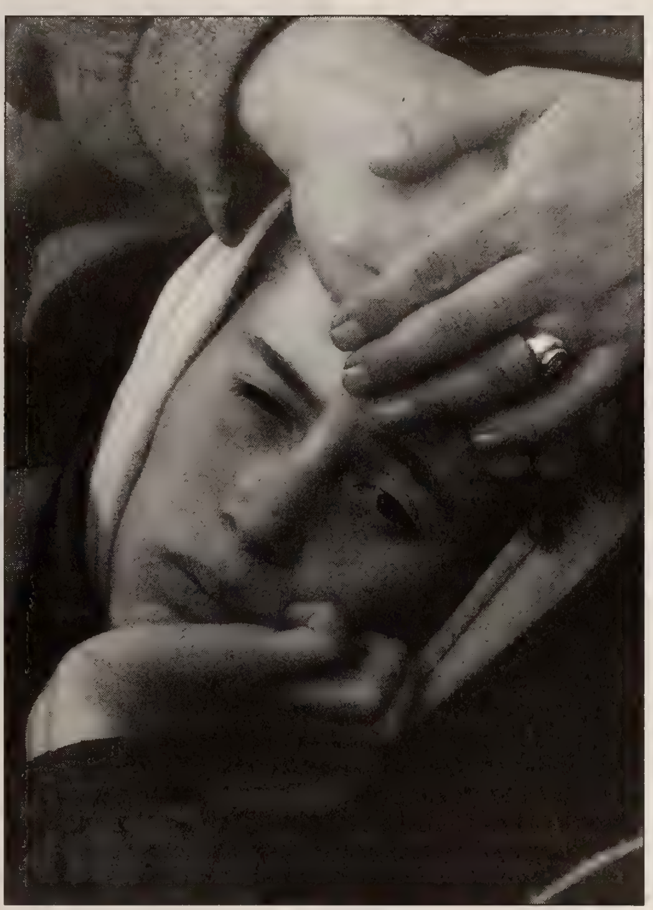
"Nunca ha habido una tormenta como ésta en la América Central que se haya registrado en la historia", dijo Douglas Ryan, representante de CRS en Honduras. "Las personas fueron sorprendidas sin preparativos ... Cuatro meses después de Mitch, todavía están sacando camiones de los ríos".

Ryan agregó que la tormenta "desenmascaró a la situación latente de injusticia extensa en este país", donde el 80 por ciento de la población vive por debajo de la línea de pobreza fijada por el gobierno, sin acceso a servicios de salud, enseñanza, alimentos seguros o vivienda de calidad.

El objetivo de CRS, que ha apoyado a las gestiones para el desarrollo en Honduras desde 1959, no es ayudar a restablecer a las personas a donde estaban, sino ayudar a crear "una nueva sociedad con mayor equidad; una Honduras muy distinta", dijo Ryan en una entrevista.

Para ayudar a reconstruir a la sociedad devastada, CRS apoya la participación de la Iglesia en los programas locales para los asuntos de la enseñanza, la salud y los terrenos.

A los alcaldes locales se les ha dado más autoridad, y hay un movimiento hacia una mayor medida de democracia en todos los 250 municipios de este país. ▼



Una refugiada descansa
Una mujer refugiada de Kosovo descansa en un campamento en la aldea de Stekovec, Macedonia, el 7 de abril. La agencia católica de ayuda Caritas está haciendo un llamado a escala mundial para recaudar fondos a fin de ayudar a los refugiados de origen albanés.

FOTO CNS DE REUTERS

Papa manda enviado y aporte económico para los refugiados de Kosovo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II, preocupado por la suerte de más de 100,000 civiles que huyen de Kosovo, asolada por la guerra, envió a un funcionario principal de socorro a visitar los campamentos de refugiados en Albania y entregar un aporte personal de $50,000 para prestarles ayuda.

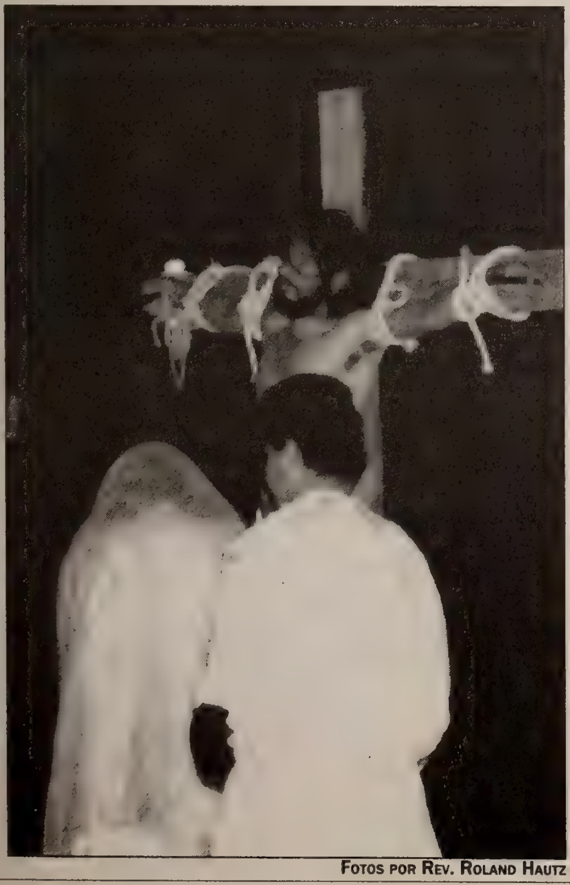
"A los niños, las madres y los ancianos con quienes se reúna, dígales que el Papa está con ellos y que permanecerá con ellos hasta que reine una paz justa y duradera en los Balcanes", dijo el Papa en una carta a Monseñor Paul Cordes, Arzobispo encargado de la organización humanitaria "Cor Unum" del Vaticano.

Monseñor Cordes llegó a Albania el 31 de marzo para recorrer los campamentos de refugiados, reunirse con los trabajadores de socorro de la Iglesia y tratar de la situación que empeora con el Presidente de Albania.

El Papa dijo que estaba siguiendo de cerca a los informes sobre la crisis de Kosovo, a la que él describió como "otra hora muy triste" en la historia de Europa. ▼

La Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo

La Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo fue escenificada en vivo en varias comunidades de la Diócesis el Viernes Santo. Estas son escenas del drama de la Pasión producido, dirigido y ejecutado por la comunidad hispana de la Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís, en Jefferson el pasado año. Jesucristo fue interpretado por Paco Carrasco.



FOTOS POR REV. ROLAND HAUTZ

Vía Crucis Económico publicado en edición inglesa-española

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Se ha publicado un libro bilingüe de recurso para el Vía Crucis Económico, con textos en inglés y español en páginas opuestas.

El libro de 112 páginas, titulado "El Vía Crucis Económico", incluye al texto completo de las lecturas y oraciones que se usaron el Viernes Santo en una peregrinación ecuménica de oración a través de Washington, además de recursos para debate y recomendaciones para adaptar el servicio a otros lugares.

El Vía Crucis Económico fue desarrollado en 1996 por el Grupo de Trabajo Religioso del Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional (IMF en inglés).

Desde 1996, entre 60 y 120 activistas cristianos para la justicia y la paz se han reunido en el Capitolio todos los Viernes Santos a fin de llevar la cruz por toda la ciudad a nombre de los pobres y las víctimas de la injusticia económica, terminando su peregrinación de tres horas en las oficinas principales del Banco Mundial y el IMF.

"El Vía Crucis Económico" cuesta $6.50 por ejemplar más $3.50 por franqueo y manipulación, y hay tarifas a granel disponibles. Se puede ordenar a: Religious Working Group, World Bank & IMF, P.O.Box 29132, Washington, DC., 20017, teléfono (202) 832-1780; FAX (202) 832-5195. ▼

Obispos paraguayos piden reconciliación nacional

ASUNCION, Paraguay (CNS) — Los obispos paraguayos instaron a los ciudadanos de ese país a trabajar por la reconciliación nacional, a continuación del asesinato del vice-presidente del país y de la renuncia de su presidente.

Los obispos pidieron al nuevo Presidente Luis González Macchi que trabaje con todos los grupos políticos para reforzar a la democracia mediante el acuerdo mutuo y la reconciliación nacional.

Durante una Misa especial en la catedral de Asunción el 29 de marzo, Monseñor Felipe Benítez Avalos, Arzobispo de Asunción, leyó una declaración episcopal que pide al pueblo que se sobreponga a las épocas violentas y empiece a reconstruir a la sociedad.

Los obispos pidieron a todos los ciudadanos que rechacen a la violencia, la impunidad y la venganza, y que procuren la paz y la reconciliación.

También denunciaron las protestas violentas que ocasionaron las muertes de varios jóvenes después del asesinato del vice-presidente Luis María Argana el 23 de marzo. ▼

El SEPI celebra su XX aniversario

Por LUIS A. WOLF

Con gran alegría se celebró de la ciudad de Miami los días 5 y 6 de marzo el vigésimo aniversario del SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute - en español: Instituto Pastoral del Sureste).

A estas fiestas, que comenzaron con una Misa en la Catedral de St. Mary de Miami el viernes 5, acudieron casi todos los obispos de la región. Entre los obispos asistentes se encontraban el Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Atlanta, Monseñor John F, Donoghue y el de la Arquidiócesis de Mobile, Monseñor Oscar H. Lipscomb así como el Arzobispo retirado de Miami, el Muy Reverendo Edward A. McCarthy. La celebración Eucarística fue presidida por el Arzobispo de Miami Monseñor John Clement Favarola y el homilista lo fue el Monseñor Agustín Román, Obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Miami.

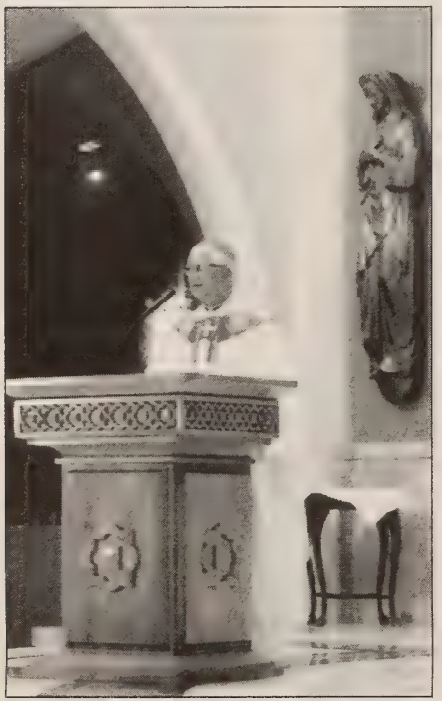


Foto por Luis Wolf

El Obispo Auxiliar de Miami, Monseñor Román, durante su homilía.

Sacerdotes de la Arquidócesis de Miami y de otras Diócesis de la región del sureste participaron en esta celebración así como el general de los Padres Escolapios el Muy Reverendo José María Balcells, Sch.P. Este último vino de Roma para esta ocasión. También participaron los Provinciales de los Escolapios de México, América Central, las Antillas y Estados Unidos.

Antes de terminar la Misa el Padre Mario Vizcaíno, Sch.P, director del SEPI, dijo unas palabras de agradecimiento e hizo un pequeño resumen del trabajo del SEPI en sus 20 años de existencia. Después de la Misa hubo un pequeño acto donde representantes de algunas de las Diócesis hicieron uso de la palabra.

Foto por Luis Wolf

Los Arzobispos Favarola y McCarthy, rodeados de los obispos y sacerdotes durante la celebración de la Santa Misa.

El sábado 6 hubo una cena en los terrenos del SEPI con una representación artística ofrecida por grupos y personas de la región.

El Instituto Pastoral del Sureste es una organización educacional y de servicio que ayuda a los Obispos Católicos de ocho estados del sureste de Estados Unidos a desarrollar y entrenar líderes en su fe y cultura para la integración de la comunidad hispana en la vida de la Iglesia y la sociedad. Lleva sus programas educacionales y evangelizadores a comunidades de hispanos a lo largo de la Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Carolina del Norte y del Sur y Tennessee.

Desde su fundación en 1978 el SEPI ha ayudado a establecer más de 500 comunidades hispanas en la región, a organizar un Ministerio Pastoral Hispano en cada una de las 26 Diócesis, ha graduado a 38 estudiantes con una Maestría en Teología Pastoral de la Universidad de Barry, ha ofrecido Escuelas de Ministerios, programas de Pastoral Juvenil, ha producido numerosos cursos audiovisuales y de música y decenas de diferentes actividades que serían demasiadas para enumerar.

Por este medio queremos felicitar al Padre Vizcaíno y a los miembros, profesores y voluntarios del SEPI que han trabajado arduamente durante estos 20 años para llevar el Evangelio de Jesucristo al Sureste de los Estados Unidos. ▼

Centro Hispano venderá CD del Papa para ayudar a latinoamericanos

NUEVA YORK (CNS) — Sony Classical, que puso a la venta el nuevo disco compacto que destaca la voz del Papa Juan Pablo II sobre un trasfondo musical, ha acordado permitir que el Centro Católico Hispano del Nordeste venda la grabación para beneficiar a las personas de la América Latina que quedaron sin hogares debido a los desastres naturales.

El acuerdo de mercadeo fue anunciado en una conferencia de prensa en Nueva York el 30 de marzo. Además, un funcionario de Sony presentó un donativo de $25,000 para el fondo de socorro durante la conferencia.

Mario Paredes, director del centro, dijo al Catholic News Service que las utilidades de las ventas se emplearían para albergar a las personas que quedaron sin viviendas debido a los huracanes Georges y Mitch, y el terremoto de enero último en Colombia.

Paredes dijo que Haití, la República Dominicana, Honduras, Guatemala y Colombia han sido designadas para recibir ayuda para las viviendas.

El disco compacto de 11 carriles, titulado "Abba Pater" y puesto a la venta el 23 de marzo, contiene oraciones, textos de las Escrituras y materiales homiléticos, hablados o cantados por el Papa en latín, español, italiano, francés e inglés. Sus palabras van acompañadas de música clásica y contemporánea.

El disco compacto, disponible también en cassette, puede ser ordenado a través del Centro Católico Hispano del Nordeste llamando al 1-800-382-3700. ▼

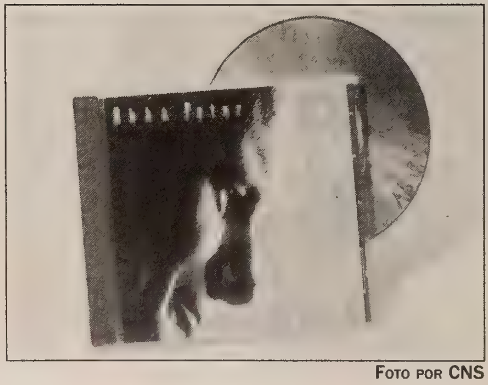


Foto por CNS

Primer diálogo en EE.UU. entre católicos y ortodoxos será en junio

BALTIMORE (CNS) — El Cardenal William H. Keeler, de Baltimore, y el Arzobispo Spyridon de la Arquidiócesis Ortodoxa Griega de los Estados Unidos, enfatizaron su compromiso formal de dialogar el 30 de marzo mientras anunciaban el programa para junio de la Comisión Conjunta Internacional para el Diálogo Teológico entre las Iglesias Católica y Ortodoxa — la primera de tales reuniones a celebrarse en el Hemisferio Occidental.

A pesar de las nuevas tensiones globales respecto del bombardeo de Yugoslavia por la OTAN (Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte) para poner fin a la violencia religiosa y étnica en Kosovo, los dos dijeron que se sentían esperanzados de que todos los miembros ortodoxos asistirían a las reuniones entre el 6 y el 15 de junio próximo, que tendrán lugar en la Escuela Superior de Mount St. Mary, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

El Arzobispo Spyridon indicó que los boicots y las cancelaciones de reuniones efectuados por los ortodoxos que afectaron al diálogo entre católicos y ortodoxos en los tumultos de principios del decenio de 1990, a continuación del derrumbe del comunismo en la Europa Oriental, son algo del pasado.

"Hemos decidido que es más productivo y más constructivo el hacer frente a nuestros problemas dentro del contexto de un diálogo que fuera de este contexto", dijo él.

"Mientras que antes la mentalidad era: 'No estoy de acuerdo, me voy de aquí', ahora hemos comprendido que el diálogo es la clave para resolver nuestros problemas", agregó él. ▼

"Hemos decidido que es más productivo y más constructivo el hacer frente a nuestros problemas dentro del contexto de un diálogo que fuera de este contexto", dijo él.

Pope to beatify popular confessor and mystic Padre Pio

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will beatify Padre Pio da Pietrelcina May 2, advancing the sainthood cause of a Capuchin friar known to millions worldwide for his holiness as a confessor and his mystical experience of the faith.

One of the most popular church figures of the 20th century, Padre Pio was controversial in the eyes of the Vatican, which investigated his activities, temporarily suspended him from most of his priestly ministries and kept him under a watchful eye in the 1930s and '40s.

In recent years, church authorities have reviewed the accusations, which involved alleged corruption and immorality, and found no evidence of wrongdoing. On the contrary, they said, these trials only highlighted Padre Pio's deep obedience to the church.

"We can say that he was an authentic saint, whom the devil tried to cover with mud," said Italian Bishop Andrea Erba, who helped prepare a report on Padre Pio in 1997.

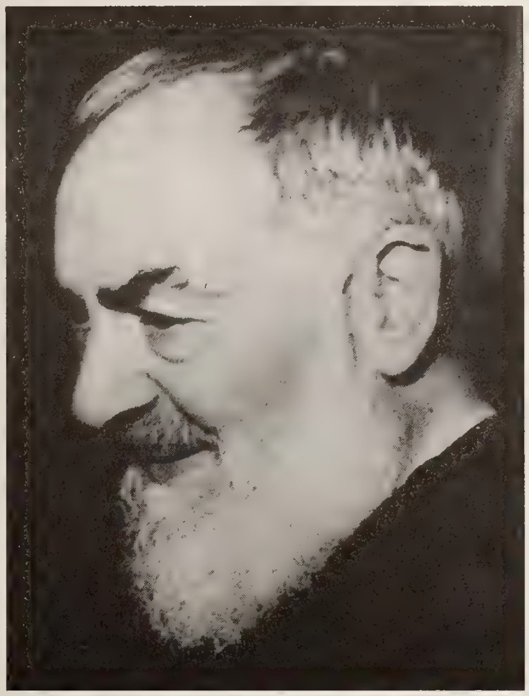
> **"We can say that he was an authentic saint, whom the devil tried to cover with mud," said Italian Bishop Andrea Erba, who helped prepare a report on Padre Pio in 1997.**

Born Francesco Forgione in 1887 to a poor family near Italy's Adriatic coast, he entered the local Capuchin novitiate at the age of 15. He was ordained a priest in 1910 and almost immediately began informing his superiors that he was experiencing spiritual and physical signs, along with a number of health problems.

Beginning in 1918, at the age of 30, the priest reported bleeding from his hands, feet and side — the "stigmata" wounds of Christ's crucifixion. The wounds were said to have lasted 50 years, until his death. According to biographers, Padre Pio was uneasy about such phenomena, declaring, "I only want to be a friar who prays."

Padre Pio's alleged signs and special powers soon helped attract massive crowds to his southern Italian monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo. His Capuchin superiors tried to limit his public appearances and planned to transfer the priest, but they backed down after popular outcry. With donations, Padre Pio opened a small hospital next to the monastery in 1925 — the forerunner to a much larger health complex he had built in the 1950s.

After years of ministering to long lines of penitents, and after suffering several more bouts with illness, Padre Pio died in 1968.



CNS FILE PHOTO

Padre Pio is seen in this undated file photo. Pope John Paul II will beatify the Italian Capuchin friar May 2.

Pope John Paul, who was to preside over the beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square, had a personal role in the friar's story. As a young priest in 1947, the pope confessed to Padre Pio. Then in 1962, as bishop of Krakow, Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked prayers for a friend who was diagnosed with throat cancer. Only 11 days later, the cancer inexplicably disappeared.

The pope has praised Padre Pio for his dedication to the sacraments and his personal holiness. Many others who made pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo and waited days to confess to Padre Pio said they were impressed most by his deep sense of faith, his humility, and his simple yet profound manner of awakening their spiritual thirst. Those who knew him well said the priest's occasional bluntness was balanced by a gentle manner with sinners.

He often spent 10-12 hours per day in the confessional. Much of the rest of the day he spent in prayer in a bare monastic cell, or saying long Masses for the faithful who packed the monastery's church. Christ's sacrifice on the cross was at the center of his prayer life; one Italian priest described Padre Pio as "a saint not of action but of the Passion."

Padre Pio's popularity has grown in the years since his death, and the huge crowds expected for the beatification Mass in Rome have created an unprecedented logistics problem. City officials reached agreement with the Vatican on limiting attendance in St. Peter's Square to 150,000 pilgrims; the rest — which some estimate at an additional 200,000 people — will watch the Mass on giant-screen TV at a larger square in front of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, where the pope will deliver a blessing afterward.

The fears of traffic gridlock were so great that Rome's mayor encouraged city residents to leave town for the weekend, and school was canceled the day before the beatification to make that possible. ▼

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

K of C

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

The Oratory Religion Camp

- Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 11-17, 1999 and July 18-24, 1999.
- Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
- Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
- The fee is $90.

For information and application:
The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

Six Simple Strategies
For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled ***"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."***

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Book Review

"A Thousand Suns" is long story of human warmth

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The manner in which Dominique Lapierre writes the reminiscences that comprise "A Thousand Suns" is the warm, humane manner in which he lived his life.

Lapierre's book is autobiographical in that it informs the reader about his life as the author or co-author of best-sellers that he has written, e.g., "The City of Joy," "O Jerusalem," and "Is Paris Burning?" But it's as though Lapierre is writing, "My biography is their biography."

"A Thousand Suns: Witness to History"

By Dominique Lapierre.
Warner Books
(New York, 1999).
476 pp., $25.00.

He tells stories about people he met as a magazine reporter, and he tells the stories in a manner that is engaging. At first, readers may not care much about a Spanish bullfighter or Portuguese revolutionaries or an American put to death for a crime he didn't commit, but they will after they read Lapierre's accounts. He doesn't let readers know about them; he lets them know them.

Good biography requires the hand of a good storyteller. Good autobiography requires the hand of a good storyteller who knows which stories to tell and why they should be told. For Lapierre, those stories are about people whose lives and deaths had an impact upon some part of the society in which they lived.

The difference they made was not lost upon Lapierre. As he tells the story of Caryl Chessman, who was executed for a crime evidence later showed he may not have committed, Ehud Avriel, an Austrian who was a founding father of the State of Israel, or Gaston Grandjean, a Swiss nurse in Calcutta, one witnesses his conversion from writer who tells great stores and makes millions of dollars, to writer who tells stories, makes millions of dollars, and donates half of all his royalties to humanitarian causes in India.

Each story Lapierre tells is one about determination, hope, and success — even if it means losing one's life, as in the case of Chessman, in order to successfully demonstrate the fallacies of capital punishment. The most autobiographical part of the book, and one told with the same emotion as the others, is his own battle with prostate cancer.

The last part of the book chronicles the interweaving of his path as storyteller and Christian who immerses himself in the needs of the poor. In this case, they are the poor of Calcutta. As with his other stories, this one requires readers to open their hearts to the people they meet.

"A Thousand Suns," a title taken from an Indian proverb that proclaims, "Beyond the clouds there are always a thousand suns," is a series of stories about one person's life, but that person does not keep the sunlight to himself. Rather, he invites individuals, nations, events and yes, readers, to bask in it, too.

The result is a long story of human warmth. ▼

"A Thousand Suns," a title taken from an Indian proverb that proclaims, "Beyond the clouds there are always a thousand suns," is a series of stories about one person's life, but that person does not keep the sunlight to himself.

Olszewski is the editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

Word to Life

April 25, Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A Readings:

1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
   Psalm 23:1-6
2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
3) John 10:1-10

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER

There was joy and excitement in our family when we learned that the first member of a new generation was expected. The pregnancy went well, and Carrie was radiant. Our son Andrew was proud and happy, and involved himself intimately in prenatal preparations. My husband and I were so moved when we heard how at night, in bed, he'd put his face right up against Carrie's abdomen and talk gently to his yet unborn, but already much-loved child.

Labor began on time and progressed steadily as Carrie was admitted to the hospital. Andrew stayed with her. A fetal monitor was attached, and the hours passed peacefully as contractions came closer together. Then Andrew noticed a change in the baby's heart on the monitor and quietly alerted a nurse. As they watched, the pattern became even more erratic, and soon the room was full of medical personnel, and it was clear that the baby was in real distress.

Feverish activity ensued as Carrie was rushed to surgery for an emergency C-section. Andrew could not go with her and was suddenly left alone. He waited and prayed, knowing that the situation was grave. When news finally came, it was reassuring: Though it had been touch and go, the baby was now breathing on his own, and Carrie was all right. He could go in and see them.

As he entered the surgery suite, the first things he heard were the loud, sharp cries of the baby, still being worked on by the team. It was a blessed sound, but it pierced Andrew to the heart, and he immediately spoke directly and reassuringly to his little son. Right away the baby responded, listening and quieting.

Though the immediate crisis was over, little Joe was not yet out of danger. He was hooked up to monitors and watched closely. Since Carrie was utterly spent, Andrew sat with Joe reading him Beatrix Potter books, catching naps when he could and always watching those monitors.

Whenever Joe's heart would slow perilously, Andrew would talk to him — encouraging and coaxing him back to life, and invariably Joe responded, and that tiny heart would quicken, and its beat strengthen and stabilize.

In today's Gospel Jesus likens himself to the true shepherd who knows all his sheep by name. He knows them, and they know him, recognizing his voice when they hear it, able to distinguish it above that of strangers.

We are those sheep, and though at times doubt assails us, we really do know that voice because it has been familiar to us since we were first knit in our mother's womb. It is a voice that encourages, speaks gently and lovingly, and always calls us to abundant life.

Questions:

Which human voices have the power to rouse you and encourage you to new effort? Why those voices? Recall a time when you followed the voice of Jesus and were led to abundant life.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 25 - May 1, 1999

Sunday, Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20-25, John 10:1-10; **Monday**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:11-18; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Genesis 1:26-2:3, Matthew 13:54-58

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen – Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

TV Review

"Noah's Ark" juggles biblical account for dramatic effect

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Giving fanciful yet often thoughtful treatment to two Bible stories is the miniseries, "Noah's Ark," airing Sunday-Monday, May 2-3, 9-11 p.m. EDT each night on NBC.

A title card at the top of the first episode advises viewers that some "poetic license" has been taken in what follows for the purpose of "dramatic effect."

What that means is changing things around considerably, such as using the fiery destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as a curtain-raiser for the main act of the flood.

"Noah's Ark,"
May 2-3
on NBC

The effect is dramatic all right, but some viewers aren't going to feel comfortable with Noah (Jon Voight) as a God-fearing shopkeeper in merry old Sodom, nor with his backsliding friend, Lot (F. Murray Abraham), who's given such deadpan lines as, "Aren't you staying for the orgy?"

Which is to say that poetic license here also extends to treating the biblical characters with occasional humor and, though some of it doesn't work, enough does to add some good-natured fun to the proceedings.

After Lot's shrewish wife (Carol Kane) turns into a pillar of salt for looking back at the fireworks which level Sodom, Noah pushes on with his family until they settle down to become farmers.

Sunday's episode ends 10 years later with Noah following God's command to build an ark and fill it with mates of every kind of animal.

The rains come Monday night, the earth is flooded and life on the ark becomes wearisome.

Poetic license works overtime as the ark bumps into a peddler (James Coburn) with a raft filled with merchandise and Lot reappears leading a pirate fleet.

Much more interesting than these erratic interruptions is Noah's ongoing dialogue with the Lord God, who speaks in Noah's voice of his wrath at the sins of the wicked.

As those on the ark face the end of the world, scriptwriter Peter Barnes comes up with an image of Noah whistling and dancing, which touches God's heart and causes him to spare Noah and give the human race one last chance.

And the miniseries ends with God explaining he will not end mankind because "mankind is capable of destroying itself."

Like most other biblical epics, "Noah's Ark" is more interested in the dramatic spectacle and human dimension of the characters than in the religious meaning of the text.

Though Barnes juggles the biblical account for "dramatic effect," most believers will find the result neither irreverent nor irrelevant to their understanding of Noah as the new Adam.

Directed by John Irvin and filmed in Australia, the acting is more than good and Voight's performance is excellent.

Parents should know, however, that there are some earthy sexual references in this account of events, but they are more a question of taste than morality. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Artisan Entertainment

"Open Your Eyes"

Penelope Cruz and Eduardo Noriega star in the dramatic film "Open Your Eyes." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

This is a Test.

	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

For a free information packet, call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving.
(704) 370-3320

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

- Annuals - Spectacular array
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide Variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Landscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package

includes free self-installation kit

(professional installation - $49)

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

New Name!
New Owners! New Hours!
Formerly Nine Choirs Catholic Books

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 3pm

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
DIRECTED RETREAT
Sunday, June 20 -
Saturday, June 26, 1999

A week of prayer, quiet, liturgy and an opportunity to meet with a director. Our team of directors will include lay and religious women, secular and religious priests. Our grounds and buildings are quietly conducive for this week of retreat.

$300 Pre-register by June 15

Littleton

from page 1

School, was working at home when she heard of the shooting.

"I went upstairs and turned on the TV and it just started snowballing," said Love. "My daughter's locker is right across from the library and I couldn't remember her schedule so I didn't know what part of the school she might have been in.

"There was nothing I could do," she continued. "She did the right thing and called me. I was hysterical. She was in a house and was safe."

As she was speaking, a young female Columbine student walked up and embraced Love. Both broke into tears of joy as Love said, "Oh, thank God you are all right."

As she wiped away tears, Love said, "I've known her since she was this tall," indicating the size of a child of 4 or 5 years of age.

In his letter, Archbishop Chaput stated: "I cannot begin to understand the anguish you feel. Nor can I offer an explanation for why such a tragic event could occur. I can only say that if you seek out God's comfort, he will walk with you."

Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, former Denver archbishop who is now president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Laity, also sent a message.

When he heard the news, he said, he went to St. Peter's Basilica to pray for God's intercession "for the surviving young people of the high school, especially the wounded, and for the families of the students. Be assured of my deep communion with you in prayer and solidarity with the people of Colorado." ▼

Money with an attitude

N.C. Knights run an extra mile for Special Olympics

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — "It's all about attitude." That is both the motto of the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games and what one official of the games said the Knights of Columbus possessed, "the right attitude."

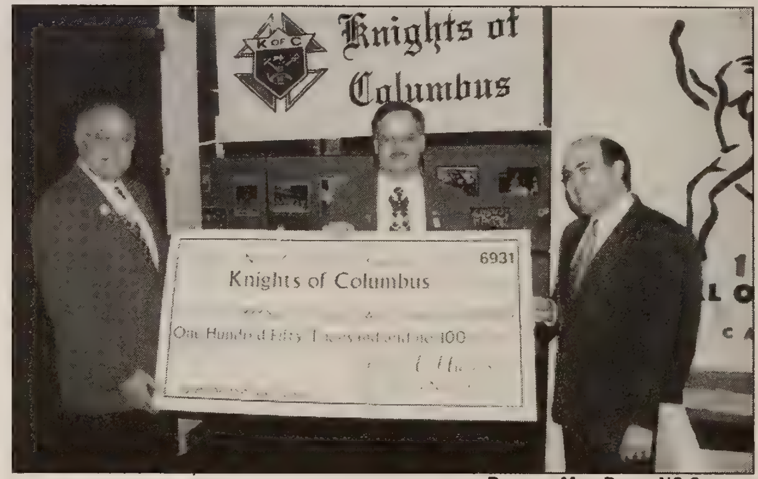


Photo by Matt Doyle, NC Catholic

The Knights of Columbus of North Carolina present 1999 Special Olympics World Games with a check for $150,000 March 18. The check is presented to Joe Feddose, chief executive officer of the games by State Deputy John Harrison, center, and State Secretary Bob Singer, left. The money was collected through donations to Operation LAMB in 1998.

Joe Feddoso, chief executive officer of the World Summer Games, made his remarks March 18 as the Knights presented a check for $150,000 to the Special Olympics. Feddoso said both the Knights and the games "strive for excellence" and that he was "proud to be associated with them."

The 10th Special Olympics World Summer Games will be held in North Carolina June 26-July 4. An estimated 7,000 athletes from more than 150 nations are expected to participate.

State Deputy John A. Harrison of the North Carolina State Council said the Knights of Columbus raised the money through Operation LAMB in 1998. He said the success of the program and a donation from the home office of the Knights made the gift possible.

According to Harrison, Operation LAMB, the program that hands out free candy and accepts donations, has been allocating a portion of the proceeds to Special Olympics over the past three years. He said 1998 was a record-setting year for Operation LAMB with more than $820,000 dollars raised in North Carolina.

Of the money collected this year, $120,000 was set aside for Special Olympics. The home office of the Knights of Columbus in New Haven, Conn., contributed an additional $30,000, for a total of $150,000.

"LAMB" is an acronym, explained Harrison, for "least among my brethren." The program has been conducted in North Carolina for 25 years and has raised over $9,000,000.

In explaining how the program works, Harrison said that about 90 percent of the money donated through Operation LAMB goes directly to charity. He said the only costs were for the candy and the special yellow aprons worn by volunteers.

A contingent of Knights met with Special Olympics officials in the Raleigh office of the games to exchange the funds. Standing beneath banners that represented both the Knights and the games, an oversized check was symbolically given over to the Special Olympics.

The donation made the Knights of Columbus a Bronze Level Sponsor of the games. The contribution, while meant to directly support the summer games, will continue to be of service long after the games have ended.

According to the Special Olympics, the gift from the Knights will be used to supply "computers and other equipment to organizations affiliated with people with mental retardation." The equipment will later be donated to people with mental retardation. ▼

Matt Doyle is the assistant editor for the NC Catholic in Raleigh.

LIFE'S A JOURNEY...

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE PATHS?

- Do you wake up some days to a nagging voice telling you there's more to life?
- Are you looking for a balance of service, prayer and a deeper relationship with God within a supportive community?
- Has your career choice left you feeling empty, disconnected?
- Are you a woman looking to make a difference in the world?

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANSWERS!

If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to explore vowed religious life with the Sisters of Mercy.

Women are invited to join us as we share our journeys in Mercy at "Exploring Mercy," on May 8, 1999 from 9:30am - 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, NC. Call Lizz at 704.829.5260

The Franciscan Center

Catholic Gift & Book Store

BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!

Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Elementary School

St. Pius X Catholic School, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, enrolls 440 students with a professional staff of 30. St. Pius X is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte, and is in the application process for SACS accreditation.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and have teaching and school administrative experience. St. Pius X is a parish school located in Greensboro, NC and cooperatively plans and implements programs with other area Catholic schools.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by May 12 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

In Brief...

Faith Formation Office receives grant

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation recently received a $3,200 grant from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. The grant will help create a diocesan commission on developmental disabilities. Kathy Tetu and Mari Ann Poli, parishioners in the diocese, will lead the commission, whose vision it will be to give a voice for persons with disabilities regarding their worship and faith formation needs.

In other faith formation news, Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs, presented a lecture on the General Directory on Catechesis to educational groups at the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders on April 21 in Indianapolis.

CCHS dance team competes in national championship

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Charlotte Catholic High School's dance team recently placed first runner-up in the Eastern Dance Association's 1999 Dance Team National Championship, and third runner-up in the Dance Classic Championship. The CCHS team was invited to perform at next year's Citrus Bowl on Orlando, Fla., and received a scholarship for attending camp. Fifty-three teams representing 15 states competed in the championships.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

Parochial League girls basketball champions

Our Lady of the Assumption School's fourth- and fifth-grade girls' basketball team recently won a local Parochial League tournament. The Charlotte parish school team was named Division III Champion and Parochial League girls basketball champions. Pictured left to right, front row: Samantha Bandah, Steffie Meiners, Kari Talarico, Patti Sanders; back row, Coach Joe Meiners, Christine Schmitt, Ivey Rice, Erica Rojas, Coach Kathy Sanders.

The team's nine seniors were invited to join the Eastern Dance Association's Dance Staff, and will teach at summer camps. The students are Kendall Andrews, Kristen Cecere, Vicki Ford, Kylie Fox, Blair Holloway, Ellen Ludes, Rebecca McCue, Erin O'Brien and Rachel Plezia. In addition, juniors Michele Bettin, Julie Emery, Meg Ryan, Rebecca Wayer, Sarah Turza and Jackie Willse were selected for the National Scholarship Invitational and are able to participate in the National Football League's Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

Other dance team members who participated in the competitions, held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, are Elizabeth Emery, Brooke Garris, Shannon Hennessy, Paige Holloway and Kaitlin Thompson.

BMHS students attend Harvard Model Congress; teacher honored

WINSTON-SALEM — Twenty-seven Bishop McGuinness High School students recently traveled to Boston to participate in the annual Harvard Model Congress. The high-school program allows students to simulate the roles of U.S. Congress members, debate on a variety of current issues, draft legislation and attempt to have the legislation ratified. The program includes a number of subcommittees. The BMHS team won eight awards. Winners were Casey Knight, a junior, for her work on the program's House Security Committee; seniors Jeff Harless and Adam Reilly for their work on the House Committee on Science; and juniors Jesse Short and Stephanie Sherman, and Mike Mode, a senior. Honorable mentions were awarded to Jesse Short his work on the Senate Committee for Foreign Relations, and to Dan Riesser for his work on the Press Corps.

In other BMHS news, Spanish teacher Shirley Shaw was recently awarded the 1999 Teaching Excellence Award for the school. She was recognized for her teaching achievements as well as extensive work with motivating the volunteer efforts of the three clubs she moderates. Shaw is also part of the driving force behind the Summer Outreach program. She was presented with a motivational plaque, a $500 honorarium and a $50 donation to the service organization of her choice.

Knights of Columbus give to Room at the Inn

CHARLOTTE — John Harrison, state deputy of the North Carolina Knights of Columbus, recently presented a check for $1,000 on behalf of the Sacred Heart Council #11103 in Pinehurst to the mothers and children of Room at the Inn, an independent, Catholic pro-life ministry providing food, shelter, child-care counseling and other assistance to single, pregnant mothers and their children. The funds came from proceeds of the Knights' state golf tournament last September. Over the past five years, the Knights of Columbus have given almost $100,000 to Room at the Inn.

For First Communion & Confirmations
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Europe is MO fun on a cruise.
Even MO fun when you fly free to Europe.
Departing November 8 for a 13 day/12 night cruise from Venice to Lisbon.
Coming soon, full details on this MO rulous voyage.
Holland America Line
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
➤ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
➤ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accountant. Responsible for preparing general ledger entries, executing month-end closings, performing account analyses, and filing federal and state grant reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience and also fund accounting experience. Applicants must be proficient using PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Accounting Clerk: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accounting clerk. Responsibilities include data entering of accounts receivable, processing payroll, and preparing related month-end and quarter-end reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience. Applicants must be proficient using both the 10-key and PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Elementary Principal: Blessed Sacrament School in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning July 1, 1999. With an enrollment of 410 students in grades Pre-K through 8, this SACS and FCC accredited school challenges its students to strive for academic excellence and high standards of faith and moral values. Applicants are to be practicing Catholics who can enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates should have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the State of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application from, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Phone: (912)238-2344 Fax: (912)238-2339.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

PROPERTIES FOR RENT

For Rent — Beach Condo: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 5/1, 5/8, 8/28 and all of September. Call (336) 924-2842.

Life
MEDICAL PROGRESS | ETHICAL ISSUES

Reproductive Technologies

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Each day seems to bring news of another genetic development — a cloned sheep here, a human ear grown on the back of a mouse there, brain cells produced from a mouse's liver over there.

Then there's the pretty college student with the high IQ offering her services as a surrogate mother for a hefty fee, the scientist announcing plans to leave the United States so that he'll be free to clone his wife, and the divorced couple fighting over whether to use or discard the fertilized eggs they stored years ago.

For the infertile couple desperately seeking to have a baby but wanting to stay faithful to Catholic teaching, it may seem that there are more questions than answers.

John S. Grabowski, an associate professor of moral theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, says the widespread confusion over the church approach to reproductive technologies is perhaps best seen in the rush by journalists to ask for the Vatican's opinion when the male potency drug Viagra appeared last year.

> The official church response to many new genetic developments has been a call to consider the human dignity of everyone involved and the reminder that just because things are scientifically possible does not make them ethically right.

"Surely, they thought, this (Viagra) had all the elements to reignite the fires of controversy which burned so brightly in the church in the late '60s and early '70s — sex, a pill and the pope," he said. "Imagine their chagrin when told by Vatican spokesmen that the church applauded the development insofar as it gave couples an opportunity to restore an important part of their conjugal communion.

"What they failed to grasp," Grabowski added, "is that the issue is not technology, but the dignity of the human person and meaning of human sexuality."

The official church response to many new genetic developments has been a call to consider the human dignity of everyone involved and the reminder that just because things are scientifically possible does not make them ethically right.

"The various techniques of artificial reproduction, which would seem to be at the service of life and which are frequently used with this intention, actually open the door to new threats against life," Pope John Paul II said in his 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life").

"Biomedical research too, a field which promises great benefits for humanity, must always reject experimentation, research or applications which disregard the inviolable dignity of the human being and thus cease to be at the service of the people," he said.

Among the developments opposed by the church, for various reasons relating to its views on human dignity and sexuality, are:

— In vitro fertilization, in which reproduction takes place outside the woman's body in a test tube or petri dish. Variations include Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer, or GIFT, in which fertilization takes place in the fallopian tubes; Zygote Intrafallopian Transfer, or ZIFT, in which fertilization occurs in the lab but the fertilized eggs, or zygotes, are transferred to the fallopian tubes one day later; and Tubal Embryo Transfer, or TET, which involves a two-day lab stay before transfer.

— Surrogate motherhood, in which a woman carries a child to term with the understanding that the child will be raised by others. The child may be genetically her own or the result of an in vitro fertilization.

— Artificial insemination, in which previously collected semen is inserted into a woman's vagina, cervix or uterus. The semen can come from the woman's husband or a donor.

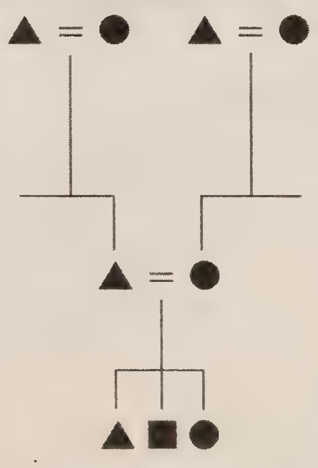
— Embryo experimentation, involving the transfer of multiple fertilized eggs to a woman's uterus or fallopian tubes, which usually results in the discarding of "spare" embryos or their freezing for later use.

— All forms of human cloning, efforts to create a genetic double in the form of an embryo that will be implanted and carried to full-term pregnancy.

In "Evangelium Vitae," Pope John Paul summed up the church's stance this way:

"While the suffering of infertile couples is real, and the church has particular pastoral responsibilities toward them, this does not justify engaging in evil for a good purpose," he said.

"To cooperate with God in the transmitting of new human life is a privilege which should express the responsible stewardship of dominion — not the untrammeled self-assertion of domination," the pope added. "Human life is precious, but not an end in itself to the exclusion of other moral goods." ▼



Exploring Family of Origin Awareness

Sponsored by the Special Ministries Office, Catholic Social Services

Saturday, June 5, 1999
9 am — 12 noon
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1400 Suther Road
Charlotte, NC
1½ blocks from UNCC

Presenter:
Joan Lyons, Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida

In dating and relating to other adults, does it really matter what my family life was like when I was young?
As a family, do we seem to be bogged down with issues involving grandparents, in-laws and our extended families?

Spend a morning growing and learning more about yourself in the "Exploring Family of Origin Awareness" workshop. You will experience an in-depth explanation of family of origin issues and learn ways in which you can benefit from a new self-awareness of your family of origin.

For more information or registration, call Marlo Wallace (704) 370-3228 or e-mail cssgac@aol.com
Cost: $15 individual $25 couple $30 family

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

***************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S300 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 30, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 33

Inside

Colorado shootings
School violence seen as time for youth ministry to kick into gear
...PAGE 7

Agency seeking sponsors for Kosovar Albanians
...PAGE 3

Myths, new science muddle transplant issue
...PAGE 16

Local News

Elder Ministry hosts Spring Fling
...PAGE 15

Conference emphasizes justice in society
...PAGE 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

Faith Alive!

What are parishes doing about Generation X?
...PAGES 8-9

Diocesan Youth Conference '99

Teens celebrate call to live their faith

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. — "Every day we face situations that challenge our morals and beliefs," read the mission statement from Diocesan Youth Conference '99.

For an entire springtime weekend, hundreds of youth from across the Diocese of Charlotte pondered that missive. In workshops, in parish and vicariate gatherings, and during the closing Mass, teen-agers were prompted to think about what it means to be a Catholic in today's world.

"Catholic: Just Do It, Just Be It, Just Live It, Just Believe It!" was the theme for the youth conference, an annual event drawing hundreds of teens and youth ministers to Camp Thunderbird in Lake Wylie. The conference is a mix of spiritual and social activities promoting an active faith in teens' lives.

This year's event, hosted April 23-25 by the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Youth Ministry, focused on planning for the future through courage and pride in faith.

"This weekend, we engaged ourselves in preparation for jubilee," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. "The young church of western North Carolina engaged in what we call a 'SWOT' process."

The discussion process called SWOT — which stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats — culminated in lists of gifts the youths promised they'd bring to the church in the new millennium.

Laughter, music and conversation permeated the camp grounds. It was a time to celebrate being a teen — a Catholic teen.

"We are indeed blessed," Kotlowski said. "We have enthusiasm and fire, and hope and technology, and a whole list of wonderful gifts. ... We are a very fortunate diocese."

And while the conference had an eye on the future, participants basked in the joy of being members of today's church, too.

"I think you're the greatest people, because I find young people today do more wonderful things than when I was a teen-ager," said Bishop William G. Curlin, who presided at the conference's closing liturgy. "You're taught to take God out into the world, to take him to others who are hurting."

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Chris Geis, at right, and Jeff Johnson entertain Dobie the dachshund during Diocesan Youth Conference '99. More than 400 teen-agers and youth ministers from across the Diocese of Charlotte, along with a couple of four-legged friends, gathered for the annual event at Camp Thunderbird on Lake Wylie. Geis and Johnson are parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

Bishop Curlin, who offered special intentions for those killed in the Littleton, Colo., high school massacre, also noted the importance of faith in the life of a teen-ager.

"You live in a world that won't permit you to have a quiet life," he said, alluding to the all-too-real witness today's teens bear to the horrors of war, violence and persecution. "If ever there was a time that you need courage and faith, it's now."

"You live in a world that won't permit you to have a quiet life," said Bishop Curlin, alluding to the all-too-real witness today's teens bear to the horrors of war, violence and persecution. "If ever there was a time that you need courage and faith, it's now."

The bishop urged the teens not to cave in to wanting to be part of the "in crowd." "Never fear peer pressure," he said. "We've got to dare to be different, and dare to be Christ-like. That's where our church comes in."

Faith comes alive when it is rooted in a profound love for Jesus, the bishop said. "You start with love; you start with a belief that you will touch your God when you reach out to help people," he added.

Throughout the weekend, the teens reflected on ways to keep their values foremost in their lives. "We came here for enrichment on our faith," said Herbert Frank Vu, a 13-year-old parishioner of St. Eugene Church in Asheville. "For the younger generations, we need to set a good example for them to keep our faith alive.

"That's important to me, 'cause I have a little brother."

Conference workshops invited the teens to find ways of bringing a renewed sense of faith back to their parish and daily lives, too. Topics included vocations, social justice, the transition from high school to college, and a variety of ways to live one's faith.

In one workshop, teens and adults discussed the Littleton tragedy in light of morality and the dignity of the human person.

"Morality is the term we use to describe human good," said Father Carl

YOUTH CONFERENCE, PAGE 14

Catholic-Orthodox dialogue meeting in Baltimore postponed

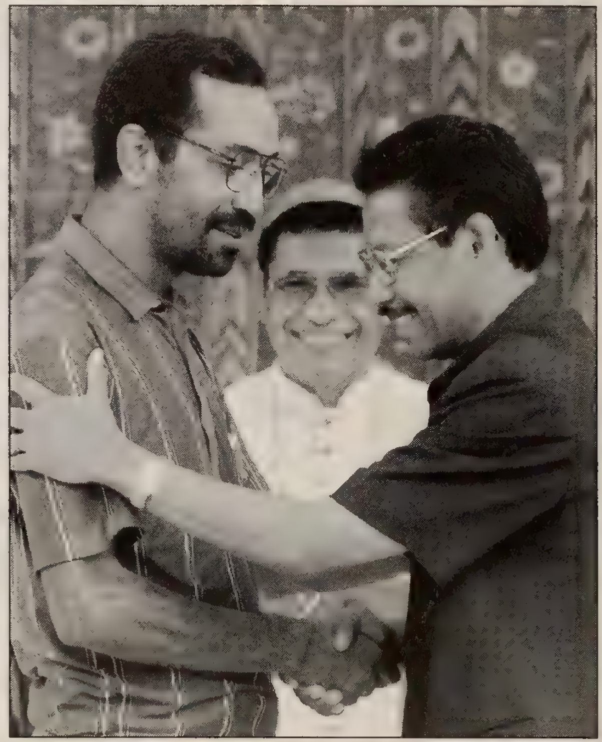
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The meeting of the international Catholic-Orthodox dialogue commission, scheduled for June in Baltimore, has been postponed for a full year because of the war in Yugoslavia, announced meeting organizers. The June 6-15 meeting was postponed "because of the hostilities which are continuing in Europe and which make it difficult for everyone to participate," said the Catholic-Orthodox statement. The April 26 statement was signed by Catholic and Orthodox co-presidents of the dialogue — Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Archbishop Stylianos of Australia.

Poland to restrict activities outside former Nazi camps

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Polish parliament has passed legislation to restrict activities outside former Nazi concentration camps. However, Polish senators said church-approved crosses must be allowed to stay, including a 26-foot cross used at a papal Mass at Auschwitz in 1979. Under legislation passed by the Polish Sejm, or lower house of parliament, gatherings, building projects and non-essential commerce would be barred from a 330-foot zone around Auschwitz-Birkenau, as well as other Nazi-run camps.

Study gives effects of changes wrought by 1996 welfare law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The government may be successful at getting poor people off welfare rolls, but it is less successful at bringing them out of poverty, according to a study issued April 22 by Network, a national Catholic social justice lobby. The presence of 35 million poor people in the United States is "definitely a scandal," said Mercy Sister Kathy Thornton, Network president, at a press conference where the study was released. "Poverty continues as people receive less government assistance," Sister Thornton added.



Timor peace pact East Timorese independence supporter Leandro Isaac (left) and pro-Indonesia representative Domingo Soares shake hands as Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo looks on at a peace pact signing in Dili, East Timor, April 21. The two factions signed the agreement aimed at ending spiraling violence as the territory prepares to vote on independence.

CNS photo from Reuters

Churches, lawyers, INS helping detained immigrants know rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigrants in federal detention and facing deportation may soon have a new resource to help them understand their rights. Immigration agencies of the Catholic and Lutheran churches and an Arizona immigrant rights project have produced a "Know Your Rights" campaign that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has agreed to use. "Ninety percent of the people in detention for deportation go through it without a lawyer," said Annie Wilson, vice president for programs at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service at an April 22 press conference.

British aid agency says IMF mishandled Asian crisis

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The International Monetary Fund mishandled the Asian financial crisis, worsening the impact on the poor and helping to undo 30 years of development progress, said the British bishops' aid and development agency. In a report, "Human Development and the Asia Crisis," released in Britain April 20 to coincide with the IMF's meeting in Washington April 27-29, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development said the Asian economic crisis, and the IMF's response, seriously set back the global crusade to halve world poverty by the year 2015.

German court orders crucifix removed from Bavarian classroom

BONN, Germany (CNS) — A federal court in Germany has ordered a state-run, Bavarian school to remove a crucifix from a classroom after a couple successfully argued that the presence of the "male torture stake" had degraded their 10-year-old daughter and violated her rights. But the Federal Administrative Court in Berlin also ruled April 21 that a 1995 Bavarian state law requiring that the religious symbol be displayed in classrooms is constitutional. Under the law, a crucifix can only be removed if a parent objects "with serious and reasonable grounds based on faith or ideology." The federal court said the Bavarian law was "valid without reservations."

Indian bishops announce plan to counter anti-Christian campaign

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The Indian Catholic bishops' standing committee chalked out an action plan to counter a nationwide anti-Christian campaign. To counter attacks against Christians, the bishops suggested strengthening spirituality, promoting interreligious dialogue, improving communication, increasing social involvement and building up interreligious solidarity. The bishops also said the church needs a "more effective, accurate and speedy communications network" and stressed that "all the news of the church should be disseminated to combat untruths."

Colombian bishops offer to mediate release of 35 hostages

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the Colombian bishops' conference said the bishops were willing to mediate with guerrillas for the release of 35 passengers kidnapped on an Avianca domestic flight. Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo of Medellin told reporters that the Catholic Church is available to negotiate the release "without conditions" and "face to face" with the National Liberation Army, or ELN, the second-largest guerrilla group of Colombia.

New York interfaith service aimed at healing racial tensions

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor presided over an interfaith prayer service at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York April 20 as a healing response to tensions ignited by the police killing of Amadou Diallo, a young Muslim immigrant from Guinea. Cardinal O'Connor welcomed the congregation and said he hoped the service, which he emphasized was for prayer and not protest, would begin "a new look at racial injustice in our society."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

April 30, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 33
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Diocesan planner

May

2 CHARLOTTE — "Forty Hours of Devotion" services begin today at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Devotions continue through May 4, with Masses being celebrated at 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. each day. A closing Mass is May 4 at 7:30 p.m. The devotion services are in memory of the 40 hours the body of Jesus was in the tomb. For more information, call (704) 523-4641.

8 CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Committees of St. Matthew and St. Gabriel churches sponsor a special Mother's Day Mass honoring all mothers, living or deceased, today at 9 a.m. in St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Committee of St. Gabriel Church begins a month-long "baby shower" today for families, Room at the Inn and Crisis Pregnancy. New baby items can be taken to the parish fellowship hall and outside the daily chapel on the parish grounds, located at 3016 Providence Rd. Call (704) 364-5431 for more information.

11 CHARLOTTE — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX), which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Learning groups meet in the Charlotte area. For details, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

14 GREENSBORO — "The Love of the Father," a statewide conference on preparing for the new millennium, is today through May 16 at Greensboro College, 815 W. Market St. Featured speakers are Catholic evangelists Peter Herbeck and Jim Murphy. Fees start at $55 for meals and a shared room on campus. Private rooms and suites are also available. For details, call Hannah in Greensboro at (336) 273-9205, or Joyce in Charlotte at (704) 547-1836.

15 GREENSBORO — A five-kilometer run and one-mile fun run are planned for today at Grimsly High School starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee for the run is $12, which includes a T-shirt for the first 100 entries. The fee for the fun run is $5. All proceeds will benefit the Twin Parish Program of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, which is raising funds for a Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. The parish there will purchase a radio station with the funding. For details

Bishop William G. Curlin will be on a personal pilgrimage to Lourdes from April 28 - May 6.

Conference emphasizes justice in society

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINGATE — For Christians to bring about true justice, they must see Jesus in others and make the kingdom of God come alive each day.

That's what two noted clergymen suggested as a model of faith at "Faith Doing Justice," an April 13 conference at Wingate University promoting dialogue and reflection between Catholics and Protestants on issues of social action.

Keynote speakers Bishop William G. Curlin, of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, and the Rev. Tony Campolo, a Baptist minister, social activist and author, discussed bearing a living witness to Jesus' plea for outreach to others.

"Our call is to live the life of Christ," said Bishop Curlin, who focused his comments on welcoming Jesus to walk the earth through the faithful. Ordained almost 42 years ago, Bishop Curlin has spent much of his ministry in poor parishes and as an advocate for the needy.

Bishop Curlin shared stories of a longtime personal friend, Mother Teresa, who based her life on service to the poor. He urged the students to follow her example of reaching out to people not out of pity, but because they see Jesus in them.

The bishop commended today's young adults, saying this generation strives to serve. "Because of your caring, there is an opportunity for peace that may not have existed before," he added.

Campolo, a professor of sociology and director of the sociology program at Eastern College in St. David's, Pa., also spoke of experiencing Jesus' presence through human service and Christian caring.

"The kingdom of God is wherever God's will is done, where love and justice prevail," Campolo said. He added that anything diminishing the dignity of a person is intolerable, because injustice to a person is injustice to Jesus himself.

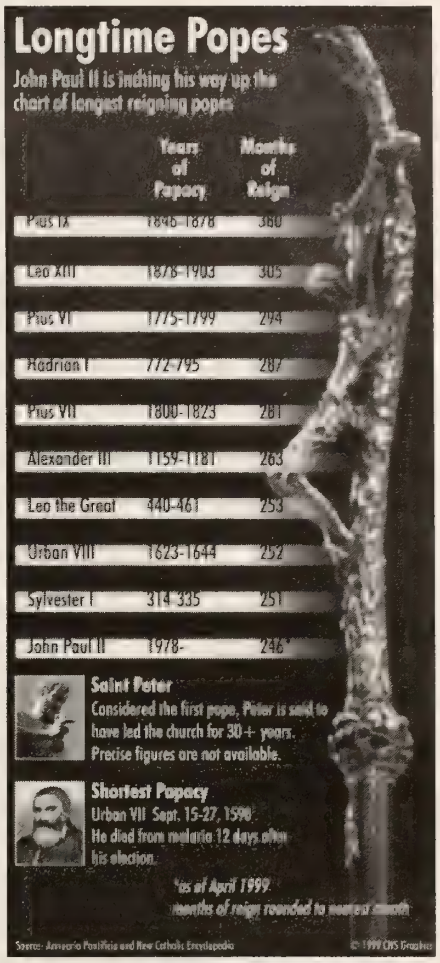
"Social action and prayer must not be divided," said Campolo, who regularly advises the president on policies affecting the poor and the country's inner cities. "It's in the context of prayer that we empathize with people and feel their suffering. It's in the context of prayer that we stand up for them and demand justice."

The conference, co-sponsored by the campus ministry offices of Wingate University and the Diocese of Charlotte, was a first for the university. Community leaders of various religious and service organizations facilitated roundtable discussions, which encouraged people of different faith traditions to speak about a common goal: justice for the oppressed, the hurting, the needy.

"People talked out of their experience," said Colleen McDermott, director of the diocesan campus ministry office, of the dialogue on social justice as a matter of faith. "The idea is that we must do this if we say we're Christians. There is such a huge need, and we must respond in some way."

McDermott also serves as diocesan director of young adult ministry. She organized the event with Todd Lake, Wingate's campus ministry director, and Julie Whichard, the school's Catholic campus ministry associate. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.



Longtime Popes

John Paul II is inching his way up the chart of longest reigning popes

	Years of Papacy	Months of Reign
Pius IX	1846-1878	380
Leo XIII	1878-1903	305
Pius VI	1775-1799	294
Hadrian I	772-795	287
Pius VII	1800-1823	281
Alexander III	1159-1181	263
Leo the Great	440-461	253
Urban VIII	1623-1644	252
Sylvester I	314-335	251
John Paul II	1978-	246*

Saint Peter
Considered the first pope, Peter is said to have led the church for 30+ years. Precise figures are not available.

Shortest Papacy
Urban VII Sept. 15-27, 1590
He died from malaria 12 days after his election.

*as of April 1999
months of reign rounded to nearest month

Source: Annuario Pontificio and New Catholic Encyclopedia © 1999 CNS Graphics

Refugee agency seeking family sponsors for Kosovar Albanians

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two days after the administration announced 20,000 Kosovar refugees would be admitted to the U.S. mainland, resettlement agencies were actively seeking people to offer them shelter — and quickly.

Mark Franken, executive director of Migration and Refugee Services for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said April 23 that many diocesan refugee agencies would immediately start seeking U.S. relatives of Kosovar Albanians who have fled their home country.

"We were asked by the USCC to assist Albanian families here [in the Charlotte Diocese] that are ready to sponsor relatives," said Cira Ponce, director of refugee resettlement for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The sponsorship process, she said, involves filing affidavits of relationships to bring family members into this country. To date, Ponce has worked with five families - four with immediate family members - who want to bring a total of 38 individuals out of Albania and Macedonia. "One family alone is sponsoring 26," said Ponce.

Ponce has been advised that the process should begin in two to three weeks. MRS director Frankin expects that by the first couple days of May, the procedures for moving refugees from host countries to the United States would be in place. A team representing MRS, the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the International Organization for Migration was preparing to travel to the region within a couple of days, Franken said.

"After that, they should begin coming here in 21 days, at the outside," he said. The United States planned to move about 400 people a day from Macedonia and other countries that have been housing refugees temporarily, in borrowed rooms, tents and sometimes in open fields.

The United States in early April committed to taking up to 20,000 Kosovo refugees, but initially planned to house them in tents at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. That plan met with strong objections from human rights and immigrant advocacy groups.

On April 21, Vice President Al Gore announced the refugees would be allowed to stay in the United States instead. Gore said priority would be given to people with relatives here and those with medical needs that cannot be met in the refugee camps.

Franken said MRS was working through diocesan refugee resettlement agencies to find people with relatives among the Kosovo refugees that they are willing to sponsor in the United States.

There is no way of knowing how many of the 20,000 slots for refugees to come to the United States may be

See KOSOVO REFUGEES, page 13

---

call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

16 GREENSBORO — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX), which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today 3-4 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Learning groups will meet in the Triad area. For details, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A "Spirit Day" for middle-school youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is today from 12:30-6 p.m. at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd. For details, call (828) 669-0524.

20 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., at 7:30 p.m.

21 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets today at 6 p.m. for a picnic potluck dinner. All families are welcome. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-036.

HICKORY — Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, a counseling psychologist, leads "Healing for Traumatic Pregnancy Loss," a workshop for professional counselors, physicians, nurses, peer counselors, pregnancy center volunteers, campus ministers and clergy, today at the Catholic Conference Center from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The presentation is to help participants better understand how abortion affects women, men and families. The fee is $50 for professionals, $30 for pregnancy care volunteers and other volunteers, and $15 for full-time students. Send checks payable to Transfiguration Ministries, Inc., to Dr. Martha Shuping, 1400-B Millgate Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Call Shuping for details at (336) 659-1342.

22 GREENSBORO — Players, advertisers and sponsors are invited to participate in the Our Lady of Grace School Golf Classic, the school's annual education fund-raiser, starting at 7 a.m. today at the Grandover Resort Golf Course. Cost to play is $99, which includes course play, a golf shirt and a catered luncheon. Proceeds will provide for instructional materials, information technology, media center resources, scholarship endowment funding, athletics and fine arts. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

Upcoming

BELMONT — The Southeast rally of FIRE, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate Aug. 1-6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. Early-bird registration (by May 3) costs begin at $325 per person (commuter rate). For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, urges people to dialogue over differences

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because God is the father of all peoples, human beings are brothers and sisters who must learn to respect each other and settle their differences through dialogue, Pope John Paul II said.

During his April 21 general audience, the pope prayed that God would "enlighten the blindness of those who persist in following the torturous paths of hatred and violence, convincing them to opt definitively for a sincere and patient dialogue which will bring solutions beneficial for all."

Pope John Paul's main audience talk about the Catholic Church's commitment to interreligious dialogue was followed by special appeals for peace in Africa and for the release of airline passengers kidnapped April 12 in Colombia.

"In addition to the drama which continues in Kosovo, I would like to remember today the many 'forgotten wars' which are bloodying Africa," the pope said.

"The long and bitter" list of conflicts in Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan "mostly strike the innocent populations and disrupt the life of the Catholic communities," he said.

"In particular, the news of the arrest of Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro in Rwanda has caused sadness and sorrow," the pope said. The bishop was taken into custody April 14 after being accused of participating in the 1994 ethnic genocide that led to the deaths of some 500,000 people.

"In the certainty that the power of the Resurrection is stronger than evil, we beg the one who defeated sin and death to quickly turn the hope for a peaceful and fraternal Africa into a reality," the pope said.

In his main audience talk, the pope said the Catholic Church's relationship with and its attitude toward other religions begins with a recognition that there is one God who is the father of all and who acts to save all people.

While the Catholic Church believes the fullness of salvation comes through Jesus Christ, it also recognizes that the spirit of God is at work in everything that is true and beautiful in other religions.

"If the Lord God of Israel is not just one God among many, but the one true God, then it follows that all peoples must be saved by him," the pope said.

Interreligious dialogue and a clear proclamation of salvation in Christ are not conflicting church projects, Pope John Paul said. They are aimed at deepening people's faith and respect for one another.

"Interreligious dialogue does not mean abdicating proclamation," he said. "Discussion and exchange should lead to deeper knowledge of one another's convictions and to eventual agreement on fundamental values."

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

After Littleton

I sit down to write these words at 1:30 in the morning, bleary-eyed and numb after hours in front of the television.

Within a 100-foot radius, my children sleep — a little girl and two teen-age boys who went to school today and returned to me safe. Tomorrow morning they will rise, and I will send them off again and wait — and trust.

And at this moment, two time zones away, high in ancient mountains, other parents sit in other homes. Yesterday morning they also trusted, but now the rooms within their sight and hearing are dark and empty.

Their children lie dead in a library, a cafeteria, a hallway — lifeless in a place that was once a school but is now a bloody mausoleum.

By the time you read this you will know much more about the group of self-proclaimed outcasts called the Trench Coat Mafia; from clues left, a picture will probably have emerged to begin to answer why, even if the reason is beyond reason.

And you will hear blame: that it was the parents' neglect; that teachers and administrators ignored warning signs; that it was the music they listened to, the movies they watched, the video games they played; that it was the fault of a violent society; that schools don't spend enough money and resources helping troubled kids; that the killers were picked on; that it was the guns no kid should be able to have.

Perhaps it was one or two of those things, perhaps all of them. But even without knowing the entire story, amid all the competing explanations and (yes) excuses, we can be sure of one thing. We can rest our case on one factor that underlies all of the above and mixes into a destructive horrific stew of carnage.

It was evil.

To carefully construct pipe bombs filled with nails and plant them around a school. To walk into a room of human beings, shoot them, listen to them beg for their lives and say that's just too bad: This is evil.

Whatever its cause, this is what those acts in Littleton, Colo., expressed: complete disregard for the value of human life, and I mean complete.

Consider the depths to which one would have to go to kill so ruthlessly and purposefully, and then end the thing by taking one's own life.

The arguments will be hurled fast and furiously over the next few weeks. Teens trained to be responsible gun owners will protest that the massacre shouldn't cast a shadow on them. Members of the subcultures initially implicated as factors — Goths, devotees of industrial rock, Marilyn Manson, Rammstein — will defend themselves, saying they never killed anyone. Kids who spend hours staring at games with names like "Mortal Combat" and "Resident Evil" will say the same things.

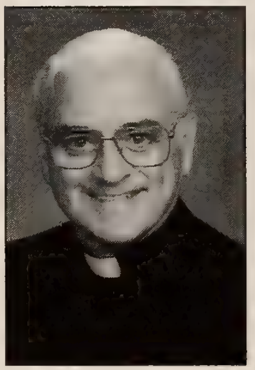
And I suppose they are right. But the fact is that some of the most powerful and attractive elements of adolescent subculture advocate nihilism, amorality, violence and the glamour of "darkness." Go to the official Marilyn Manson web site. See if it doesn't give you serious chills.

As morning breaks, I go to the Internet news groups to see what's being said about this. There is universal horror, but sprinkled among the grief are the following:

—"Twenty-five rumored to be dead.... But hey it's a start."

—"Twenty-five dead....Not bad."

Just a few voices among the many. But I think we know now, that's all it takes.



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Women in ministry

Happy Eastertide and happy springtime. This is the season of new life and new hope for all of us. Recently I came across an interesting statistic. In the Catholic Church in the United States there are 238 Catholic colleges and universities. Fifty of them have graduate programs in theology and pastoral ministry, and women represent 70 percent of the enrollment.

"There are more lay people receiving graduate education in ministry and pastoral theology than there are celibate men in the four years of theology leading to ordination," according to "The Future Church of 140 B.C.E.," by Bernard J. Lee (Crossroad, p. 139).

With the shortage of priests on the increase, the role of the laity in church life seems to be growing significantly. Without a doubt, our young people will experience the church differently in the next millennium.

Just think, the laity will nearly double in size, and the number of priests will halve their current level in the next 20 years. It is a sure bet that the laity, and women in particular, are going to be playing a greater role in the life of the church.

Even today, about 30 percent of all U.S. dioceses have priestless parishes, with women serving as pastoral administrators. More and more bishops are putting priests in charge of more than one parish. I know of a diocese where one priest is the pastor of 20 parishes. In some countries there is one priest for more than 5,000 square miles.

The priests in these situations are utterly dependent on outstanding lay men and women ministers who help to minister to the people of the parish. Somehow, the church remains alive and well.

How beautifully the Holy Spirit is working in our midst. Far from lamenting the shortage of priests, I see it as a creative opportunity for growth. I am optimistic that the Holy Spirit has an agenda for the future church that will lead to a new flowering of spiritual energy. Women will certainly be playing an even more vital role as time goes on.

Exactly how this will work itself out, remains to be seen. However, all of us should remember that our power comes from the same source. We are all members of the body of Christ.

Priests, bishops, popes, lay men and women all receive their power by virtue of their union with Jesus Christ. In different ways, lay men and women bring the presence of Jesus to the people of God. Wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is in their midst.

This new awakening in the church can be seen in the way the word of God is being read and studied. We are gradually developing a deeper reverence for God's word and for one another.

Spirituality is defined as one's conscious contact with God. Improving this contact is always a work in progress. The church is finding new ways to survive with fewer and fewer priests.

Maybe the Lord is trying to tell us something. Maybe he is the one who is bringing women to the forefront of ministry in our church. I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Pride: Virtue or vice?

Is pride always a sin? Can it ever be a virtue? This was the question that came from Marian of Westchester during a recent broadcast of "Religion on the Line," a live call-in program on WABC Radio in New York City.

The show is regularly-hosted by Father Paul Keenan, the well known radio-host whose media ministry is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. Father Paul invited me to join him during the 6-9 am broadcast one Sunday morning.

On this particular show, callers asked for our views and shared their own on a wide variety of concerns, ranging from national politics to the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. After all, this is one city where everyone has an opinion and an attitude to go along with it.

So creating one big public chat room here on the airwaves is risky, to say the least. For that reason alone I am in awe of Father Paul's tactful and compassionate handling of each caller.

The voice of the woman from Westchester drew us in immediately. It was as troubled as it was sincere. "I hope you will be able to help me understand my own feelings about pride," she asked, "but I was raised to be independent and self-reliant. So I am confused about pride — is it a virtue or a sin?"

Father Paul leaned into his microphone as if he were reaching out to hold her hand, and spoke in a tone of utter confidentiality: "Tell me, Marian, is it difficult for you to accept help when you need it? Do you ever ask for help?"

There was sadness in her answer. "Well, that is just it, Father Paul, lately I haven't been feeling well, and several friends and family have offered to do this and that for me — but I always refuse. I just can't bring myself to let them do anything!"

Father Paul didn't interrupt her — instead, he created an atmosphere of security in which Marian pursued her own question. In turn, she found the independence to seek her own answer.

"I take pride in my work, pride in my children, pride in my church," she concluded, "but I also know that in the catalogue of the seven deadly sins, pride is at the top of the list. I just feel torn."

A warm smile creased Father Paul's lips, a smile that I am certain his listeners can hear. "Marian, you are right! You have every right to be proud of the good that has blessed your life. After all, you helped it along. And you are also right to be concerned about being so self-reliant that you don't give those who love you the opportunity to express their love. If your pride denies someone else the joy of giving and makes you incapable of experiencing the joy of receiving, then pride becomes a problem."

Marian's spirits lifted noticeably: "What you are saying is that just as we gratefully receive God's love, so we must be grateful for one another's gifts of love." "Oh my," Father Paul softly replied, "I couldn't have said it any better. Thank you, Marian, thank you!"

Every day brings opportunities to give and to receive. The right response to both is gratitude — gratitude to God and to our neighbors, who show us his generosity, just as we, in turn, can show it to them.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Sex changes

Q. A friend of mine, now in his early 30s, decided to change his sexuality from male to female. It all began in high school, so this is no sudden decision.

Since graduation his life has been a stormy one. He is under a doctor's care, takes hormones and is preparing ultimately to have a sex-change operation.

Now living as a woman, he seems to be making a life for himself and seems happy with his decision. But his immediate family has practically disowned him.

Can a woman ever be trapped in a man's body, or vice versa? How does the Catholic Church look upon this kind of sex change?

A. Obviously, your question is an enormously complicated one and allows for no simple or absolute answer. It is possible, however, to point out some factors involved in this kind of process, which is inevitably terribly tortuous and painful for the individual and everyone else involved.

First, let's suppose we're dealing with a reasonably normal person whose male or female identity is well established emotionally, physically and psychologically, in relationship both with himself and others.

For such a person to attempt a sex change, even to whatever degree might be possible, would be a gross abuse of his or her person and morally wrong.

Few if any cases like this are that clear cut, however. In my pastoral and counseling experiences with people wrestling with this decision, it has become quite clear to me that an individual can possess a clear genetic sexual individuality (male or female chromosomes), as well as major physical male or female sex characteristics, and still suffer from a confused, if not clearly opposite, sense of personal sexual identity.

The complex system of internal secretions (hormones) which interact from one organ or gland to another is subject to all sorts of imbalance. If extensive enough, it may cause serious difficulties, even insuperable obstacles, in an individual's ability to function in his or her "proper" sex-related activities.

In light of this, many other factors must be considered. Certain relatively new surgical procedures are available to deal in some way with these kinds of anomalies in men and women.

There's room for considerable question in many cases, however, as to just how much "sex change" is really involved. More importantly, procedures are increasingly accessible to deal with such physical abnormalities by therapy far less drastic and radical than surgery.

One gets the impression that many, though by no means all, of these extreme "therapies" have been implemented up to now with insufficient weighing of the moral implications for both the individual and society. Insofar as that is true, of course, it is to be deplored.

At very least, it is safe to say that it is too soon, and far too many variables are involved, to conclude at this point that every operation or therapeutic procedure labeled a "sex change" is automatically morally wrong.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Strategic Planning

FATHER GEORGE M. KLOSTER
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Committee on Ecumenism

The mission statement for the Committee on Ecumenism summarizes the proposals contained in the document. It reads: "The ecumenical and inter-faith mission of the Diocese of Charlotte is to promote dialogue with other Christian denominations, faith formation within the Catholic tradition and a clear understanding of Catholic doctrine as it touches the lives of other Christians, Jews and non-believers. The ecumenical and inter-religious ministry seeks to heal divisions among Christians in the Charlotte Diocese and to reach out to people of good will.

"The mission will be carried out at the diocesan level under the leadership of the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Commission through a strong working relationship with parishes and diocesan agencies and a particular emphasis on collaboration without ecumenical and inter-religious partners."

The specifics of the proposal include:

— The formation of an Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affiars Commission which will better situate the diocesan ecumenical ministry within the diocesan structure;

— A new cooperative structure with our Lutheran, Episcopal and United Methodist (LARCUM) partners, which would significantly move forward the already-existing cooperation between the diocese and these denominations;

— The maintenance and strengthening of the relationships with various ecumenical organizations with which we already have a high level of cooperation, such as the North Carolina Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Institute of Wake Forest University and Belmont Abbey College.

The Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Commission will provide assistance to continue and/or develop the ecumenical ministry at the parish level; formulate guidelines for the ecumenical celebration of marriages, funerals, baptisms, etc.; and to develop new partnerships at the denominational level.

The inter-religious dimension of the commission will work with the Jewish community and the expanding Muslim community in North Carolina.

Serving on the Ecumenical Strategic Planning Committee are Rev. George Berthold, then of Belmont and now of Boston, Ma.; Bill Block of Murphy; Rev. Louis Canino, OFM of Greensboro; Cookie Elston of Salisbury; Rev. Mark Lawlor of Biscoe; Jane Litzinger of Winston-Salem; Dr. Marion Love of Hickory; Dr. Richard Rupp of Boone; and Sr. Larretta Rivera-Williams, then of Belmont and now of Winston-Salem. Dr. Carol LaHurd of Hickory, a Lutheran theologian; and Rev. Cameron West, then of Gastonia and now of Brevard, a United Methodist pastor and vice-president of Brevard College, serve on the committee as ecumenical consultants. Regina Pastula of Belmont is the diocesan staff person on the committee.

Father George Kloster is chairperson for the Ecumenical Strategic Planning Committee. He is pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary mission in Hayesville.

Romanian Orthodox nun
An Orthodox nun attends a liturgy at the Orthodox Patriarchy in Bucharest, Romania. Pope John Paul is set to visit Romania May 7-9. About 70 percent of the country's population is Orthodox.

CNS photo from Reuters

Peace education program founder honored by cardinals

BOSTON (CNS) — The president of a Massachusetts peace education program was presented with the 10th American Cardinals Encouragement Award at an April 23 banquet in Boston to benefit The Catholic University of America. Joseph M. Chery, who founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute with his wife, Clementina, was honored at the annual American Cardinals Dinner, held at the city's World Trade Center. The Cherys established the peace institute in honor of Joseph's son, 15-year-old Louis David Brown, who was shot and killed on his way to a Christmas party hosted by a violence prevention group called Teens Against Gang Violence.

Cardinal O'Connor honored by Museum of Jewish Heritage

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York received the annual Heritage Award of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. "More than any other leader of our age, he has told the world this simple truth: that we are all children of Abraham, and that the Holocaust was a sin against Judeo-Christian civilization," said Robert M. Morgenthau, chairman of the museum's trustees. He made the presentation at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York April 18.

Archbishop says priests' movement does not represent all blacks

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A South African priests' movement that called on the bishops to admit racism still exists in the church does not represent all black priests, said Archbishop Wilfrid Napier of Durban. Archbishop Napier, vice president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said many priests were unhappy about the racial labels applied by the African Catholic Priests Solidarity Movement in a letter to the conference.

Ukrainians study for priesthood at U.S. Ukrainian seminary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Petro Zvarych has come from Ukraine to Washington to answer a call. "I have the feeling I am called by God to serve the faithful and the church," said Zvarych, who with 23 other students from his homeland is in the United States to study for the priesthood at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington. They arrived from southwest Ukraine, which is predominantly Catholic, to master a nine-year theology program that includes one year of intensive English. The students will learn how to celebrate Mass in Ukrainian and English. Eventually, they are to be ordained for the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

New Brazilian bishops' head says he'll continue to speak out

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — The newly elected head of the Brazilian bishops' conference, Bishop Jayme Chemello of Pelotas, said he will continue to voice his opinion about the government's economic policies. "We are not an opposition party, but when we detect that one's human dignity is being threatened, we will speak out," Bishop Chemello said in his first press conference after being elected president of the conference for the next four years. His remarks came after Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso criticized the bishops for remarks made about the country's economic policies.

Agency head says creditors lack commitment to debt relief

WASHINGTON (CNS)— The president of a network of Catholic aid agencies said international creditors lack commitment to debt relief, despite growing support of "the option for the poor." "We are only several months from the year 2000, and we still do not see on the part of the creditors the sense of urgency or the sense of commitment to really do something that would be radical and different for the countries that are indebted so heavily," said Justin Kilcullen, president of International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity, known by its French acronym as CIDSE.

Biblical scholar talks to catechists about church as a journey

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Keynote speaker Passionist Father Donald Senior took delegates at a national catechetical conference through a biblical journey, illustrating that the life of the Catholic Church is itself a journey. Father Senior said that "the story of the church begins in the great saga of Israel, ... a story reaching back to the moment of creation and forward to the moment of rebirth and renewal." "The Bible casts it as a great journey of faith for God's people, ... a journey originating from God and ending in communion with God," said the priest, president and professor of New Testament studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Pope ordains 31 new priests, prays for more vocations

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope John Paul II ordained 31 priests for the Diocese of Rome and prayed for a resurgence of vocations throughout the universal church.

"The Lord has called you to be ministers of his mercy and dispensers of his mysteries," the pope told the newly ordained during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica April 25. He said their main task was service, and their model should be the good shepherd.

Among the new priests were 10 non-Italians, including men from South Korea, Poland, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela, all of whom have decided to serve in the pope's diocese.

The group included a 45-year-old Roman, Stefano Meloni, who had worked for several years as a volunteer in a Vatican hospice for street people, run by the late Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. He said that six years ago, Mother Teresa told him he should be a priest and would pray that he receive a vocation.

The pope, who has made a point of personally ordaining priests each year, said the new priests represented a gift for the whole church. Vocations are particularly needed to help meet the task of a "new evangelization" at the start of Christianity's third millennium, he said.

He prayed that all priests "may enter into the new millennium with renewed fidelity and a burning missionary spirit."

An Italian Rogationist priest, Father Vito Magno, who has studied vocation trends extensively, told Vatican Radio that the church's vocations picture was generally good in Africa and Asia, but less so for the other continents.

He said almost 15 percent of the world's priests and nuns live in Italy, with an average age that is among the highest in the world.

According to the Vatican statistics office, there were more than 9,000 priestly ordinations in 1997, nearly 400 fewer than 1996. The number of priests declined by 128 — down to more than 404,000 — during 1997. ▼

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others

Need extra cash?

PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities

• No cash investment

Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

School violence seen as time for youth ministry to kick into gear

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cleveland might be a thousand miles away from Littleton, Colo., but Greg "Dobie" Moser was worried about how teens in his town were taking news of the massacre at Columbine High School.

The morning after two students planted bombs and started shooting schoolmates at the Colorado school April 20, Moser, the executive director of youth, young adult and CYO ministry in the Cleveland Diocese composed an e-mail message to youth ministers about how they could respond constructively.

"At times like these it is tempting to be overwhelmed by the power of evil and violence," wrote Moser, also chairman of the board of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry. "The Gospel demands that we be a people of hope, and our hope needs to be directed into action."

He suggested holding prayer services, offering parish education about violence, teaching mediation skills, and organizing community campaigns for violence prevention or to collect handguns.

CNS photo from Reuters

Kimmie Cornell (right) and Brittney Pastine mourn at the casket of their friend Rachel Scott during her funeral service in Littleton, Colo., April 24. Scott was among the 12 students killed at Columbine High School in a shooting rampage carried out by two classmates.

And if he were an active parish youth minister, Moser told Catholic News Service, he would have gone to schools his students attend to talk to them about how the Littleton events make them feel.

"If I knew kids in my parish who have a deep sensitivity to violence or a deep commitment to service and justice, I'd call them up, just to ask, 'How are you?'" Moser said. "If I found a kid who's really distraught, I might talk with his parent or refer him to a professional counselor."

Fifteen people were dead, including the two identified as the shooters. Another 23 were hospitalized for injuries from bomb shrapnel and gunshots. The two shooters, identified as Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, were said to have belonged to a group known as the "Trenchcoat Mafia" that idolized Adolf Hitler and had interests others considered eccentric but not necessarily harmful.

Moser said the incident underscores the need for communities to take responsibility for spotting young people with such dramatic problems before they turn to violence.

"Everything in me screams that this kind of thing just can't continue," Moser said.

Those in ministry particularly need to be attuned to what's happening with young people throughout their communities, not just within the bounds of their individual parishes, he said.

"So many parishes have 500 young people on the books as high school students and 50 to 75 who participate in youth ministry," Moser said. "Of course we serve those 50 to 75, but we should be seeking out and serving all the young people of the community."

He said even understaffed youth programs can encourage and participate in community anti-violence initiatives and establish relationships with high school guidance counselors so that when a crisis arises, all the people with a connection to a teen with a problem can participate in helping.

"One thing Pope John Paul II is good at is reaching out to all kids, not just the Catholics, wherever he goes," Moser said. "We have to take the time to connect with the community — the hospitals, the Rotary Club, the high schools."

Moser said crises like the Littleton shooting actually is "a great time for youth ministry people to be present to young people. But we have to make an intentional effort at it."

It can be helpful just to listen to teens talk through their feelings about such violence, Moser said, and providing a religious context for the questions they raise.

"Part of it is just telling them, 'these things happen, it doesn't mean there's a killer lurking behind every corner,'" he said. ▼

Those in ministry particularly need to be attuned to what's happening with young people throughout their communities, not just within the bounds of their individual parishes.

In brief...

Thousands attend prayer service for shooting victims

DENVER (CNS) — Thousands of people turned out for a citywide interfaith prayer service the evening of April 21 at Civic Center Park in Denver to mourn the victims of the deadliest school massacre in U.S. history. Hundreds of young people, many wearing letter jackets from area high schools, huddled together and wept openly at the unfathomable mystery of why two young men would savagely murder 13 people and wound 23 others before taking their own lives at Columbine High School in Littleton April 20.

Cardinal says Littleton school shootings should surprise no one

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — In the wake of the April 20 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., that left 15 people dead, including the two suspected assailants, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles said there should be little surprise such tragic events occur. "If we as a people continue to denigrate the value of each and every human life, should we be surprised by incidents such as the Columbine tragedy?" he asked in an April 25 statement. In the statement — titled "And So ... Why Are We Surprised?" — the cardinal asked that question in several contexts and said the answers go beyond proposals for gun control regulations, conflict management, metal detectors and armed school patrols.

Please join us...

Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate

For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

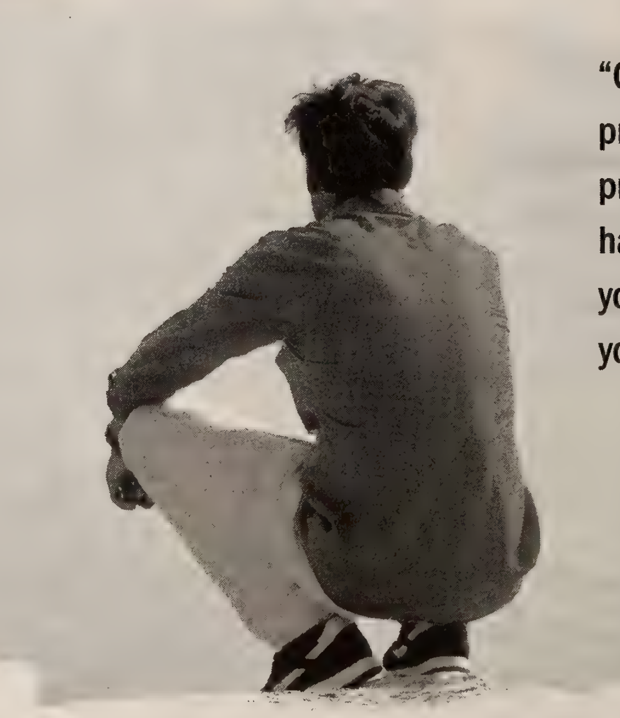
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

What are parishes doing about GENERATION X?

By MARK PACIONE
Catholic News Service



CNS photo by W.P. Wittman Limited

> **"Generation Xers have little interest in projects or programs that are not clearly productive. That is why many parishes have struggled with their outreach to young adults," explains archdiocesan youth ministry director Mark Pacione.**

It seems that the most difficult challenge for the church in trying to address 20-Somethings is remembering that they are a group distinct and different from adolescents. Parishes may feel lost when they are approached by a young adult looking to connect with a Catholic faith community. It is important to take time to distinguish the differences between Generation X and the even younger youth population.

How do parishes retool their evangelization strategy so as to reunite the charisms of the church with Generation X Catholics?

The first step in reaching out to today's young adults is simply learning who they are. But that is not such an easy task.

Dubbed Generation X by novelist Doug Coupland, the group has been described by a series of negative titles and images. This generation has been characterized as underskilled, academically apathetic, politically nonchalant, reckless, directionless slackers and hesitant to engage in any significant relationships. Fortunately, as Generation X continues to mature, we are learning that this assessment is radically unfair. Unfortunately, the negative stereotype has even discouraged some parishes from reaching out to this generation.

How do you get young adults to connect to an older parish? Sacred Heart Church in Glyndon, Md., made outreach to young-adult Catholics a part of parish programming. The parish began to look at every gathering of parishioners as an opportunity for young adults to gather also.

Invitations went to both single and married young adults. This was coupled with opportunities for young adults to work together to develop part of a larger event. Creating opportunities for young adults to work together, grow in faith together or socialize became an integral part of the parish staff's thinking.

When there is a consistent, ongoing effort to invite and welcome young adults, activities targeted specifically for Generation X Catholics have a better chance of success.

— A recent young-adult family Christmas craft day attracted more than 100 families with young children.

— A neighboring parish's Advent gingerbread house-making had a similar response from young householders looking for ways to be family in a world that is rarely family-sensitive.

St. John and St. Louis parishes in Howard County, Md., pooled talents and resources to create a young-adult ministry team that changes leadership every six months. The quick turnaround in leadership helps busy young adults do their part without burning out and makes use of their abundance of leadership skills.

The team makes a very visible effort to welcome newcomers and uses that initial welcoming relationship to attract Generation Xers to a wide variety of evenings of reflection, weekend retreats and service to both the parish and the larger community.

At the parish fair, the young-adult-sponsored booth wedged between the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Sodality is a hopeful sign that young Catholics are finding a place in the church.

The challenge of any parish facing a new arena in ministry is finding the leadership. The plus of young-adult ministry is that it, perhaps more than any other parish outreach, has the opportunity to be a ministry by peers.

Given the energy, the hunger and the skills of Generation X, parishes have an almost limitless supply of that most essential skill needed for a new outreach: leadership.

But Generation Xers have little interest in projects or programs that are not clearly productive. That is why many parishes have struggled with their outreach to young adults.

Quite simply, as I see it, parishes that have decided to recreate youth-ministry programs for their young adults become quickly frustrated as the young adults opt out.

Contrary to early prognostications regarding this generation, 20-Somethings are hungry for responsibilities, tasks and challenges that have clear and meaningful goals.

While young adults are attracted strongly to projects that address environmental issues and utilize new modes of technology for communication and management, all goals that contribute to the larger community are attractive.

Take note also that as Generation X gets older, we are learning that their hunger for anything that helps them be family — especially a better family than many of them endured in their adolescence — is very important.

Parishes in the eastern and western suburbs of Baltimore City recently gathered for four nights of training to help parish staffs and young adults start to think what they might do differently to include Generation Xers. Clearly the emphasis in not on creating new programs within the parish for young adults. Rather, the strategy most parishes find effective, in my experience, is taking what already exists or is planned and making sure that young adults will be specifically invited, welcomed and included.

I don't think any parish doing young-adult ministry has found that these young Catholics are not interested in Jesus or how to live out the Gospels. Quite the contrary, just as the young 20-Somethings of the church today are hungry for real tasks in our parishes, they are also hungry for real understanding of faith.

Jesus seems to transcend the generations very well. Parishes are finding that they can do the same. ▼

Pacione is director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In a Nutshell

- **Generation X Catholics are part of the church of today – not just the church of tomorrow.**

- **Young people in their 20s are hungry for responsibilities, tasks and challenges that have clear and meaningful goals.**

- **As Generation X gets older, we are learning that their hunger for anything that helps them be family is very important.**

FAITH alive!

X Marks the Spot

By FATHER JAMES A. WALLACE, CSSR
Catholic News Service

Generation X refers to people born in the 1960s and 1970s. Its population is about 20 to 35 years old, though some observers, defining this generation broadly, say it includes people born anywhere between 1961 and 1981.

Why are they called Generation X?

While other titles have been offered, including Baby Busters, the Lost Generation, the 13th Generation and the Searchers, Generation X seems to have the strongest hold on the popular imagination.

This title can be traced to Douglas Coupland's early '90s novel "Generation X," referring to a group of middle-class, restless and searching individuals. It now refers to an entire generation.

The young people of Generation X grew up with a popular culture that enveloped their lives, observes a Generation X writer named Tom Beaudoin. Also, television, music and computers have served as their main forms of contact with the world. Television appears to have been a primary influence for them in terms of values and behaviors.

Cyberspace, the Internet and the World Wide Web have been this generation's playground. The impact of all this on their approach to religion means it may be different from former generations, characterized by an "irreverent spirituality," rooted in the virtual reality of popular culture.

The members of Generation X tend not to have the same "vocabulary" of faith as former generations or the same familiarity with church expressions.

But is this young generation really any different from former generations in the Catholic Church? Some insist that the answer is yes, which would mean that Generation X presents a challenge for the church.

Beaudoin names four characteristics that need to be taken into account by those who hope to draw this generation into the church's active life: They often are suspicious of institutions, including the church, he says. Second, personal experience is a key to their understanding of life's meaning, especially its religious meaning.

Third, suffering is an important issue with this generation, expressed in fears of tomorrow's limited resources, lower wages, nuclear threats, and in today's spiritual and psychological crises. "Despair is common and occasionally leaps overboard into nihilism" for this generation, writes Beaudoin.

Finally, this generation is quite comfortable in a "culture of ambiguity"; its members may resist absolute values and exclusivist positions.

What difference does all this make for the church of tomorrow?

To begin with, Generation X Catholics are part of the church of today. Those older than Generation X might wonder if the faith has taken root in them and whether it will be handed on to the next generation.

Still, those working with young adults say the desire to be part of the Catholic community is there. Sometimes there is a lack of understanding of what being Catholic means. And the church might be perceived by many more as a formidable institution than a loving community of faith interested in the spiritual quest of young adults. They may need encouragement to join in appropriating our tradition's riches and in shaping the church of the next millennium.

What can one do? Be willing to speak about your relationship to God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church, prayer, and your experiences of grace. Faith is often evoked and deepened through personal contact; conversation is needed, not condemnation, educators often comment.

And look for ways to be a receiver. Today's young adults bring gifts and dreams to the church that have their source in God. There is buried treasure all about us, and X might very well mark the spot. ▼

Redemptorist Father Wallace is an associate professor of homiletics at Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C.

The voices of Generation X

By MAUREEN E. DALY
Catholic News Service

How can Generation X, young adults ages 20 to 35, contribute to the church?

"I don't like that Gen-X label," said Stuart Olmsted, 31. "It has negative connotations of guys on skateboards who think I'm in it for myself, who are not motivated and not into global issues. That's not me at all."

Olmsted, a graduate student in biophysics, said, "For me working for the church is raising awareness on issues that are outside the day-to-day." Being Catholic for him doesn't only mean going to church and Catholic schools. It also is about what Catholics should try to support. For example, he asks, "Why is the death penalty bad? What should we as Catholics do to change that? Those are the issues I'm interested in working on in my parish."

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

Maureen Daly writes about a Gen-Xer who doesn't like the label. "It has negative connotations of guys on skateboards ... who are not motivated," he says. "That's not me at all."

Gen-X parent Tom Patterson, 30, father of an 18-month-old daughter, said his contribution to the church is "passing on the faith and tradition I was raised with. That is something I've come to really appreciate. As for actually physically contributing, with a job and a small child I find it difficult."

Patterson, who works in student accounts at Loyola College in Baltimore, said: "Working at a Catholic college is a contribution to the church, I guess. It's not standard corporate America. There are beliefs, standards, principles to uphold."

"One thing young people have to offer the church is enthusiasm," said Margaret Kieveit, 20, a third-year student at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. "Our whole parish is students and instructors.... Most of us didn't grow up going to Catholic school."

Kievet said she grew up in a military family, and service is important to her, but "nobody ever asked me before what the church needed from me."

Joanna Sukacz, 23, a psychiatric nurse, said she is interested in doing service projects. She is new to her parish and is " still trying to figure out what they need." Sukacz said she volunteers at a clinic that provides medical care to the uninsured, "and my work is a service project."

Walter Guzman, 28, is a third-year seminarian. He came to the United States 18 months ago from Medellin, Colombia. He said what his generation has to offer is "an open mind. We have an ability to share with people. Our generation is multicultural. The world is getting smaller. There are different cultures and points of view and there is a place for everybody.

"We are looking for trust, and we want people to trust us." But, he says, "sometimes we are like a sandwich. Society expects a lot but when we try to do something they say we are inexperienced." ▼

Maureen Daly is on the staff of Catholic News Service.

Faith in the Marketplace

We not only spoke this week with members of Generation X, but also with some members of the younger generation, asking how they would like to offer their talents to their parishes.

"I would like to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity."
— Christy Turnbull, Houston, Texas

"What I like is being a eucharistic minister and lector. I think it helps other teen-agers remember church isn't just for adults."
— Chrissy Grabouski, Houston, Texas

"I like to play the piano, and I've volunteered to play different Christmas and New Year's Masses. I was really nervous, but it was really neat to do."
— Nathan Victor, Middlefield, Ohio

"I would like to set up a program to help anyone who wants to learn about computers.... Knowing more about computers is important in our world today, and I'd like to share my talent with others."
— Peter Balint, Mentor, Ohio

... Food for Thought

"Young adults understand the message of faith and the traditions of the church when these are communicated through words, symbols and activities that relate to life experiences."

That is one of 12 principles for ministry with young adults presented by the U.S. bishops in a 1996 pastoral message on young adults titled "Sons and Daughters of the Light."

Another principle said, "Young adults respond positively when the church invites their participation and engages them in the planning of activities" for the community's spiritual life.

Effective ministry with young adults assists them "to become spiritual people," provides them "with constructive opportunities to ask questions and discover answers present in" church teaching and tradition, and engages them both in peer ministry and family ministry, the bishops said in several other principles.

Young adults represent a large percentage of the total population, the bishops observed. They commented: "We need to be a church that is interested in the lives of these men and women and willing to invite them into our community."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

Book Review

New book says greatest threat to Christianity is indifference of people

Reviewed by WILLIAM DROEL
Catholic News Service

The hero of "The Vatican and the Red Flag" is Pope John Paul II, who unlike other church leaders "had never been an anti-communist" in the sense that he thought strong condemnations alone were sufficient.

Instead, Pope John Paul understood that after World War II "people of social and moral sensitivity" were attracted to communism's attack on poverty and exploitation. Therefore, Christianity had to have a convincing response to issues in labor/management relations, distribution of property, alienation at work and more. As early as his seminary days, Pope John Paul began developing a gospel of work with the human person, not an economic class, at its center.

"The Vatican and the Red Flag: The Struggle for the Soul of Eastern Europe"

By Jonathan Luxmoore and Jolanta Babiuch.
Geoffrey Chapman (London, England, 1999).
351 pp., $39.95.

Authors Jonathan Luxmoore and Jolanta Babiuch, who live in Warsaw and report for the National Catholic Register, Catholic News Service and The Tablet of London, bring fresh research and original translations to a Western audience mostly unfamiliar with Eastern European events, people and places — so unfamiliar, in fact, that of the nearly 350 Eastern European names in the book, this reviewer recognized about 15 and even those are not well known — people like Nikolai Berdyaev, Jacek Kuron and Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

Along the way Luxmoore and Babiuch supply telling anecdotes, especially about Karol Wojtyla/Pope John Paul II. The Communist Party, for example, approved his appointment as bishop of Krakow because they judged him to be soft on communism. But by October 1978, upon hearing of Wojtyla's election to the papacy, a Politburo official told his comrades to have a liter of vodka because from now on they would "have to kiss the Catholics' bums" (a British slang expression).

Amid complex terrain Luxmoore and Babiuch try to lift out some themes, chiefly what they see as the failure of local bishops and Vatican officials to adequately articulate for the laity a message or program to counter the appeal of Marxism. There were exceptions, of course, including the worker-priest experiment in France and Belgium. It was, however, not until the Solidarity movement in Poland that the church was able to rally with large numbers of workers. This is what the authors mean by "the struggle for the soul."

The struggle for the soul of workers of Catholic Eastern Europe, Luxmoore and Babiuch conclude, is in many ways more urgent in the post-communist era. The new struggle involves "reforming the church to face the demands of a pluralistic environment," for the greatest threat to Christianity is not persecution but the indifference of workaday people.

The struggle to make the connection between the Christian message and the marketplace is just an urgent in Western Europe, North America and elsewhere. Yet much needs to be done to help Christian scientists, lawyers, managers, technicians, educators, civil servants and other workers all over the world to wrestle with daily questions of justice and right order in society. ▼

Droel is an instructor and campus minister at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Ill.

Word to Life

May 2, Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A Readings:

1) Acts 6:1-7
   Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
2) 1 Peter 2:4-9
3) John 14:1-12

By JEAN DENTON

The man stormed out of the parish council meeting. He hadn't spoken a word, but had created a minor "scene" as he noisily rose to leave. The pastor interrupted the proceedings to ask if he had something to say. "I've been in this parish a long time. I built this church," the man said. "But what you are doing is wrong, and I can't approve of it. So I guess I will just have to go somewhere else."

At issue was a matter that had been under discussion for months, but the man had never expressed his ideas or concerns. He apparently had come to the meeting only to 'make a point' of leaving. His outburst left a somber mood among those in the room.

Later someone commented, sadly, "He didn't build the church." For many years this man had attended Mass there but had never become very active in the life of the parish. He hadn't responded to the call to be a part of the building of the church — to be a "living stone," as today's second reading puts it, given form and strength by the Holy Spirit.

Instead, the parish community had become a stumbling block for him, and he left with only anger and pain.

Those who do actively give themselves as living stones to the building of the church and to their church community know that this human institution is fraught with human foibles and imperfection. That goes with the territory.

But the great thing is that this "territory" is built on the cornerstone Jesus. Each living stone must have faith that Jesus' Spirit will bind them to each other and to his wisdom and love. It is this faith community that continually breathes life into each of us — it's the way that we live in Jesus.

In his way and truth and life we are enabled to make his Gospel happen: "The man who has faith in me," he says, "will do the works that I do and greater far than these."

Questions:

Do you participate as a "living stone" in the building of your church community? How does the faith community empower you to carry out the works of Jesus?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 2 - 8, 1999

Sunday, Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Tuesday**, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday**, Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday**, Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday**, Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday**, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

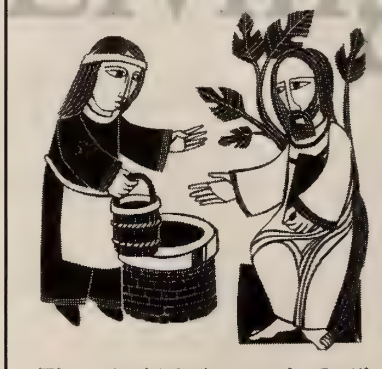
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131



Living Water flows through a diocesan endowment.

Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again.
— John 4:14

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support
Every year, your "living water" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.

Ensure a Strong Future
Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.

Enact a Lasting Legacy
Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values: Your faith and the mission of the Church.

For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

Movie Review

"Pushing Tin" is engrossing, character-driven comedy

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The nerves-of-steel world of air traffic controllers gets comic consideration in "Pushing Tin" (20th Century Fox).

In a Long Island facility where a tight-knit knot of controllers oversee flight patterns in the skies above three major New York area airports, Nick Falzone (John Cusack) rules the roost. Others may freeze, panic or just burn out, but Nick can quickly step in and save the day. A driven man on the job, cocky and easily bored away from it, Nick's got a swell wife, Connie (Cate Blanchett), two youngsters and admiring co-workers — fellow tin-pushers as they are called — but he's always looking for a new challenge.

He gets much more than he wanted with the arrival of legendary controller Russell Bell (Billy Bob Thornton), part Cree and all brilliance on the job — an affront to Nick's assumption of leadership. Hyper Nick quickly becomes madly competitive with low-key, elusive Russell, whether it be side-by-side on the job, at the bar with the gang or shooting hoops.

Stoic Russell keeps his cool and his distance, and all are startled when he shows up at a barbecue with young wife Mary (Angelina Jolie), who's such a sultry vixen she makes all the guys wish they were single.

Nick breaks the unwritten, sacred rule of the controllers regarding spouses when he takes advantage of tipsy Mary one night when Russell's not around and seduces her. Worse, Mary fesses up to Russell. Expecting outrage, Nick is truly discombobulated when Russell subtly suggests the punishment should fit the crime.

Is Nick's wife safe from this charismatic controller, and how can Nick control her?

Intelligent performances contribute greatly to making this increasingly frantic comedy watchable. Also, the reality of the air traffic controllers' highly stressful jobs makes their macho competitiveness believable, rather than seem like contrived posturing to advance the plot. Audiences are steeped in the intense atmosphere that can develop in a matter of seconds when radar acts up or inattention invites disaster.

Cusack efficiently establishes his character, a control freak who becomes totally intimidated when his turf is threatened and his dominance questioned. Thornton has the harder role since he internalizes everything, spouts a pseudo mysticism that is incomprehensible to Nick, and is jarringly unpredictable in his behavior.

The surprise of the movie is Aussie actress Blanchett, completely unrecognizable from her Oscar-nominated role as "Elizabeth." Here she is dolled up, sports a credible Long Island accent and gives more shadings to her role as the cheated-upon wife than one could reasonably expect in a male-oriented comedy. Jolie's character, on the other hand, is pretty much confined to sexpot and her motivations seem muddled.

Director Mike Newell keeps the action moving along briskly, adroitly using the backdrop of the controllers' nerve-wracking jobs to ratchet up the tensions. These controllers seem as close a group as cops, and indeed on the job they are partners in saving lives if one gets into trouble. The token female controller (Vicki Lewis) is into body-building competitions, once again suggesting that her day job is very much a macho endeavor.

Because he remains aloof, Russell is an involving character, but it is Nick who gets the opportunity to soul-search after a few on-the-job incidents bring him to his knees — and face-to-face with his smugness.

Nick's final face-off with Russell doesn't quite ring true, as if the writers didn't know how to wrap up their story, then settled for a conventional kiss-and-make-up finale for one of the couples. Until this point, the specter of mid-air and mid-life collisions made for an engrossing, character-driven comedy.

Due to brief violence, a theme of infidelity, fleeting nudity, and some profanity and rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS photo from Warner Bros.

"Lost and Found"

David Spade and Sophie Marceau star in the romantic comedy "Lost and Found." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

For First Communion
& Confirmations
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Get
DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive
EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable
channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free
self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org
For information on specific programs, please call your local office.
Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
. Annuals - Spectacular array
. Blooming pots
. Perennials - Wide Variety
. Birdbaths and Fountains
. Landscape Consulting Available
10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Every

Act Of Mercy

Is Backed By The

Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Mercy Hospital

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

The Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

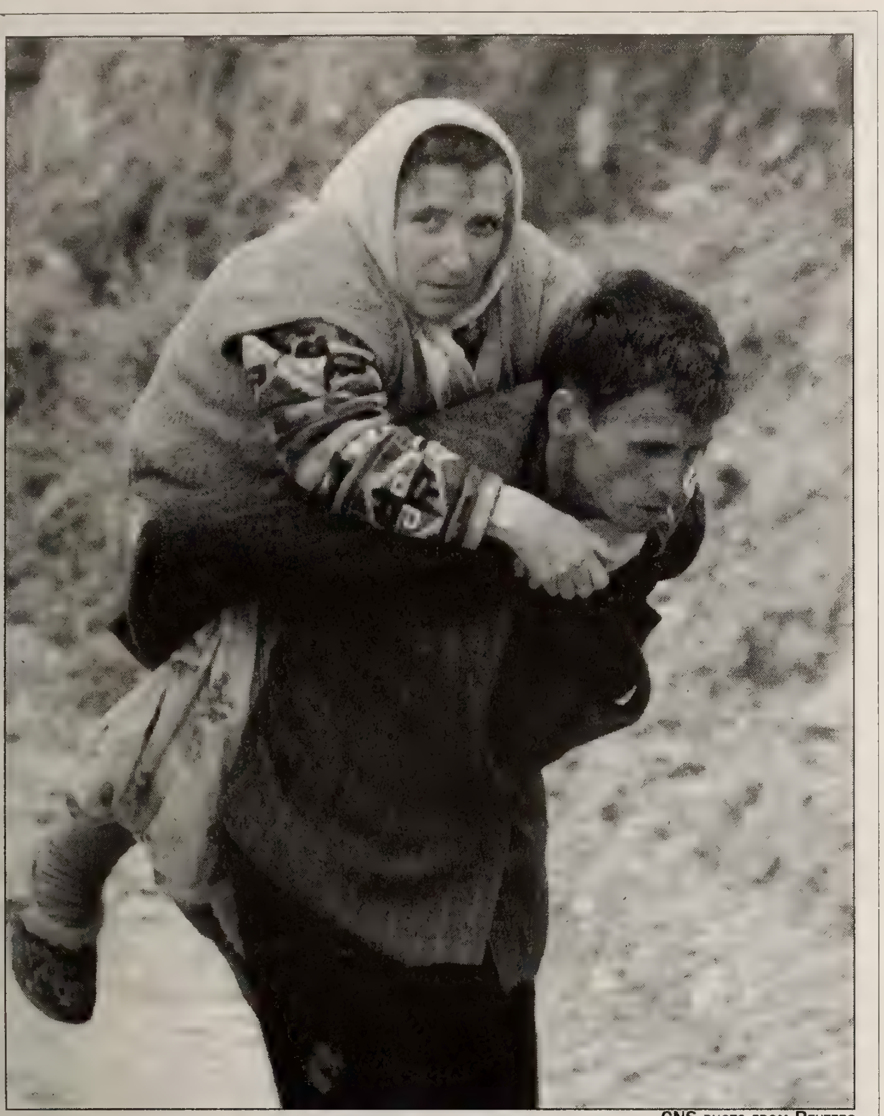
Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient / Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System

In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Elderly refugee

An ethnic Albanian man carries an elderly refugee on his back in Blace at the border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia April 25. Refugees from Kosovo continued to stream into Macedonia, which has registered about 170,033 from the war-torn province of Yugoslavia.

Kosovars in the news, but agency still settling other refugees

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With massive attention foreseen for the 20,000 Kosovar refugees expected to arrive in the United States in the next few months, the director of the U.S. bishops' migration agency said he hopes people remember to open their hearts to refugees from other parts of the world as well.

"There's been an outpouring of concern for the Kosovo refugees, but we'd like to channel that commitment to other refugees as well," said Mark Franken, director of Migration and Refugee Services for the U.S. Catholic Conference.

In addition to finding places in the United States for a major portion of the Kosovars, MRS is seeking sponsors for refugees from Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan, among other countries.

Most of the 2 million Bosnians who fled their country during Serbia's "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia earlier this decade returned home after the 1995 Bosnian Peace Accords. But thousands are Muslims or Croats who lived in areas that were turned over to Serbian authority.

Others' homes were destroyed during the war and they have no place to go. Some of those refugees have been living in the towns in Albania that now are hosting thousands of Kosovo refugees.

And strife beyond the Balkans keeps the flow of refugees coming.

Franken told of one refugee camp in Uganda that houses 60,000 people, most of whom fled Sudan's civil war. About 10 percent of them — 6,000 — are unaccompanied minors, whose parents are dead or cannot be located.

"The United Nations, which has responsibility for them, has a bias against resettlement for unaccompanied minors," Franken said. The thinking is that it is preferable to create a situation where the juveniles can easily be reunited with their families or placed with foster families in their home country. Moving the youths around the world makes that more difficult.

However, in this case, Franken said some of the children have been living in the Ugandan refugee camp as long as 10 years.

In addition to finding places in the United States for a major portion of the Kosovars, MRS is seeking sponsors for refugees from Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan, among other countries.

Several U.S. bishops who visited the region last year have been pushing the agencies that oversee the camp to start moving those children into the care of families. Franken said their efforts appear to be paying off — plans are being made to start resettling those juveniles in other countries, including the United States.

According to Franken, even though the minors at the Ugandan camp have lived there much of their lives, their daily routines are regimented and highly structured, with a strong emphasis on education. ▼

Kosovo Refugees, from page 3

filled by people with medical needs or with U.S.-resident relatives who come forward on their behalf, he noted. After that process is used, remaining slots likely would be opened to people who are being sponsored by strangers.

Since the Diocese of Charlotte began its refugee resettlement program in 1975, it has assisted 6,785 refugees from about 18 countries.

People interested in more information about possibly sponsoring a refugee, donating furniture or how to donate money should contact Sonya Hayden, coordinator of volunteer services or Cira Ponce, director of refugee resettlement at (704) 370-3260. ▼

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

HORIZONS OF THE SPIRIT
Monday, July 5 — Friday, July 9
"Carmelite Spirituality:
A Resource for Life and Ministry"

Keith J. Egan — "John of the Cross"
Ernest E. Larkin, O.Carm — "Contemplative Prayer in the Carmelite Tradition"
Vilma Seelaus, OCD — "Teresa of Avila"

For more information write:
Horizons of the Spirit
P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731

Tuition: $150 Room & Board: $200

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Youth ministry members process with the offertory gifts during the closing liturgy at Diocesan Youth Conference '99 at Camp Thunderbird. Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the Mass, and commended the teens for their faith and service.

Youth Conference, from page 1

Del Giudice, who facilitated the session.

Father Del Giudice said that just as societies establish standards of morality that carry responsibility, so too the Catholic faith upholds standards for moral living and moral thinking.

"As believers, we experience our call and our moral obligation to be the light of God's loving grace," said Father Del Giudice, who serves as pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard. "It's who we are. We are Catholic, we are Christians, we are part of the family of God."

Membership in that family requires an active faith, said Ryan Short, a teen from St. Michael Church in Gastonia. "In your day-to-day life, I think the number one thing that all religion teaches people is to live a moral life and do what's right," he said.

Michelle Jalbert traveled from her home parish, Christ the King in High Point, to attend the conference. She, too, sensed community.

"What's really stuck out with me is that the diocese is really close together, like a family," said Jalbert. "Faith really helps us deal with things like peer pressure, because we don't have to deal with it on our own."

When the closing Mass had ended, the awards ceremony had concluded and the final keynote address had been delivered, the teens traveled home with a reminder from their bishop: "The church is going to be okay with people like you in it. I thank you so much for all that you are, for all that you've done and for all that you will do for Christ.

"I thank you for being you." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Retired priest serving Charlotte and Raleigh dies

CLEVELAND — Father Joseph John Lash, who served as a priest in the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh died April 22 at his home in Cleveland, Ohio.

Father Lash served in North Carolina for 19 years before retiring in 1985, ending his career as a Veterans Administration chaplain.

Born March 2, 1923, in the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood, Father Lash decided on the priesthood following World War II. He began studies at St. Gregory Seminary in Mount Washington, Ohio, and also attended St. Mary's Seminary in Norwood, Ohio, before completing his studies at Christ the King Seminary in St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

The late Bishop Vincent S. Waters ordained him for the Diocese of Raleigh on May 30, 1957, at St. Mary's Church in Wilmington. His first assignment was as an assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Newton Grove for one year.

Father Lash was an assistant at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh from June 1958 until December 1961, when he became an assistant at Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point. He first became a pastor in February 1962, at St. Joan of Arc in Plymouth.

He was pastor of St. Anne in Edenton from September 1965, until June, 1969, when he became pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Monroe. He was serving there when the Diocese of Charlotte was established in January 1972.

Father Lash was pastor of St. Francis of Assisi from July 1972, until March 1976. After a sabbatical leave, he was granted permission to serve outside the diocese as chaplain at a VA hospital. He retired May 1, 1985, and made his home in Cleveland. ▼

LIFE'S A JOURNEY...
IS IT TIME TO CHANGE PATHS?
- Do you wake up some days to a nagging voice telling you there's more to life?
- Are you looking for a balance of service, prayer and a deeper relationship with God within a supportive community?
- Has your career choice left you feeling empty, disconnected?
- Are you a woman looking to make a difference in the world?

WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR ANSWERS!
If you answered YES to any of the above, it's time to explore vowed religious life with the Sisters of Mercy.
Women are invited to join us as we share our journeys in Mercy at "Exploring Mercy," on May 8, 1999 from 9:30am - 3:00pm at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, NC. Call Lizz at 704.829.5260

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?
We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.
Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Europe is MO fun on a cruise.
Even MO fun when you fly free to Europe.
Departing November 8 for a 13 day/12 night cruise from Venice to Lisbon.
Coming soon, full details on this MO-vulous voyage.
Holland America Line
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Events at Elder Ministry's annual Spring Fling

Barbershop Quartet

Outdoor Activities

Workshop: Growing & Using Herbs

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Annual Elder Ministry event rings in spring

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

HICKORY — The 13th annual Spring Fling gathered almost 225 seniors from across the diocese to the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory April 21 for a variety of social and spiritual activities. The event was sponsored by Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte.

A barbershop quartet, a line-dancing seminar, outdoor activities and a workshop on growing and using herbs were some of the highlights from the event, which also featured music, raffles, and seminars on health, safety and crafts.

Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, presided at the Spring Fling Mass. Father Joseph Kelleher, administrator of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, and Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, concelebrated.

"All of us are members of a faith community, and we really need to look at what spiritually we need to be doing in our lives," said Father Sheridan, who noted that spiritual well-being is as important to physical health in the lives of seniors.

He suggested rediscovering the traditions of the church, reading the Bible, praying for forgiveness and acceptance, spending more time in church, reaching out to others in need, enjoying peace and quiet, sharing experiences with others, and learning something new.

"Attitude is so important," Father Sheridan said. "That's what makes us grow old gracefully." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Line-Dancing Seminar

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL
Catholic Elementary School

St. Pius X Catholic School, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, enrolls 440 students with a professional staff of 30. St. Pius X is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte, and is in the application process for SACS accreditation.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and have teaching and school administrative experience. St. Pius X is a parish school located in Greensboro, NC and cooperatively plans and implements programs with other area Catholic schools.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by May 12 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Formation Director (Sunday School Coordinator): Master's or undergraduate degree in Theology or Religious Studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Salary range $30-35K. Housing available. Projected start date July 1999. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Attn: Julie Dilick, Education Commission, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

Administrative Assistant: Immaculate Heart of Mary School and Church have a full-time position available for a person who can be extremely flexible, has good communication skills, computer/word perfect experience, and some bookkeeping background. Responsibilities also include school admissions and general secretarial duties. If interested in becoming part of a warm, energetic team, please send your resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262.

House Cleaners: $12 an hour. Weekdays. Flexible schedules. Charlotte area. Approximately 15 hours per week. Call Maid in Heaven:(704)643-5545.

Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accountant. Responsible for preparing general ledger entries, executing month-end closings, performing account analyses, and filing federal and state grant reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience and also fund accounting experience. Applicants must be proficient using PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Accounting Clerk: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accounting clerk. Responsibilities include data entering of accounts receivable, processing payroll, and preparing related month-end and quarter-end reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience. Applicants must be proficient using both the 10-key and PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Minister of Religious Education: Diocese of Richmond. A vibrant and growing parish of 900 families seeks a full-time Director of Religious Education. Responsibilities include: family-centered program, direction of pre-school through Grade 8, adult formation, sacramental formation, recruitment and formation of catechists, budget, calendar. Qualifications include faith-filled, practicing Catholic with excellent communication and organizational skills, ability to work collaboratively. MA in Religious Education or its equivalency and at least three years of parish experience required. Position available July 1, 1999. Salary and benefits according to Diocesan guidelines. Mail resume and references to: Search Committee, Church of the Incarnation, 635 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Beach Condo For Rent: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 5/1, 5/8, 8/28 and all of September. Call (336) 924-2842.

Life MEDICAL PROGRESS ETHICAL ISSUES

Myths, new science muddle transplant issue

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A schlocky 1950s-era horror movie told the story of a concert pianist who lost a hand. In a revolutionary medical procedure, he had a new hand attached — the hand of a murderer. The hand, needless to say, had a mind of its own.

What may have been revolutionary or schlocky in the 1950s takes on an entirely different meaning as the third millennium draws near. Witness the debate over the recent transplanting of a new hand onto a man who had lost one of his. Not a hook, not a prosthetic that can be attached or detached at will, but a real human hand.

Of course, this was hardly the first debate on the merits of transplantation, only the latest.

When heart transplants became front-page news in the late 1960s, many people thought it highly irregular at best, and an assault on the integrity of life at worst.

Opponents had two arguments. One was that the transplant recipient would be ensouled with the abstract "heart" of the donor in addition to the physical one. The other was that, if at the Second Coming we are all resurrected bodily into heaven, then heart donors would be somehow incomplete and therefore not compatible with God's design — an argument also used to opposed cremation, even though the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" has deemed it acceptable.

The ensoulment argument is not dead. Dominican Father Pat Norris, associate director of the Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University, said he has read of studies suggesting that heart transplant recipients take on "certain characteristics of the donor."

These studies may not stand up to the harshest scrutiny, Father Norris said, but they indicate there is still discomfort with the notion of transplants.

Imagine the outcry if the studies had been conducted on humans who had received animal organs — usually baboons' hearts or pigs' heart valves — to replace failing human organs. Earlier in 1999, it was announced that a pig farm would be created specifically to raise pigs whose organs could be transplanted into humans.

Perhaps those animals wouldn't be necessary if Catholics followed the example of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's top doctrinal official.

Cardinal Ratzinger joined an organ-donor association years ago and carries a card to indicate his willingness to donate his organs because he considers that act a "gesture of love" toward people in need of transplants.

In an interview with the Rome newspaper La Repubblica in the midst of an Italian debate on new legislation on organ donation, the cardinal said, "Donating one's own organs is a morally licit gesture of love, as long as it is a free and spontaneous act."

"The free gift of organs after death is legitimate and can be meritorious," says the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Three critical issues cloud the transplant picture, according to Father Norris: how organs are obtained, how they are allocated, and whether the good achieved by transplants is outweighed by other societal goals.

"Should we be creating financial incentives for organs? Should we be creating any kind of market?" he asked.

For those organs that are available, he added, "who should get the organs?" Much debate has already centered on whether those who contributed to their need for a transplant — say, alcoholics who need new livers — are worthy enough by some moral standard.

To what extent will modern medicine find new ways to prolong human life?

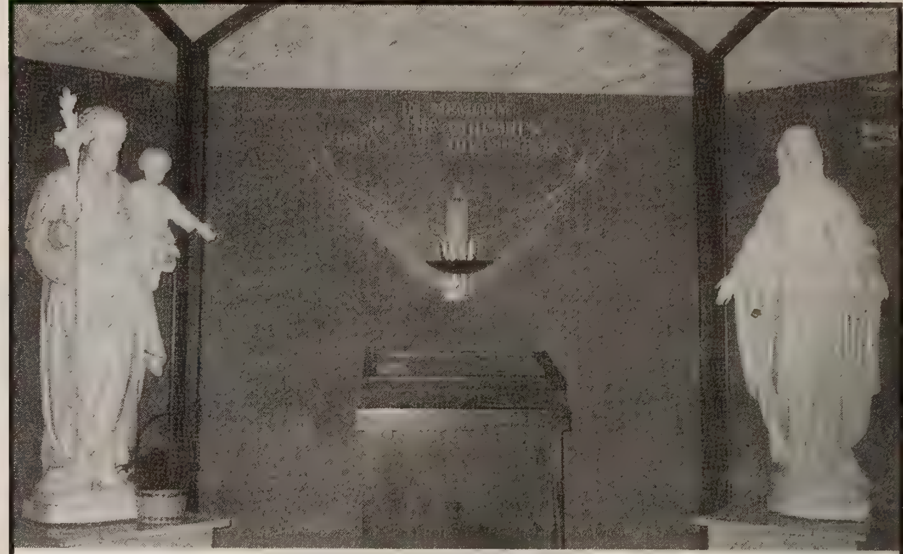
Many still vividly remember the rare heart-liver transplant given to then-Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey. There is no doubt, his doctors said at the time, that Casey would have been dead had it not been for Frances Lucas donating the organs of her 34-year-old son, William, a black man who died at the hands of a gang.

While nobody begrudges saving the life of a dying man, people questioned whether Casey's status vaulted him to the top of a transplant list. Controversy has erupted over how lists are maintained and who gets scarce organs.

Equal access for the poor to transplants is a legitimate issue, Father Norris said. He noted the poor see themselves being shut out as organ recipients, and so have a donor rate less than the general population.

Father Norris also cautioned against transplants using fetal cells and stem cells. Even though the aim is to alleviate suffering, the use of cells from aborted fetuses and discarded frozen embryos is "immoral and unacceptable," he said.

Even if these cells could in the future be regenerated so that other fetuses and frozen embryos would not have to be used, "there still is an issue of complicity over something that happened way back," Father Norris said. ▼



The
Shrine
Dedicated to Children Who Died
Unborn

Church of the Holy Innocents, New York

The Shrine Dedicated to Children Who Have Died Unborn is a memorial for all children who have died before birth through miscarriage, abortion or who are stillborn.

When parents suffer the loss of an unborn baby, there usually is no burial or any way for them to honor and remember their child. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, reminds us in his encyclical letter Evangelium Vitae, that these children are now "living in the Lord" and are with God for all eternity.

This shrine offers an opportunity for families to enter the name of their child into the ***Book of Life*** which is encased at the shrine between statues of the Holy Family and beneath the Eternal Flame candle. Our shrine is a place of prayer, healing, forgiveness and love.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated on the last Friday of every month in honor of the children inscribed into the ***Book of Life*** and for the comfort of their families.

If you would like to enter a child's name into our "Book of Life," please send us a letter with the name of the child, or contact:

Dominique Guiteau at (212) 279-5861 ext. 224
or e-mail us at: Shrine@innocents.com
Church of the Holy Innocents
128 West 37th Street
New York, NY 10018

Ad sponsored by the Respect Life Office, Diocese of Charlotte.
For information, call Maggi Nadol (704) 370-3229

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S300 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 7, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 34

Inside

Increased support for church communication efforts urged ...PAGE 3

From the Cover
Pope beatifies Padre Pio ...PAGE 7

Church stands on euthanasia principle ...PAGE 16

Local News

LIMEX program promotes variety, opportunity ...PAGE 14

Billboard displays pro-life message ...PAGE 15

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Happy Mother's Day!

"Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the promised land. She prepares a world she will not see."

— Pope Paul VI

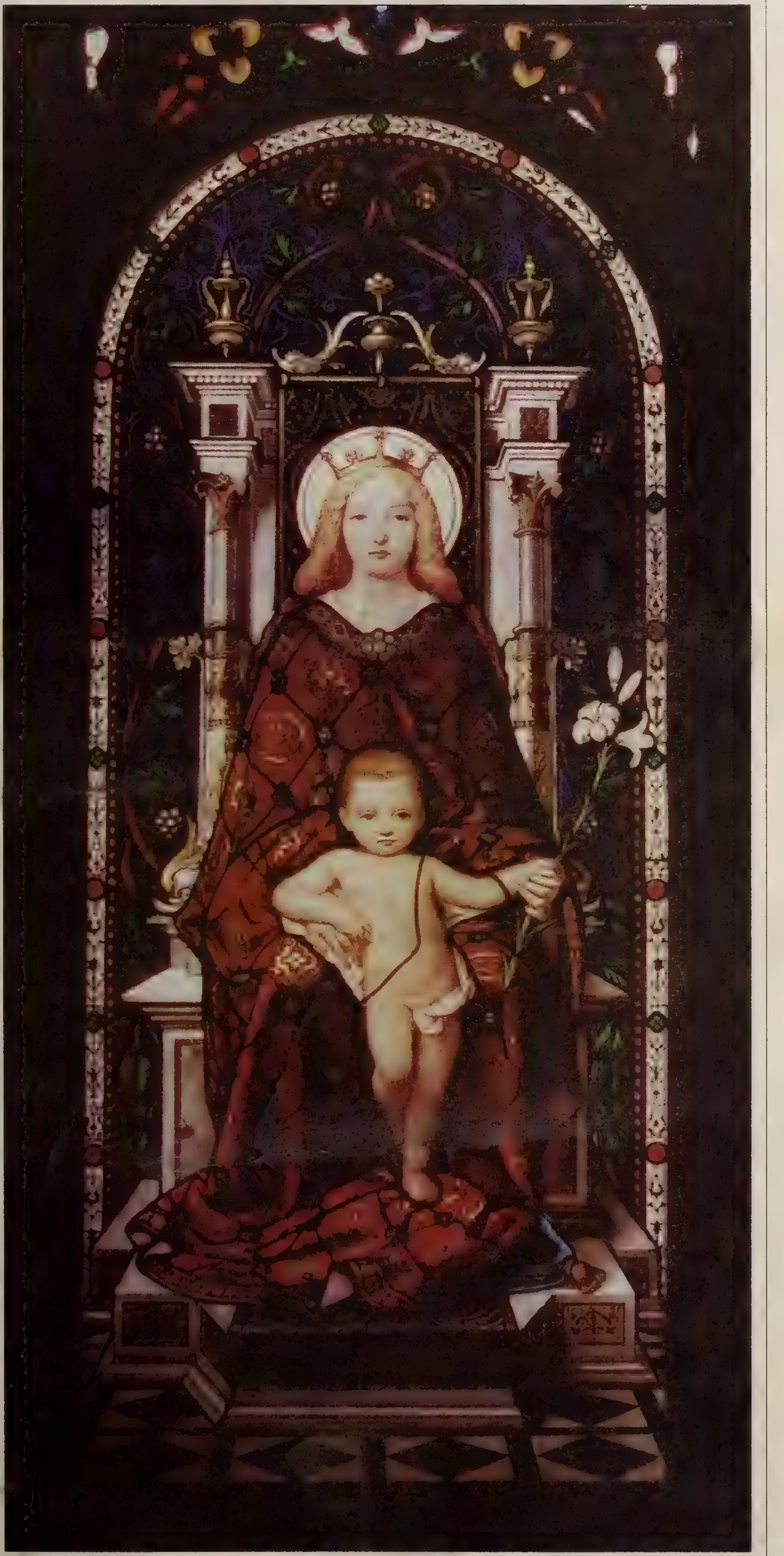


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Hail Mary, full of grace
May is traditionally referred to as the month of Mary. Throughout the world, Mary is depicted in many ways. Here, her image is interpreted in stained-glass in the Vatican Museum. Mother's Day is May 9.

SEE A TRIBUTE TO MARY, PAGE 9

Soldiers freed

Families say faith, prayer factors in release

By MARIA L. TORRES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Faith, prayer and family unity figured into the safe release of the three GIs held captive for 32 days by the Belgrade government, say family members of one of the soldiers.

"I felt overwhelmed with joy when I found out (Andrew) was being released," said Frank Jasso, uncle of Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles.

"I feel very good and very happy about it. It was an answer to our prayers," he told The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Ramirez, Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich., and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, 22, of Huntsville, Texas, were released May 2 into the custody of the Rev. Jesse Jackson after 32 days of captivity in war-torn Yugoslavia. The soldiers were reunited with family members in Landstuhl, Germany, on May 3.

The GIs were captured March 31 while on patrol near the Yugoslav-Macedonian border. Rev. Jackson, a civil rights activist, negotiated their freedom as the leader of an interfaith delegation that traveled to Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital. The delegation included Jesuit Father Raymond Helmick, who teaches at Boston College, and the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, and other religious leaders.

"It's a big day for me, for us," Vivian Ramirez told reporters outside her home shortly after receiving news of the imminent release of the hostages.

"Little Andy and the other soldiers will be released to us tomorrow. I'm very happy," she said. "I've called my family, I've called everybody to tell them (Andrew's) all right."

Prior to her departure for Germany she thanked Rev. Jackson "for bringing my son home," and called him a "lifesaver."

According to Jasso, Vivian Ramirez traveled to Germany with Andrew's father, Andy Ramirez, and Andrew's older siblings, Nadine and

SEE SOLDIERS FREED, PAGE 13

Rally against Army school draws thousands to White House

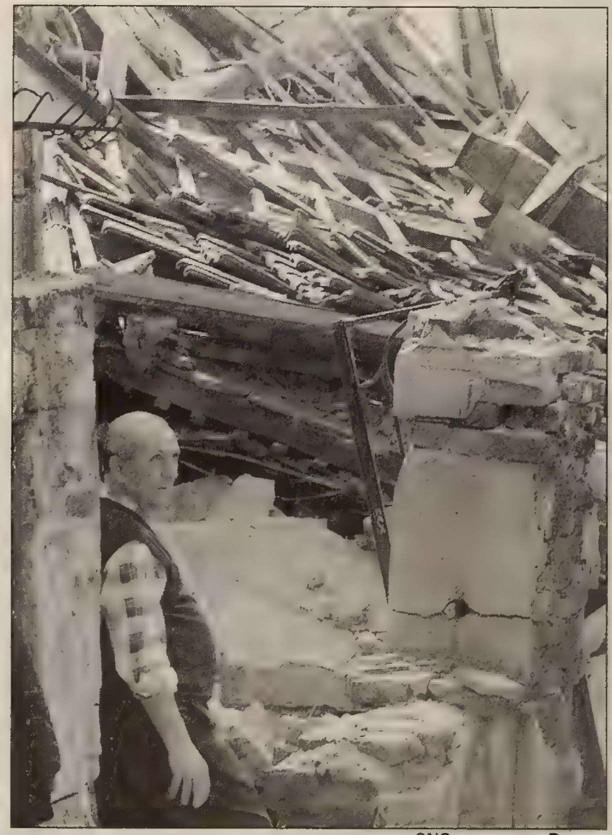
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A May Day rally to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas drew about 3,000 people to Lafayette Park, across from the White House. Barefoot college students with purple-streaked hair and middle-aged women wearing religious-order pins on no-wrinkle blouses gathered to hear speakers with personal stories about encounters with violence in Latin America, to sing protest songs led by folk music icon Pete Seeger, and to join in chants of "nunca mas," Spanish for "never more." The rally was a prelude to a fund-raising concert, a protest at the Pentagon which resulted in the arrest of 55 people, and two days of lobbying members of Congress to support legislation to close the school.

Cardinal calls for Christian-Buddhist efforts for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians and Buddhists should work together to promote the moral and religious values which will bring peace and justice to the world, said Cardinal Francis Arinze. "It is necessary to become more and more aware of our shared responsibilities in the world," the cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, wrote in a letter to the world's 350 million Buddhists. The cardinal's letter, released May 4 at the Vatican, offered Buddhists best wishes for Vesakh, their most important feast.

Haitian prelate says church helps poor but situation not changing

NEW YORK (CNS) — The church in Haiti is working to serve an impoverished population in a situation where "we don't see change," the coadjutor archbishop of Port-au-Prince reported in a New York interview. Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot said many outside groups have visited Haiti and promised to give help when it developed more political stability. He expressed hope that stability would be achieved after the elections that are supposed to be held later this year. Although no date has been set, he was optimistic "the situation will become better" after the elections. Currently, constitutional processes have been suspended and President Rene Preval is ruling with a nine-member council rather than the legislature, he said.


CNS photo from Reuters

Bombed house
A man stands beside a bombed house in a residential area of Belgrade April 30. New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor has questioned whether NATO attacks of Yugoslavia can be morally justified.

Michigan defeats bill on reinstating the death penalty

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — The Michigan House has rejected a measure calling for a public vote on reinstating capital punishment for the first time since 1846. On a voice vote April 21, the House rejected an attempt to put a measure on the November 2000 ballot asking voters to reverse the state's constitutional ban on capital punishment. The Michigan Catholic Conference had called for the resolution to be rejected.

Jesuits denounce Russian rejection of order's registration

MOSCOW (CNS) — Jesuit officials denounced the Russian government's rejection of the order's application for registration under the 1997 religion law. Jesuit Father Stanislav Opiela, the former superior of the Jesuit's Russian region who is handling the order's application, said, "If we want to exist and develop our activities, then we need to have a legal identity so that, for example, we can invite teachers from abroad to come here. And, we want to do this openly, as Jesuits, and not hide the fact that we are here." The government denial of the Society of Jesus' registration April 1 as a religious organization under Russia's new religion law.

CRS official says Hondurans waking up to wider damage of Mitch

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — International relief agencies are "in the morning-after phase" of Hurricane Mitch, "facing much tougher problems than cleaning up the neighborhoods," said a Catholic Relief Services official. "The huge push that we made as a country with support of CRS and the local church to get communities back to some semblance of normalcy — to get schools and clinics open, roads cleared — all that's been done," said Doug Ryan, CRS country representative. "Now we're in a stage of waking up and realizing the dimensions of what the storm really did to us." CRS, the international relief and development agency of the U.S. bishops, has food-for-work programs that bring people together to do needed reconstruction work and provide people with food, but this "is not enough," Ryan said.

'Day of Action' highlights opposition to Iraq sanctions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders made impassioned pleas to end U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq as part of a "National Day of Action" April 27 to highlight the detrimental effect of the 8-year-old sanctions. "While we try to teach kids not to kill, we are killing kids in Iraq," said Jesuit Father John Dear of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who recently traveled to Iraq to see the effects of the sanctions along with Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Adolfo Perez Esquivel. People who support sanctions would change their minds if they went inside Iraq and saw what they had wrought, Father Dear said.

Caribbean bishops plan discussions on banana trade issue

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (CNS) — The Antilles Episcopal Conference hopes to meet with U.S. bishops to discuss the controversial banana trade issue. "Consistent with Catholic social teaching, we believe that our Caribbean nations, whose economies depend significantly on bananas, must be given preferential treatment," the Caribbean bishops said in a statement issued at their four-day meeting on the island of Dominica in mid-April. The bishops said to advocate for maintaining the special treatment of Caribbean nations they would ask the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to dialogue with the U.S. Congress; the Latin American bishops' council to dialogue with Latin American governments; and Caritas Internationalis.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

May 7, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 34
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Award Winner Catholic Press Association cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 9 — 10:30 am
Confirmation
St. Philip the Apostle, Statesville

May 11 — 11 am
Presbyteral Council
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

May 16 — 9 am
Mass for Wake Forest University Community with Cardinal Arinze

May 17 — 9 am
Wake Forest University commencement address by Cardinal Arinze

May 17 — 7:30 pm
Our Lady of Consolation Concelebrated Mass with Cardinal Arinze

Diocesan planner

May

11 CHARLOTTE — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Learning groups meet in the Charlotte area. For details, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

14 GREENSBORO — "The Love of the Father," a statewide conference on preparing for the new millennium, is today through May 16 at Greensboro College, 815 W. Market St. Featured speakers are Catholic evangelists Peter Herbeck and Jim Murphy. Fees start at $55 for meals and a shared room on campus. Private rooms and suites are also available. For details, call Hannah in Greensboro at (336) 273-9205, or Joyce in Charlotte at (704) 547-1836.

15 GREENSBORO — A five-kilometer run and one-mile fun run are planned for today at Grimsly High School starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee for the run is $12, which includes a T-shirt for the first 100 entries. The fee for the fun run is $5. All proceeds will benefit the Twin Parish Program of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, which is raising funds for a Catholic parish in Kharkov, Ukraine. The parish there will purchase a radio station with the funding. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

16 GREENSBORO — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 3-4 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Learning groups

Increased support for church communication efforts urged

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Increased support for church communication efforts will help offset "the violence and emptiness that is so pervasive in today's media," the head of the U.S. bishops' Communication Committee told his fellow bishops.

In a letter to bishops marking World Communications Day, celebrated May 16 this year, Bishop Robert N. Lynch said the best way to highlight Pope John Paul II's message for the 33rd annual World Communications Day is through increased funding of the Catholic Communication Campaign, known as CCC.

Bishop Lynch, who heads the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., chairs the bishops' Communication Committee, which sponsors the campaign and the annual collection that supports it.

"The CCC can support the pope's message for World Communications Day with a successful appeal whether it is taken on the national date or at some other time," Bishop Lynch said in the letter.

"Even if you provide a donation to the CCC or combine your efforts with other national collections, I hope you will consider increasing the amount of funds," he added. "The CCC can continue to implement media projects that provide positive images as alternatives

See COMMUNICATIONS, page 8

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

May 7, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ,

Spreading the Good News of God's love is our responsibility, and in today's complex world, mass communication is an extremely effective way to spread the Word. However, it is costly.

The *Catholic Communication Campaign* (CCC) is able to reach millions of people with programs designed to strengthen our faith and to help make sure the "Good News Gets Around." Among the programs offered are: "Reconciliation", a public service announcement, urging estranged family members to practice forgiveness and greater understanding; "La Familia Unida", an award winning Spanish language announcement, urging family and community unity; and various other broadcasts and documentaries. We should also keep in mind that media projects in developing countries such as Nicaragua, Colombia, and Chile help keep the Word of God alive.

In addition to these broad-reaching projects, CCC also addresses the communications needs of this community. In fact, 50% of your donations to this Campaign will remain in this diocese for funding of local communications projects.

Asking your generous response to this Campaign on the weekend of May 15-16 and wishing you God's abundant blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

P.O. BOX 36776, CHARLOTTE, NC 28236
PHONE: (704) 370-6299 FAX: (704) 370-3379

Official: Pope's Romania visit may renew Catholic-Orthodox ties

By JONATHAN LUXMOORE
Catholic News Service

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A senior Romanian government official said Pope John Paul II's May 7-9 visit will herald a "new phase" in ties between the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

He added that the trip, the first by a reigning pontiff to a predominantly Orthodox country, had been made possible by Pope John Paul's bridge-building efforts with the Orthodox, as well as by the "elasticity" of Romanian Orthodox leaders.

"This is certainly a historic first," said Foreign Minister Andrei Plesu.

"I'm convinced the visit will open a new phase in reconciliation between Catholics and Orthodox, and put an end to the separatist mentality which derived from the Great Schism. I think it will also quell the superstition that the Europe of Eastern Christianity is a separate world — or even worse a world to be rejected," he said.

In an April 20 interview with KAI, Poland's church-owned Catholic information agency, Plesu said diplomatic efforts helped resolve Vatican and Romanian Orthodox hierarchy concerns about the visit.

"First place goes to Pope John Paul II's determination to rebuild the old Christian community with the Orthodox Church," the 51-year-old foreign minister continued.

"The second belongs to the Romanian government's stress on its attachment to the values of Western tradition, and the third to elasticity by the Romanian Orthodox Church, which is proud of its Byzantine and Latin heritage, and engaged in the ecumenical movement," he said.

"The pope's visit will certainly improve Romania's image, especially at a time when we are witnessing a new division, with spiritual aspects too, between two Europes," the foreign minister said.

"If Poland, a Slavic and Catholic country, has managed full integration with Euro-Atlantic structures, why shouldn't Romania, which has an Orthodox majority and belongs to Latin culture, manage it too? There is a symmetry here which will be beautifully expressed by this Polish pope, welcomed not only by his own believers but also by his brothers from eastern tradition," said Plesu.

Asked about the visit's impact on regional ties in Eastern Europe, Plesu said he believed the pope's presence would contribute to "cleansing common historical memories," as well as to "changes in the map of Europe's religious structure." ▼

---

will meet in the Triad area. For details, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A "Spirit Day" for middle-school youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate is today from 12:30-6 p.m. at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd. For details, call (828) 669-0524.

MORGANTON — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 7-9 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 W. Union St. Learning groups will meet in the area. For details, call Peg Ruble at (704) 845-2649 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

MOUNT HOLLY — Father John Vianney Hoover of New Creation Monastery in Boonville celebrates his 23rd anniversary of ordination to the priesthood today at 4 p.m. with a Mass and bring-your-own picnic at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Highway 273. Call (336) 699-4005 for details.

19 BOONE — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 256 Pilgrims Way. For details, call Peg Ruble at (704) 845-2649 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

20 CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins today with a free informational session at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Registration for the seminar is $103. For more information, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., today at 7:30 p.m.

21 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets today at 6 p.m. for a picnic potluck dinner. All families are welcome. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

HICKORY — Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, a counseling psychologist, leads "Healing for Traumatic Pregnancy Loss," a workshop for professional counselors, physicians, nurses, peer counselors, pregnancy center volunteers, campus ministers and clergy, today at the Catholic Conference Center from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The presentation is to help participants better understand how abortion affects women, men and families. The fee is $50 for professionals, $30 for pregnancy care volunteers and other volunteers, and $15 for full-time students. Send checks payable to Transfiguration Ministries, Inc., to Dr. Martha Shuping, 1400-B Millgate Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Call Shuping for details at (336) 659-1342.

22 GREENSBORO — Players, advertisers and sponsors are invited to participate in the Our Lady of Grace School Golf Classic, the school's annual education fund-raiser, starting at 7 a.m. today at the Grandover Resort Golf Course. Cost to play is $99, which includes course play, a golf shirt and a catered luncheon. Proceeds will provide for instructional materials, information technology, media center resources, scholarship endowment funding, athletics and fine arts. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says Christians must fight anti-Semitism

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recognizing their common faith in God the Father, Christians must foster dialogue with the Jewish people and work to ensure that any trace of anti-Semitism is removed from their lives, Pope John Paul II said.

Christians, the pope said, must make a "commitment that seeds infected by anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism will never again take root in the human heart."

Continuing a series of talks about God as the father of all, the pope dedicated his April 28 general audience address to Catholic dialogue with the Jewish people, "our elder brothers and sisters" in the faith.

"Meditating on the mystery of Israel and its 'irrevocable vocation,' Christians explore the mystery of their own roots as well," the pope said. "In the biblical sources shared with our Jewish brothers and sisters, we find indispensable elements for living and deepening our own faith."

Pope John Paul said that while Christians' faith in Jesus as the Messiah causes them to interpret many passages of the Old Testament differently than the Jews do, this should not overshadow the fact that they hold many elements of faith in common.

In addition, he said, Christians draw on elements of Jewish liturgy for their own liturgical tradition, including the Jewish form of blessing in the eucharistic prayers.

The Christian feasts of Easter and Pentecost also have their roots in the Jewish calendar and are especially appropriate occasions for Christians to pray for the Jewish people, he said.

But the thing that should draw Christians and Jews closest together is their common faith obligation to promote God's saving plan for humanity and his design for harmonious human relations.

"Recognizing the lordship of God over all creation and particularly over the earth, all believers are called to translate their faith into a concrete commitment to protect the sacredness of human life in all its forms and to defend the dignity of every brother and sister," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said he hoped a new relationship of respect and cooperation between Christians and Jews would "contribute to creating a new civilization found on the one holy and merciful God, promoting a humanity reconciled in love."

Pope says knowledge of Bible needed for Catholic prayer, theology

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A knowledge of the Bible is the necessary basis for Catholic prayer, preaching and theology, Pope John Paul II said. Congratulating the Catholic Biblical Federation on its 30th anniversary, the pope encouraged Catholics to read the Bible, study it and use it as a basis for dialogue with other Christians. "One of the many fruits" of the Second Vatican Council "has been a growth in knowledge and love of the Bible among Catholic people, bringing with it a deeper sense of the divine presence in their lives," the pope said in his May 4 message.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Mystical experience: Yours and mine

In years past, "mystical experiences" referred only to extraordinary things like the stigmata of Padre Pio or the ecstatic trances of St. Teresa of Avila. But today's scholars teach us that any genuinely supernatural experience of God is a mystical event, even if there is no remarkable manifestation connected with it.

One of the greatest mystics in the church, St. John of the Cross, said that all mystical experiences are given ultimately for the sake of the kingdom of God. Therefore, St. John urged that we downplay the more attention-getting gifts like the glossalalia. This refers to "speaking in tongues," the unintelligible speech which is like the spontaneous, unstructured communication of a child who has not yet learned to speak.(See Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4-11; 10:46).

St. Paul said basically the same thing. He added that in the final analysis every mystical experience is given for the good of the community (1 Cor 14:28).

The social dimension of mysticism is often overlooked. Cardinal Suenens brought this out in his book "A New Pentecost" (Seabury Press), where he stressed the importance of attaining a balance between an individualistic spirituality and one rooted in the social dimension of Christian existence. Both are part of the life of a genuine mystic.

The ultimate goal of any genuine mystical experiences is the love of God and neighbor. "What you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me"(Mt 25:40).

Evelyn Underhill, in her spiritual classic "Mysticism," wrote that "the Holy Spirit leads us along paths we may not have chosen for ourselves." The quest for God often leads us to a more rewarding, but a more difficult, way of life.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta put it this way: "Faith leads to love, love leads to service and service leads to the cross." Service always involves the discipline of helping those in need.

The path from a self-centered life to one of self-giving is never easy. Everyone who has ever followed a calling from God knows that. Each calling is a unique mystical experience; no two vocational callings are exactly alike.

For instance, Dorothy Day of Catholic Worker fame, was one of the most God-haunted women I ever met. She longed for a contemplative life, yet she spent more than 30 years feeding the hungry in New York City.

The ordinary religious experiences of everyday life have a mystical dimension. For instance, the desire for greater union with God is itself a mystical gift. So too is the desire to serve the poor, the sick or the elderly.

There may be no extraordinary manifestations accompanying these holy desires, but they are genuine nevertheless. When all is said and done, a mystical experience is simply a communication from God.

This profound awareness of divine reality leads to humble feelings, which in turn open us to God's gifts. We gradually become carriers of divine love. Despite our imperfections God draws us closer and fills us with his presence, always respecting our freedom in the process.

How wonderful it is to be a member of the body of Christ. We are able to say with St. Paul, "I live, no not I, but Christ lives in me."

Letters to the Editor

Please send your letters to Joann S. Keane, Editor,
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203
or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Dear Editor,

In November of 1998, we participated with more than 7,000 people who gathered at the gates of Ft. Benning, Georgia, to protest the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). More than 2,300 of us risked arrest by "crossing the line" onto the base as part of a procession to honor the victims of violence caused by SOA graduates. Among those who risked arrest were ministers, priests, nuns, veterans, teachers, retirees, and students.

The School of the Americas, dubbed "School of assassins," has trained nearly 60,000 Latin American soldiers in combat skills and psychological warfare. In 1996, declassified documents revealed that SOA training manuals advocated torture, false imprisonment, execution and blackmail. Many of the graduates have returned home and used these skills to murder, rape, and massacre their own people. They especially target religious and labor leaders and educators. Whenever a major human rights report about Latin America is published, SOA graduates are among those cited for the most horrific abuses.

Currently there is a movement underway to convince Congress to put a stop to this. Last year the House narrowly defeated an amendment to cut funds to the school (212-201). This year with bi-partisan support, Rep. Moakley of Massachusetts has introduced a new bill calling for closing the SOA. It is imperative for people to write to their congressman urging them to vote in support of Rep. Moakley's bill to close the SOA.

Granted, closing the SOA won't solve all the problems in Latin America, but why should the U.S. spend between $18 and $20 million a year to train these soldiers? The countries with the worst human rights violations send the most students to the school. It is shameful for our country to be associated with these kinds of atrocities.

Rev. Mr. Arthur & Rosemary Kingsley
Arden, NC

Dear Bishop Curlin,

Thank you for your diocesan check for $177,997.12, which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to $1,237,942.79. The money will be used to provide retirement grants to eligible religious institutes of women and men in 1999. Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors and parish priests are essential to the Fund's success and we are grateful for all you do. You can be assured of the prayers of retired religious across the country for this generous response to their needs.

The grant money has and will continue to help our religious institutes reduce their current unfunded retirement liabilities as well as plan for future retirement needs. All of these efforts have helped the members of these institutes in their endeavors not only to care for their elderly and infirm members but also to continue their active service for the Church.

My sincere thanks to you and your people for helping in this effort to care for the retirement needs of our elderly and infirm religious.

Sr. Mary A. Leahy, SP
National Director
National Religious Retirement Office
Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J.
McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

A mother's lesson

I am convinced that few people who are asked to tell a story about their mothers would be at a loss for words. Funny, sad, inspirational, or poignant, our memories are a mix of great and small events.

Gene Stelten spent three years collecting stories from a variety of famous and not so famous people who were asked to reminisce about their moms. Contributors from a variety of backgrounds — Maya Angelou, Jack Nicklaus, Erma Bombeck and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to name a few — discuss the role mothers play in teaching youngsters about their place in the human family. The result: a book called "Thanks Mom!"

Proceeds from the sale of "Thanks, Mom!" benefit Habitat for Humanity in its efforts to build low-cost housing with families in need across the United States and in more than 60 other countries.

Like the other storytellers, I was delighted to add my support and to recount a special memory of my own mother who taught me right up to her death about our binding connection with all people. Among the rest of the stories, my favorite is the entry from the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin.

The cardinal paints a vivid picture of how his mother's strength served up powerful lessons throughout his life, especially during his childhood. Following her young husband's death, she would sit down with Joseph and pore over a photo album she brought with her from Italy. She would point out and name all the people — relatives and neighbors — who were part of their family. "She used to sit down with me and tell the stories of the people and places on each page. Later on I would flip through the album myself and study all the details in each photo."

When he was twenty-nine years old and a priest, Bernardin fulfilled a promise he had made — to take his mom to her hometown, Tonadico, Italy. When they arrived, he immediately felt at home because of those pictures of the people and places he had come to know so well.

He explained: "For my mother, teaching me about the importance of family was essential. I have always felt blessed to have come from a loving family, and my heart goes out to those who do not share the same experience. I believe, however, as my mother always has, that family goes well beyond blood lines."

Through her, Bernardin learned early that "family" is actually the entire human community. It was his introduction into the essential meaning of church as family. He would often say, "Like any family, we [the Church] have our disagreements, but in the end we are bonded together."

In a time when headlines and news stories horrify us with reports of destruction and pain in Kosovo and other turbulent spots, as well as violence in our own neighborhoods, we must all recognize those human bonds. Another contributor to "Thanks, Mom!", Charlotte Gray, made a remark that certainly is worth consideration by every concerned adult: "Being a mother makes you the mother of all children. From now on each wounded, abandoned, frightened child is yours. You live in the suffering mothers of every race and creed and weep with them. You long to comfort all who are desolate."

Every mom and dad's job description includes comforting their children, but showing youngsters how and why they should comfort other people in need is equally essential.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Where the church stands on the death penalty

Q. There is much discussion in our state about the death penalty. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 2266) repeats the "traditional teaching of the church" that public authorities have the right to punish crimes with penalties commensurate with the crime, "not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty."

I'm really struggling with this issue. The pope and our own bishops seem to say the church is totally against the death penalty. I cannot be the only one confused. Where do we stand? It would help me make an intelligent, convicted decision.

A. Some confusion is understandable considering the movement in the church's position, as reflected by Pope John Paul II and most bishops, over the past several years.

First, the catechism itself is now much more explicit. A new article (No. 2267) in the revised edition repeats the traditional position, but then adds, "If nonlethal means are sufficient to protect and defend the security of persons, then public authorities must limit themselves to such means."

Today, it continues, the state has other ways to make a guilty person incapable of further harm, "without definitively taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself." Cases in which execution of the offender is necessary "are very rare, if not practically nonexistent."

In St. Louis this past January, Pope John Paul II repeated his appeal of last Christmas to build "a consensus to end the death penalty, which is cruel and unnecessary."

Anyone who has followed events of the past few years can understand why the pope plus an endless stream of bishops and other Catholic leaders have come to such a hard line about the evils of the death penalty. The major reasons might be summarized as follows:

— The death penalty is applied with gross inequity. For example, 12 percent of the prisoners on death row are in Texas, which has about 7 percent of the population and leads the country in number of executions. Everywhere in the United States, those on death row are predominantly the poor and racial minorities.

— No evidence exists that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. As the Texas bishops point out, states which have the death penalty have no lower rates of crime than states without it.

— Many condemned to death have been later found innocent. At a recent conference at the Northwestern University Law School, reports showed that since 1976, when the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, more than 500 persons have been executed. As of last year, of the 75 individuals scheduled for execution, one out of seven had their sentences reversed because of new evidence.

Based on this percentage, it is reasonable to assume that nearly 500 persons out of approximately 3,500 now on death row are innocent and may be found innocent before or after they are executed for the crimes for which they are convicted.

As the only developed nation in the world which has the death penalty, the United States is in the unenviable company of countries like Iraq, Iran and China.

Too often plain revenge is the real motive behind wanting the death of a perpetrator of a vicious crime. And, at least in the estimation of the pope, that is not a worthy Christian motive for any action.

The hope of the bishops and the pope is that we can be, and are, better people than that.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S.
RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

The precious gift of time

A Buddhist monk banged her drum as a phalanx of 21 people marched silently to the property line at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Two Department of Energy officials, referring to the platoon of uniformed police nearby, told the protestors if they crossed the line, they would be arrested for criminal trespass. The spokesperson of the marchers raised his voice: "We are pilgrims of peace, and we have come non-violently to protest the production of nuclear weapons." The 21 stepped across the line and were arrested.

The protest attempted to raise consciousness about U.S. nuclear weapons policies. Even with no formidable enemy, at all times the U.S. keeps on alert with more than 2,300 warheads capable of delivering within an hour the equivalent destructive power of 44,000 Hiroshimas. The Y-12 plant coordinates the Stockpile Stewardship Program that certifies the safety, reliability and performance of American nuclear weapons for the next 100 years.

But, the peace dove currently offers a chance to escape the threat of nuclear annihilation with a precious gift of time. Not since the end of World War II has the world found a more opportune moment to rid itself of nuclear weapons. The arms race, run principally by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, relied on the Cold War. Yet within the recent past the Berlin Wall came down, the Soviet Union split apart and the Cold War ended. These transformations came not from bombs and war, but from the power of people wanting to live freely in dignity. People could also demand the abolition of nuclear weapons.

While nonproliferation remains the official policy of the U.S., India, Pakistan and Israel have joined the nuclear club. Other nations with fewer resources are working to develop chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. As a result, a Presidential Decision Directive issued in November 1997 expanded U.S. policy to permit the use of nuclear weapons against countries with nuclear, chemical, or biological capabilities.

The morality of nuclear weapons remains uncompromisingly clear from the words of Vatican II: "Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation." Even small nuclear devices kill so many that their use would violate the consistent life ethic. The U.S. Catholic bishops wrote in their 1993 pastoral, "Sown in Peace": "The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal."

The $35 billion currently spent on maintaining the American nuclear stockpile could support strategies for nonviolent conflict resolution and programs to build mutual trust among factions. The words of Paul VI still ring prophetic: "If you want peace, work for justice." With its precious gift of time, the world needs more pilgrims of peace willing to march.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky.

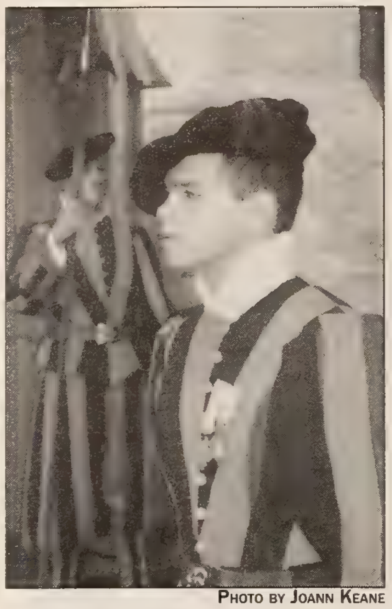


PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Swiss Guards

The Vatican, which has a modest security corps of 120 policemen and 1,000 Swiss Guards, is considering other security precautions for huge crowds expected at the end of 1999 and in 2000.

Pellegrino named Holy Sepulchre lieutenant

HYATTSVILLE, Md. — Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, director of the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University Medical Center, has been appointed Lieutenant of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy. The order is an international Catholic organization founded in 1099. In its early years, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre guarded the tomb of Christ. Their primary mission today is to support the charitable, cultural and social works of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. The Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy is one of nine divisions of the order in the United States and includes 300 members in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, the Archdiocese for Military Services and the diplomatic corps serving in the United States. There are 8,000 Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre worldwide. Members are chosen from the Catholic laity and clergy for outstanding service to the church, and are appointed by proper ecclesiastic authority.

Philippine bishop visits S. Korea, asks church help for migrants

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — During a pastoral visit to meet Philippine migrant workers in South Korea, the head of the Philippine bishops' commission for migrant workers called on the local church to assist foreign workers. Bishop Ramon Arguelles, military ordinary for the Philippines, during his mid-April visit to the country urged Archbishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul and the local church to help Philippine workers who face poor working conditions in South Korea.

Indonesian nuns train in martial arts after sectarian attacks

MALANG, Indonesia (CNS) — Indonesian nuns from several congregations in Malang Diocese, eastern Java, have completed martial arts training to defend themselves and others if necessary. Fifty-four nuns were inaugurated into the Catholic-associated Pelita Hidup Sejati (PHS, lamp of true life) martial arts group in mid-April during a Mass at which Carmelite Bishop Herman Pandoyoputro of Malang presided. Franciscus Xaverius Winarno, PHS founder and chairman, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that the nuns' superiors at first rejected the idea of their involvement in martial arts.

Anderson named supreme secretary of Knights of Columbus

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Carl Anderson, who has been assistant supreme secretary of the Knights of Columbus, has been named supreme secretary, succeeding Charles P. Riesbeck Jr., who is retiring after 15 years. An announcement from the Knights' headquarters in New Haven said he was elected by the board of directors. Anderson, 48, was named assistant supreme secretary in 1997. He has been in the fraternal order since 1985 and over the years was elected grand knight, district deputy, state advocate, state secretary, and state deputy of the District of Columbia for two terms.

Cuban-born Miami priest takes pastoral assignment in homeland

MIAMI (CNS) — After years as a priest in south Florida, Father Jose Espino's dream of returning as a missionary to his Cuban homeland has finally come true. He recently resigned as pastor of Holy Family Church in North Miami to accept a pastoral assignment in the new Diocese of Guantanamo-Baracoa, Cuba's 11th diocese. It follows the boundaries of the Cuban province of Guantanamo, where Father Espino was born. Pope John Paul II established the new diocese for the island nation immediately after his historic visit there in January 1998.

Bob and Dolores Hope donate $250,000 for Kosovo relief

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Comedian Bob Hope and his wife, Dolores, have followed the lead of actor Paul Newman by matching his donation of $250,000 to Catholic Relief Services to assist Kosovo refugees and others suffering from the current Balkan crisis.

"Like all Americans, Bob and I are deeply saddened by the refugee crisis and want to help," Dolores Hope said in a statement to Louise Wilmot, deputy executive director of CRS, which is based in Baltimore.

"While world leaders are seeking a solution to the refugee crisis, thousands of starving, homeless and destitute families are in need of help for basic survival. And they need it now," she said.

She said she hoped others would also follow Newman's lead and donate whatever they can to the cause. On April 7 the actor, who is also creator of Newman's Own food product line, presented CRS with a $250,000 check for its Kosovo refugee program. Newman's Own distributes all its after-tax profits to educational and charitable organizations.

Wilmot in a statement said that so many refugees need CRS' help, "and the generous contributions from the Hopes and others are helping us to provide much-needed assistance to the growing number of refugees that flood into the camps each day." ▾

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC
© 1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Pope beatifies Padre Pio, says his life 'astonished the world'

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In one of the biggest religious ceremonies in Rome's history, Pope John Paul II beatified Padre Pio da Pietrelcina and said the Capuchin friar "astonished the world" with his simple life of prayer.

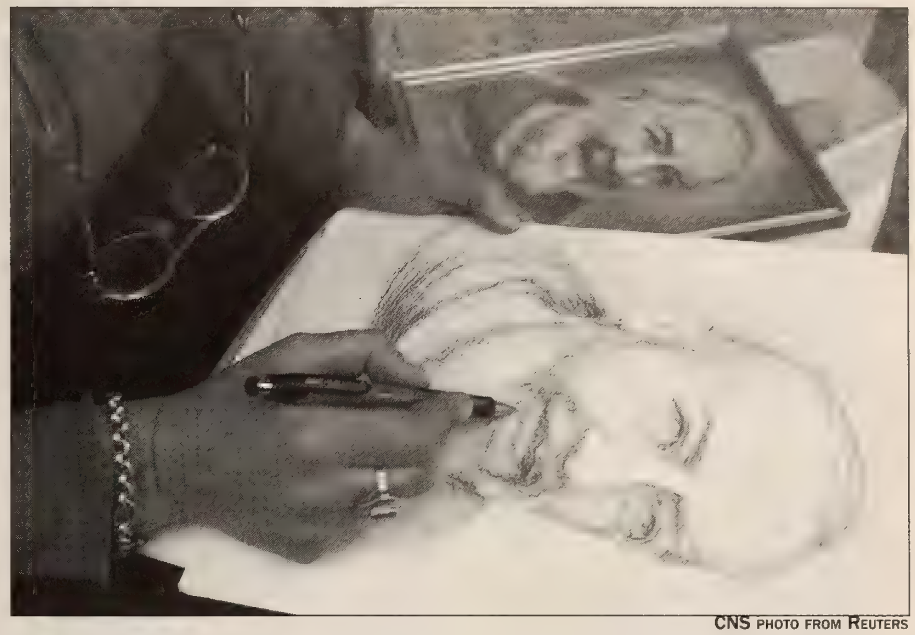
The Mass May 2 was attended by some 200,000 people who overflowed St. Peter's Square and another 100,000 who watched on giant TV screens in an open area across the city. Many were devoted followers of Padre Pio, a southern Italian priest known for his direct style of hearing confessions.

"By his life wholly given to prayer and to listening to his brothers and sisters, this humble Capuchin friar astonished the world," the pope said in a sermon.

The pope, who personally knew and admired Padre Pio, praised him for the long hours he spent with penitents, for his charity works on behalf of the poor and sick, and for his ascetic practices undertaken in imitation of Christ.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pilgrims crowd a Rome street waiting to enter St. Peter's Square for the beatification of Padre Pio May 2. Some 300,000 people, many of them followers of the Capuchin friar, attended the ceremony.



CNS photo from Reuters

An artist sketches an image of Padre Pio near St. Peter's Square in Rome May 1. Pope John Paul II beatified the Capuchin friar May 2 in what was one of the largest religious ceremonies ever in Rome.

Padre Pio's reputed "stigmata" — the appearance of bleeding wounds like those of the crucified Christ — showed the priest's intense sharing in the Lord's Passion, the pope said.

Referring to years of suspicion by church officials, who investigated and temporarily suspended Padre Pio from his priestly ministry, the pope said it showed that saints are sometimes "misunderstood" even by their own superiors.

Padre Pio was exonerated from the allegations of impropriety and fraudulent conduct, but these accusations represented a painful and distressing trial for the priest, the pope said. He said Padre Pio endured it all with a spirit of obedience which itself became a path of purification. The priest died in 1968 at the age of 81.

At the beginning of the three-hour liturgy, the pope read the beatification decree and set Sept. 23 as a day for special devotion to Padre Pio.

A drape was lifted on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica to reveal a giant portrait of the smiling Capuchin, and a wave of applause flowed through a massive assembly that stretched from St. Peter's Square more than half a mile down a wide avenue to the Tiber River. Many people wiped tears from their eyes.

Rome authorities blocked traffic for the event, and many had predicted a day of chaos in the Eternal City, but most residents seemed to have followed officials' advice to either leave town for the weekend or watch the ceremony at home.

More than 1,000 tour buses began unloading pilgrims at 6 a.m. near the Vatican. Wearing Padre Pio scarves and hats, many carried framed portraits of the Capuchin confessor and held them aloft as the pope declared him blessed, meaning worthy of imitation by the whole church.

Flags and placards identified groups of Padre Pio followers from as far away as Indonesia and Singapore, while sizable delegations came from Poland, Ireland and the United States. It was a demographically mixed crowd; an African nun sat next to a young man with a shaved head and sunglasses. Vendors sold Padre Pio medals, scarves, hats and other mementos.

"Padre Pio would probably be upset at all this fuss," said Paola Fontana, a 31-year-old Rome resident who became interested in Padre Pio several years ago. "What was striking about him was his personality. He could make people stop and think. And he had the stigmata — he seemed a step closer to Christ than most of us."

In his sermon, the pope said many people who knew Padre Pio directly or indirectly have rediscovered their faith, while hundreds of prayer groups inspired by his example have sprung up all over the world.

He said Padre Pio's international appeal flowed from his charity, which "was poured out like balm on the weaknesses and the sufferings of his brothers and sisters." Padre Pio would often spend 10-12 hours a day hearing confessions. He also founded a large hospital complex for southern Italy's poor.

The pope gave Communion to an Italian woman whose sudden cure in 1995 from a ruptured duct in the neck was deemed a miracle. Doctors at the time said the rupture was potentially fatal, but it inexplicably disappeared one day after prayers were offered to Padre Pio.

Many people who attended the beatification Mass said they knew someone who was helped or healed by prayers to Padre Pio. The pope, who confessed to Padre Pio as a young priest in 1947, had a personal experience in that regard. In 1962, when he was an auxiliary bishop, the future pope sent a letter to Padre Pio, asking him to pray for a woman diagnosed with malignant throat cancer.

A short time later, he wrote Padre Pio again, saying that the woman's cancer had disappeared. The woman was Dr. Wanda Poltawska, who has continued to be a close adviser to the pope on family matters.

After the Mass at the Vatican, the pope helicoptered across the city to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, where more than 100,000 people had followed the liturgy on TV screens. In a brief talk, he called Padre Pio "a true son of St. Francis of Assisi." ▼

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with *honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service* on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen – Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

ModularCorp

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Vatican unveils texts of Holy Year Mass, prayer, hymn

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To emphasize that the heart of the Holy Year 2000 is prayer, the Vatican has published a special Holy Year Mass, prayer and hymn.

The three texts underline the themes of the jubilee year: the birth of Christ, reconciliation and peace, concern for the poor, evangelization and a new understanding of history, said Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, secretary of the Vatican's jubilee planning committee.

The archbishop also announced an essay and poetry contest about the jubilee for young people aged 7-18. The winners in three age groups will be honored personally by Pope John Paul II, and the Vatican will cover the costs of a weeklong stay in Rome for them and two members of their families.

The official hymn, Archbishop Sepe said at an April 30 press conference, was chosen from dozens submitted in an international competition.

"Christ Yesterday, Christ Today" was composed by Brother Jean-Paul Lecot, a member of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception and director of music at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, France, with lyrics by Jacqueline Frederic Frie.

Vatican officials published the French text of the hymn, but did not play the song because, they said, final orchestration has not been completed.

Archbishop Sepe said the music and French text would be sent to every bishops' conference in the hopes that they would oversee the adaptation of the text into their own language.

"For us, the most important thing is that the rhythm be respected" so that at international Holy Year gatherings the hymn can be sung simultaneously in various languages, he said.

Also at the April 30 press conference, the Vatican released a special prayer for the jubilee year written by Pope John Paul.

Published only in Italian, the prayer praises God for his infinite love and offers thanks for the gift of Jesus who came to live on earth and journey through time with all men and women.

"Through your grace, Oh Father, the jubilee year is a time of profound conversion and of joyous return to you; it is a time of reconciliation between people and of renewed agreement among nations," the prayer said. It is a "time when the roar of weapons gives way to songs of peace."

The prayer also includes a request that God grant the grace of Christian unity and help Christians improve their dialogues with other religions.

The text of the Holy Year Mass was written in cooperation with the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and has been published in eight languages, including English.

Two separate sets of prayers and a variety of appropriate Scripture readings are included in the text of the Mass which may be used for special Holy Year celebrations.

The young people's essay and poetry competition is divided into three age groups.

Local bishops' conferences may adjust the age groups to coincide with school levels in their country and they may adapt the themes suggested by the Vatican which are:

— For children, "The jubilee as a big feast and an invitation to be happy."

— For pre-adolescents, "The center and the reason for this Christian jubilee is Jesus Christ and his Gospel as a response to the meaning of human existence."

— For adolescents, "The jubilee as an encounter with Christ and, therefore, a purification, an examination of conscience and a commitment to justice and the rights of the human person."

Archbishop Sepe said national bishops' conferences would review all entries and select national winners in each category. The top three entries in each category would then be sent to the Vatican's jubilee committee.

The Vatican will choose one winner for each continent in each division as well as an international winner in each age group. ▼

Postulator says Pope John XXIII could be beatified in 2000

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II could beatify Pope John XXIII as early as next year, said the promoter of the late pontiff's cause for beatification and canonization.

A beatification in 2000 became a possibility April 22 when medical consultants to the Congregation for Sainthood Causes said there was no scientific explanation for the healing of a nun who prayed for the late pope's intercession.

The cause of Pope John, whose 1958-1963 pontificate included the opening of the Second Vatican Council, still must clear some basic steps in the beatification process, even though the judgment of the medical board usually is the most difficult step.

A beatification in 2000 became a possibility April 22 when medical consultants to the Congregation for Sainthood Causes said there was no scientific explanation for the healing of a nun who prayed for the late pope's intercession.

Franciscan Father Luca de Rosa, postulator of Pope John's cause, told Catholic News Service April 26 he has no idea how long the rest of the process would take, but he hoped the beatification would occur in the year 2000.

Pope John Paul and the cardinals who are members of the sainthood congregation still must formally recognize the "heroic virtues" of Pope John and declare him venerable.

In addition, theological consultants to the congregation must establish a relationship between prayers to Pope John and the Italian nun's healing of a bleeding ulcer and severe peritonitis.

If the theologians recognize a link between the healing and the intercession of Pope John, Pope John Paul could recognize the miracle and set a date for the beatification. ▼

Communications, from page 3

to the violence and emptiness that is so pervasive in today's media."

The theme for the 1999 World Communications Day is "Mass Media: A Friendly Companion for Those in Search of the Father."

Pope John Paul, in his message for the observance, issued Jan. 29, spoke of the need to utilize the media as "a love which creates" and not a "force which destroys."

The Catholic Church can help the media reach the heights of its potential, the pope said, but the church also can learn from the media and benefit from its proper use.

"The church's culture of remembrance can save the media culture of transitory 'news' from becoming a forgetfulness which corrodes hope; and the media can help the church to proclaim the Gospel in all its enduring freshness in the everyday reality of people's lives," he said.

The Catholic Communication Campaign aids the U.S. church's work of evangelization with values-driven messages spread through videos, films, radio and television public service announcements and other communication resources.

Half of the money raised in the annual communications collection stays at the local level for diocesan communication work.

World Communication Day is an observance recommended by the Second Vatican Council as an occasion for prayer, reflection and study centering on communications media and the responsibility of Catholics toward them. ▼

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
"More than a place to meet."
Call the CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER...
We know how to boost your image with your staff.
Phone: (704) 327-7441 or toll-free: (888) 536-7441 or e-mail: ccc@twave.net
Visit our website! www.catholicconferencecenter.org

Hail Mary, Full of grace,

The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit
Of your womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

From Toledo Cathedral in Toledo, Spain

Statue of Mary in the childhood home of St. Therese of Lisieux in Lisieux, France

Holy Mary,

Obtain for me the help I need
To make my best effort,
Using all the power within me
And all the talents
And skills I possess,
According to my possibilities,
To fulfill God's plan
In every circumstance of my life.
Amen.

Remember

O merciful Virgin Mary,
That it has never been known
That those who sought your protection,
Asked your intercession,
Or implored your help
Were ever left unaided by you.

Encouraged by this confidence,
Though burdened by my sins,
I also turn to you.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Virgin of virgins!
Most dear Mother,
Listen to my prayers,
And in your mercy
Intercede for me.
Amen.

O our Lady,

Holy Mary!
We joyfully praise
The great things
That the Highest
Has accomplished in you.

With joy
We express our gratitude
For the extraordinary gifts
That our Lord embellished you with.

And with profound devotion
We acknowledge you
As our true Mother,
Thus fulfilling
Our Lord's words
Uttered to us
From the Tree of the Cross:
"Behold, your Mother."

The church of St. Catherine of Sienna in Sienna, Italy

Black Virgin, Montserrat, Spain
"La Moreneta" looks down from behind the altar. The small wooden statue is said to have been made by St. Luke and brought to Montserrat by St. Peter in AD 50.

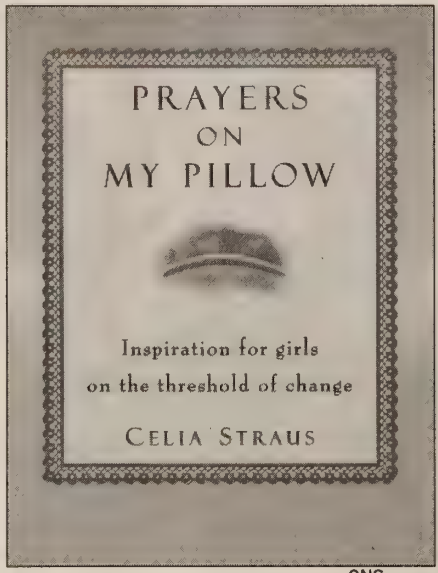
PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

In background: Miraculous Medal Shrine, Paris, France

Books

Book of prayers inspiring young girls and their mothers

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A little rainbow-colored book of prayers is helping both the young girls of its title and their mothers, according to the author, Washington free-lancer Celia Straus.

The 150 prayer-poems in "Prayers on My Pillow — Inspiration for Girls on the Threshold of Change" were Straus' response to the emotional turmoil and confusion experienced by her daughter, Julia, as she entered her teen years.

"The lovely part of it, and the part that I often talk about to groups of mothers and daughters," said Straus, "was that the act of writing the prayers became a communications bridge between not only Julia and her soul and Julia and God, but also Julia and me."

Other mothers and daughters have reported that the prayers prompted more talking between them, too, she said.

Published last November by Ballantine Books, "Prayers" was expected to be a Christmas book. But, it's now in a fourth printing and approaching sales of 50,000. "It just chugs along," said Straus.

In a phone interview with Catholic News Service, she recalled how the prayers began.

Julia had withdrawn from their previously close relationship and was having trouble sleeping, said her mother. One night Julia said that the prayer she'd been saying for years — a prayer Straus had said as a child — was not working anymore.

"She was reaching out," said Straus, who penned the first prayer for Julia the next day. "That began a ritual that went on for two years, of me writing a prayer and leaving it on her pillow."

She later wrote prayers for her younger daughter, Emily, who was feeling left out. Eventually, there were nearly 1,000 prayers. "Some were better than others," Straus said with a laugh.

The early prayers "often addressed whatever (Julia) was feeling at the moment," she said, "whether it was a bad case of acne or jitters over a test the next day."

But, she said, she realized that she wanted her daughter "to not only have prayers that addressed how God would help her with her problems but also prayers that would balance that by thanking God for what she had around her."

Straus said her daughters were "very generous" about the book and helped finalize its contents. Once she had chosen the prayers, she asked them to remove any that were too personal.

But, "as the book came near to publication, Julia began to get really nervous," said Straus. "She didn't want to see herself as a poster child for prayer."

She had just turned 16 and was worried about what her friends would say, said Straus. "They rallied around her 100 percent ... and they loved the book," she added.

The prayers in the book are organized around such themes as self-esteem, body image, growing pains, school pressures, self-confidence, courage, getting along with family and

See PRAYERS, page 14

RE/MAX®
Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320
Charlotte, NC 28277

Buying? Selling? Relocating?

- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
"Your Realtor for Life."

(704) 543-6680
(800) 726-1231
relocarolina@mindspring.com

Word to Life

May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter. Cycle A. Readings:
1) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-7a, 16, 20
2) 1 Peter 3:15-18
3) John 14:15-21

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

I must confess that although I saw many people come to a deeper faith in God while actively involved in the charismatic renewal, I saw few people who went from no faith to faith in God.

But there was one woman who stands out in memory as someone for whom the witness of faith of our community — and of the whole church — seemed to make all the difference.

Her fiance, a simple man with a deep faith himself, became involved with our prayer group first. In time they married, and Sally (not her real name) came to take part in our activities. She never seemed to feel at home. And part of it wasn't just that she didn't know what to make of us and our style of worship and prayer. Part of it was that she had had a hard life. Over time, we lost track of Sally and her husband. A couple of years passed, and we ran into the two of them after Mass at our parish.

On this woman's face was the warm friendly smile, the relaxed, at-peace-with-herself smile, that we had never seen before. I believe the Holy Spirit, a good husband and the witness of an entire church that included us had changed her. And the change was obvious.

The Scriptures for this week speak of pretty amazing miracles in Acts and winning others to Jesus by quiet witness in 1 Peter. In 20 years in the charismatic renewal, I saw people healed, families restored, individual lives changed in dramatic ways as people came to know Jesus at a deeper level. But I never saw anything more impressive than the dropping of the mask of sorrow and distrust from this woman's face. And it was apparently removed by love, patiently applied, day in and day out, by all of us (her fine husband first and foremost) acting together in the church.

"Venerate the Lord, that is, Christ, in your hearts. Should anyone ask you the reason for this hope of yours, be ever ready to reply, but speak gently and respectfully" (1 Pt. 3:15-16a). ▼

Questions:

Is there someone you know who seems to have suffered great hurts in life that prevent that person from knowing the peace and comfort of God's love? Can you commit to doing your part to love that person into the kingdom, without worrying about whether you will be successful or not?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 9 - 15, 1999

Sunday, Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21; **Monday**, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday**, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday**, Acts 17:15,22-18.1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (The Ascension of the Lord)**, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, John 16:16-21; **Friday**, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17 **Saturday**, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others

Need extra cash?

PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities

- No cash investment

Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

For First Communion & Confirmations

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards

We welcome mail orders and special orders!

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

School Uniform Sale!

Lower prices!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.

Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

"Entrapment"

Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones star in the action thriller "Entrapment." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'Nothing Sacred' star tells of lessons learned from series

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A year ago actor Kevin Anderson wasn't working.

"Nothing Sacred," the television series in which he starred as Father Ray, a priest at an inner-city parish, was on the brink of cancellation after poor ratings and months of controversy for its depiction of the Catholic Church and its leadership.

Despite its low ratings, "a lot of people miss that show. I still get letters from people who say, 'God, I miss that show,"' Anderson said.

Today, Anderson is starring in an acclaimed revival of "Death of a Salesman" on Broadway, and he plays the title role in the NBC miniseries "The Hunt for the Unicorn Killer," 9-11 p.m. Sunday-Monday, May 9-10.

One thing Anderson said he learned from the "Nothing Sacred" experience is that "there's certain limitations when you're dealing with network television. You either accept it or just not do it."

With 15-hour days on the set, "there's just no time" to address creative issues, and away from the camera there are "so many people who have a say in what gets seen," Anderson said. "But, if you don't like mayonnaise, don't order chicken salad."

Still, Anderson has a fondness for "Nothing Sacred." More so than with other projects, he says, he has found himself keeping in closer touch with other cast members. Jesuit Father Bill Cain, who created the series, stopped by at the theater in April to see Anderson in "Death of a Salesman."

And, despite its low ratings, "a lot of people miss that show. I still get letters from people who say, 'God, I miss that show,"' Anderson said.

"'Nothing Sacred' reached people in a deep way" that he as an actor can only imagine, Anderson said.

While actors like to think their roles and productions make some difference in the audience's lives, "I've had people tell me the show actually helped them make some major decisions in their life," Anderson said.

His latest TV project, "The Hunt for the Unicorn Killer," details the 1977 murder of Holly Maddux by Ira Einhorn, a fugitive who still today is fighting extradition to the United States from France. Anderson plays the charismatic Einhorn, a counterculture avatar with a dark streak.

Anderson said the Einhorn character is a perverse reverse of the Father Ray character he portrayed on "Nothing Sacred." While Father Ray was a man with "a positive influence in his community" yet "wrestling with his dark side," Einhorn is "a vision of a dark force that occasionally shows a light side."

Henry Herx, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting, said in a review of the miniseries that it is "only intermittently interesting and dramatically very uneven." The result, he added, "is unlikely to satisfy adult viewers and offers nothing for younger ones." ▼

Out on video

"Babe: Pig in the City" (1998)

Darker sequel to the 1995 hit in which the farmer's wife (Magda Szubanski) takes the plucky title porker (voice of E.G. Daily) to the city, but when she's wrongly arrested, Babe and a gaggle of homeless animals he befriends have to fend for themselves against starvation and the machinations of nasty humans. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"You've Got Mail" (1998)

Breezy romantic comedy in which two rival Manhattan booksellers (Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan) trade barbs unaware they are falling in love with each other through anonymous e-mail messages. Director Nora Ephron turns in a romantic trifle made enjoyable by the winning chemistry between its appealing stars. Implied affairs and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• DEBT CONSOLIDATION
• LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
• CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
. Annuals - Spectacular array
. Blooming pots
. Perennials - Wide Variety
. Birdbaths and Fountains
. Landscape Consulting Available
10605 Park Rd., Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

New Name!
New Owners! New Hours!
Formerly Nine Choirs Catholic Books
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905
Mon. - Fri. 9am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 3pm

Get
DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive
EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Since we cured her husband Greg's sleep disorder, Lynn Winchester can rest easy.

While only one person may be diagnosed with sleep apnea, it can affect the entire family and keep the whole house awake.

Lynn Winchester wasn't just a little concerned about her husband Greg's sleep apnea. There were actually times when she feared for his life.

At night, Greg's frequent sleep disruptions – sometimes as often as every five minutes – would cause him to wake up to keep from choking.

During the day, his ability to perform routine tasks at work and at home was diminished by excessive daytime sleepiness or falling asleep altogether. Driving to and from work or to his son's soccer games became more than bothersome: it was down right dangerous.

Before long, Greg sought help when he realized his condition was impacting his entire family.

His family physician referred him to the Presbyterian Sleep Center. After consultation with neurologist Dr. Kenneth Ashkin, Greg spent a couple of nights in our diagnostic sleep lab at Presbyterian Hospital Matthews in order to determine the nature of his condition and how best to treat it. Now with the aid of an advanced in-home treatment system, Greg is able to get a peaceful night's sleep.

And as for Lynn? Well she thinks Greg's sleep apnea cure is a dream come true.

Stories like Greg and Lynn are not uncommon at Presbyterian Healthcare. After all, we believe there is a difference between being treated and being cared for.

For information on sleep disorders call 384-CARE.

Presbyterian Healthcare
NOVANTHEALTH

Karen Curry of Presbyterian Hospital Matthews Diagnostic Sleep Lab and Dr. Kenneth Ashkin of Mecklenburg Neurological Associates enable those who can't sleep to once again get a good night's rest.

Shaping the future of Caring

Presbyterian Hospital
200 Hawthorne Lane • Charlotte, NC 28233

Soldiers freed,

from page 1

Steve Ramirez. Jasso said the family banded together throughout weeks of concern over Andrew's safety and overall well being.

"We kept the faith real good," he told The Tidings. "We're a very large family and we're pretty close. Everybody was involved in keeping the faith."

Olivia Rodriguez, Andrew's cousin, reiterated the sentiment that faith, prayer and family were underlying components in "little Andy's" safe release.

Rodriguez, an administrative assistant at St. Alfonso's Church in East Los Angeles, said the entire family was "really glad about it."

"We're very grateful and thankful," she told The Tidings. "The two things (our family) had to remember all along was to keep the faith and to have hope; without those two things, you can't accomplish anything."

> **"We're very grateful and thankful. The two things (our family) had to remember all along was to keep the faith and to have hope; without those two things, you can't accomplish anything."**
>
> — *Olivia Rodriguez*

Rodriguez, who has three sons of her own between the ages of 19 and 30, said she and other family members sought solace and support from each other through togetherness, conversation and prayer.

"I prayed every night, for Andy and for the entire family," said Rodriguez. "During the entire ordeal, we talked to each other, cried with each other and prayed together."

Jasso stressed the importance and power of God and prayer as vehicles of spiritual support as well as contributing factors in the safe release of all three hostages.

"The first person you have to give thanks to is the man upstairs," he said. "God did the whole thing, through Bill Clinton and through Jesse Jackson, but He did it.

"I have a lot of faith in God and in Jesus Christ," continued Jasso, "and I pray for more faith every day of my life."

Jasso, who acted as spokesman for the Ramirez family, regularly attends a prayer group at San Gabriel Mission. He said the group routinely offered prayers for the safe and timely liberation of the captive soldiers.

"I had a feeling, even during the prayers, that Andy was going to be released," said Jasso. "It feels great to know he'll be coming home soon."

According to Rodriguez, the support from well-wishers around the world was a source of comfort for Vivian Ramirez and the rest of the family. She said they received letters and cards from people as far away as New Zealand, Ireland and Vietnam.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rev. Jesse Jackson walks with three freed U.S. soldiers across the Yugoslavian border into Croatia May 2. Jackson negotiated with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for the release of Steven Gonzales (left), Christopher Stone (2nd left) and Andrew Ramirez (right), who were being held as prisoners of war. A Catholic priest was among the delegation that accompanied Jackson to Belgrade.

"People sent letters of support and their prayers," said Rodriguez. "It was really beautiful."

Jasso said he hopes the family will draw positive benefits from the experience, pointing out that "families should always be united, not only in times of tragedy."

He said he plans to express such thoughts during Andrew's reunion with Los Angeles-based family members, an event he expected to occur by late May.

"We want the family to be even more united," said Jasso. "This is the time for everyone to heal, so it's a good idea to start now.

"And," he concluded, "I think little Andy will learn to appreciate life even more now." ▼

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

VISIONS IN FAITH
Sunday, June 13 - Wed., June 16
Fr. Tom Richstatter, O.F.M.

Sacraments is the theme for Father Tom's presentations during this annual update in theology and spirituality.

For more information write:
Visions in Faith
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Tuition: $100 Room & Board: $150

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

K of C

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

Ministry program promotes variety, opportunity

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — When the Diocese of Charlotte began its sponsorship last year of an extension learning program, it opened the doors wider to opportunities for graduate-level education in the faith.

That's a message Joanna Case is excited to relay.

As diocesan liaison for the Loyola Institute of Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, Case sees men and women involved in a wide variety of ministries bringing their experiences to a group setting. It's a learning process abundant with challenges and rewards, she says.

The program offers master's degrees in religious education and pastoral studies, and non-credit, continuing education certificates are also offered. The diocese currently sponsors four learning groups, whose members are engaged in or are planning to enter some form of ministries.

"It really is for anybody in ministry," explains Case of the LIMEX program, offered through Loyola University in New Orleans, La. "Its origins were aimed at providing for people who can't go off to a seminary or a university, who have to work, who have families, who can't take the summers off. ..."

Founded in 1983, the program offers students the chance to learn via distance education. Trained facilitators gather with students weekly.

Course work is reading, writing, and time intensive. Reading assignments may take up to 10 hours a week to complete for the three-hour class sessions, and each course usually includes two research papers. Video presentations and discussion are included in the learning sessions, and a Loyola professor is "on-call" to answer students' questions throughout the week.

Learning groups comprise about 15 members who decide on the locales for classes. The program consists of 12 courses, each lasting 10 weeks. Early courses provide overviews of aspects of ministry and faith. Later in the program, students study ministry in personal, socio-economical and cultural contexts. The later courses focus on particular areas of ministry.

"Loyola wants to challenge people," says Case. "They're teaching what the church teaches, but they're adding where it came from and in what contexts the teachings are applied."

The program takes about four years to complete.

Tuition is $565 per course if pursuing a degree, and $315 per course for the non-credit continuing education certificate. Books cost around $35 per course. Some scholarship funding is available through the diocese and parishes.

The groups now meeting throughout the diocese are based in Arden, Asheville, Charlotte, and Clemmons.

"There are 16 of us in our class," says Colleen Buchauer of Statesville, who travels to Holy Family Church in Clemmons every Tuesday for the program. "We come from all different places and all walks of life, and different ages and backgrounds. It's wonderful to share all of that."

Sharing is a key benefit of the program, says Case. Participants bring a wealth of experience from their own ministry work — ministry in the parish, on campus, and in prisons, hospitals, and a number of other environments. Students new to ministry learn much from that experience, Case says.

And because the program is process-oriented, reflection on students' faith journeys is a part of LIMEX, too. While the program is inherently Catholic, individuals of several faith traditions are enrolled.

"I grew up in a Baptist church that was committed to social issues, so theologically I feel a lot of comfort with what I'm reading," says Mark Siler, a member of the Charlotte learning group.

Siler's background in ministry includes clinical social work, a hospital chaplaincy, and work with the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. He says the LIMEX program provides the formal education he feels is needed in future pastoral roles.

"I recognized how important it is to have my work more directly and more explicitly connected to a faith perspective," he says.

Colleen Buchauer, who coordinates the faith formation and youth ministry programs at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Statesville, agrees that in addition to the diversity element, the personal faith connection is an important benefit of the program.

"I realized that I needed more (formal education) to do my job more effectively and knowledgeably," she says. "And personally, I wanted to know more, too."

That yearning to know more about the faith, both on personal and professional levels, enhances this type of learning environment, says Case.

"It's so interesting to listen to people" who express a longing to go deeper into particular areas of study, Case adds. "For some, it's really an introduction. For others, it's adding on to the knowledge they have.

"There are a lot of different kinds of possibilities here, and this program works very well for a lot of people." ▼

The Diocese of Charlotte will host informational sessions on LIMEX at various sites throughout the diocese. See Diocesan Planner, pages 2-3, for details.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Prayers, from page 10

friends, asking for help, faith and making a difference.

In interactive sessions with girls in Catholic and other faith-based private schools and inner-city public schools, Straus has found that they understand the message in her prayers on body image, but still find their own body image the hardest thing to talk about.

These prayers "talk about inner beauty and about accepting yourself," she noted. "There's no easy answer there, but the message is that God loves you."

Straus is a self-described "Army brat" who was raised Episcopalian and married a Jewish man. Like many interfaith couples, she said, she and her husband couldn't commit to one organized religion.

"As a result, I watched both my girls struggle with the fact that they did not have a way to talk to God," she said.

They weren't members of a church or synagogue and didn't have a belief system, she continued. "These prayers were my attempt to fill that gap with a way to have faith — to replace their fears with faith — and a way for them to believe that God not only existed but listened."

Straus has another volume of prayers in the works, co-written with Philadelphia poet Charyn Sutton. It's titled "I Can Feel the Spirit — Inspiration for African-American Girls on the Threshold of Change." She hopes it will be out by spring 2000.

In addition to the books, she has a Web site —www.girlprayers.com — that recorded 30,000 visits in March. "Every day there are about seven or eight e-mails requesting prayers," she said.

So far, said Straus, whose day job is writing scripts for TV documentaries and government videos, she has been able to keep up with the requests.

Often she'll send a prayer written for her own daughters, she explained, but "sometimes, I get problems that are so different and, unfortunately ... so much worse than anything my girls went through, that I respond with something new." ▼

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will: *"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."*

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Billboard campaign displays pro-life message

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

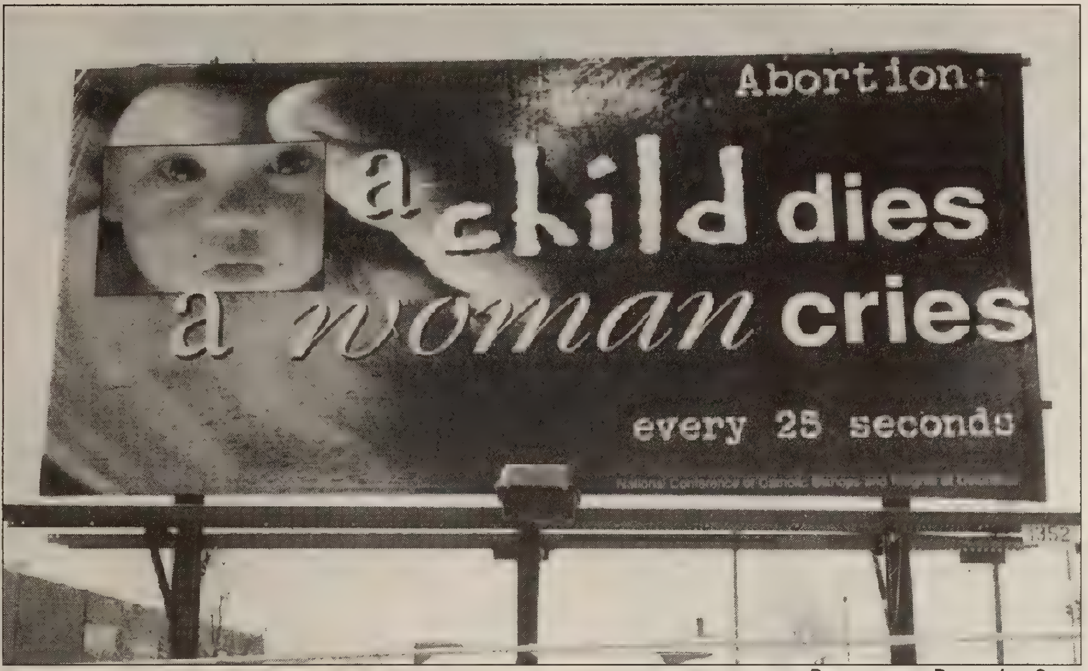


Photo courtesy Respect Life Office

Inspired by a pro-life billboard campaign in Washington D.C., Tina Witt helped bring the advertised message to North Tryon Street and Atando Avenue in Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE — In advertising, image is everything. Just ask Tina Witt, whose encounter with images on two billboards sparked a passionate personal crusade against abortion.

In January 1998, Witt joined thousands of people in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. The Matthews child-care provider, wife and mother of four took to the streets of D.C. after President Clinton vetoed the partial birth abortion ban for the second time. It was during last year's march that Witt's personal mission commenced.

"We saw those two billboards right in the heart of all that was going on and I just said, 'We gotta have these things,'" Witt recalls.

One of those "things" bears an image of a baby's face; in the background, a woman cradles her head in her hands. The billboard's message reads: "Abortion: A Child Dies, A Woman Cries Every 25 Seconds."

Fourteen months after Witt first saw that billboard in D.C., it's now on display in Charlotte. The 12-foot-by-25-foot sign, at North Tryon Street and Atando Avenue, was erected in March. It will remain at that location at least through May.

According to Adams Outdoor Advertising, which erected the billboard, 20,000 people view that image every day.

They might never have seen it if not for Witt.

When Witt returned to Charlotte last year, she immediately began searching for information about the billboards. Eventually, she learned that the signs belonged to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Philadelphia graphic artist Lisa Toscani created the images for the group, which was looking for a dramatic way to mark the 25th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Witt obtained permission from the bishop's group to display the signs in Charlotte. Getting approval was relatively easy; the tough part, Witt learned, would be getting the signs to Charlotte and raising money to have them displayed.

Witt then turned to Maggi Nadol, director of the Charlotte Diocese's Respect Life Office, for help. Nadol was intrigued.

"We (the diocesan office) haven't done a billboard campaign before," she says. The group's efforts are usually less visible, says Nadol, so "... it's nice to be right out there."

Nadol paid for an ad in The Catholic News & Herald requesting donations to Witt's cause. The diocese also allowed Witt to use its stationery to write letters soliciting donations from Charlotte-area Protestant and Catholic churches. St. Matthew in Charlotte, Witt's church, donated the largest amount: $1,500. Other Charlotte Catholic churches that donated were St. Thomas Aquinas, $417; St. Peter, $300; and St. Ann, $100. St. Michael Catholic Church in Gastonia donated $50. Individual donations brought the total to about $3,000. The diocese is in charge of collecting money and writing checks for the project.

Though the diocese and Respect Life support Witt, Nadol says Witt deserves the credit for the campaign.

"It's really her (Witt's) project." Nadol says.

By last summer, the billboards had arrived. The national bishops' group paid the shipping fee, and Fairway Outdoor Advertising erected the billboards in September along U.S. 321 in Gastonia. The company charged just $150 to display the two signs.

In Charlotte, however, it will cost $1,000 per month to display each billboard, which is why only one sign is currently on display. The diocese has a two-month contract with Adams Outdoor Advertising.

The company is currently displaying billboards bearing the heavily promoted "Messages from God" advertising campaign in the Charlotte area.

Witt is determined to keep the pro-life billboards up as long as possible.

"If we can get some more donations in, we can keep it (the sign) moving around Charlotte," says Witt.

Meanwhile, Witt is busy with other pro-life activities. She plans to attend a 9 a.m. Mass for Mothers on May 8 at Charlotte's St. Gabriel Catholic Church, then walk with others to a nearby abortion clinic and quietly pray the rosary. Witt, pregnant with her fifth child, longs for the day when abortions are no longer legal. She says she's inspired by the words of Pope John Paul II during a visit to Detroit. As Witt recalls, the pope said America's survival as a nation "depends upon how you treat the weakest amongst you, those yet born."

"Really, people need to meditate upon what he's trying to say," Witt urged. "We need to react and do something. ... Once we stop that (abortion), we're gonna see the fruits flow and heal everything else. We're gonna bear the fruit." ▼

If you would like to contribute to Witt's billboard project, send donations to: Respect Life Office, The Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. Make checks payable to the Respect Life Office.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental Service Aide, Floorcrew, and Linen Serviceworkers: All shifts. Aides complete routine and discharge cleaning, dust, floorcare, remake beds. Floorcrew handles floor maintenance, dust, wet mop, stripping and waxing, and operation of buffer. Linen serviceworker sorts, folds, irons, and packs linens. Please apply in person weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm at Carolinas Healthcare System, 1012 S. Kings Drive, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28232. Call (704) 355-2101.

Nanny: Cheerful, energetic nanny needed for two children, ages 4 and 2, for 30+ hours/week near intersection of Providence and Wendover in Charlotte. Some light housekeeping. Loving family looking for a long-term commitment and willing to offer excellent pay for the right person. References, valid immigration papers, and ability to communicate in English required. No smokers. Call (704)442-2166.

Director of Religious Education: St. Leo the Great, a parish of 1600 households, in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a qualified person to administer the parish religious education program for 350 children grades pre-K-8th and family-based sacramental preparation. MA in religious education or theology is preferred; previous experience required; possess good organizational skills and ability to work with volunteers. Candidate may be sent to Fr. Jim Solari, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104 or Fax (336)724-7036; phone: (336)724-0561.

Faith Formation Director (Sunday School Coordinator): Master's or undergraduate degree in Theology or Religious Studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Salary range $30-35K. Housing available. Projected start date July 1999. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Attn: Julie Dilick, Education Commission, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

Administrative Assistant: Immaculate Heart of Mary School and Church have a full-time position available for a person who can be extremely flexible, has good communication skills, computer/word perfect experience, and some bookkeeping background. Responsibilities also include school admissions and general secretarial duties. If interested in becoming part of a warm, energetic team, please send your resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262.

House Cleaners: $12 an hour. Weekdays. Flexible schedules. Charlotte area. Approximately 15 hours per week. Call Maid in Heaven:(704)643-5545.

Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accountant. Responsible for preparing general ledger entries, executing month-end closings, performing account analyses, and filing federal and state grant reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience and also fund accounting experience. Applicants must be proficient using PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Accounting Clerk: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accounting clerk. Responsibilities include data entering of accounts receivable, processing payroll, and preparing related month-end and quarter-end reports. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience. Applicants must be proficient using both the 10-key and PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

Development Coordinator in Charlotte: Flexible part-time (20 hours/week). Catholic Social Services Refugee Office needs a development coordinator to develop community resources, primarily grants and individual donations. College degree required. Minimum of 3 years' experience in development or association with non-profit, refugee or international issues. Send resume to: Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, Attn. Director, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

PROPERTIES FOR RENT/SALE

Beach Condo for Rent: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 5/1, 5/8, 8/28 and all of September. Call (336) 924-2842.

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Fully furnished. Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000. Call (704)597-1545.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. -GWA

Thank you to St. Jude for favors received. -JGA

Life MEDICAL PROGRESS ETHICAL ISSUES

Church stands on principle of euthanasia

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the debates over euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, one key principle stands out in the Catholic Church's position: Human beings are not allowed to infringe on the ultimate power over life that belongs only to God, its author.

In the words of the official "Catechism of the Catholic Church": "We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of."

That principle stands in stark contrast to the legal and ethical argument of absolute personal autonomy proposed by the advocates of physician-assisted suicide — that each person has the right to decide for himself or herself whether to die and when and how to do so.

> "Catechism of the Catholic Church" says that euthanasia, "whatever its motives and means ... is morally unacceptable" and "must always be forbidden and excluded."

Euthanasia, or mercy killing, means killing a person to end his or her pain or suffering.

In physician-assisted suicide, the doctor does not do the actual killing but cooperates in it by providing a lethal prescription with which the patient commits suicide.

In Oregon, the only state to have legalized physician-assisted suicide as a medical treatment, the lethal dose is covered by Medicaid under the category of "comfort care."

Every year several states face efforts to legalize assisted suicide, either through the Legislature or by popular referendum.

State-by-state efforts can be expected to increase in the coming years, since the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 upheld the constitutionality of state laws barring assisted suicide in Washington and New York.

Before the high court's rulings, many assisted suicide advocates had been hoping the practice would be legalized nationwide by one sweeping judicial fiat turning it into a constitutional right, as was done with abortion in 1973.

At a recent national convocation on life issues in Washington, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston stressed that Catholic efforts against assisted suicide and euthanasia cannot be limited to the legal and political battles.

"It is important that Catholic health care efforts include a competence in pain management," Cardinal Law said. He added that compassionate care of those who face death — by doctors, nurses, family, friends and others — "is central to the Catholic vision of death and dying."

He said a lack of good palliative care for the dying provides those making the case for assisted suicide with their "most compelling reason."

Palliative care refers to those medical practices designed not to cure an illness but to ease pain and comfort the patient.

Cardinal Law also stressed that Catholic teaching and practice do not require doing everything possible to save life or to sustain it as long as possible.

The Catholic stand on treatment and care near the end of life is often misunderstood or misrepresented because people fail to make one or the other of two key distinctions:

— The refusal or withdrawal of treatment because it is of no benefit or not enough benefit to outweigh the burden is not the same as doing something to cause or hasten death.

— Medical care to alleviate pain and suffering can be legitimate even when it hastens death, so long as it's done to kill the pain, not the patient.

In its article on the Fifth Commandment the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" says that euthanasia, "whatever its motives and means ... is morally unacceptable" and "must always be forbidden and excluded."

"Thus an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator," it says.

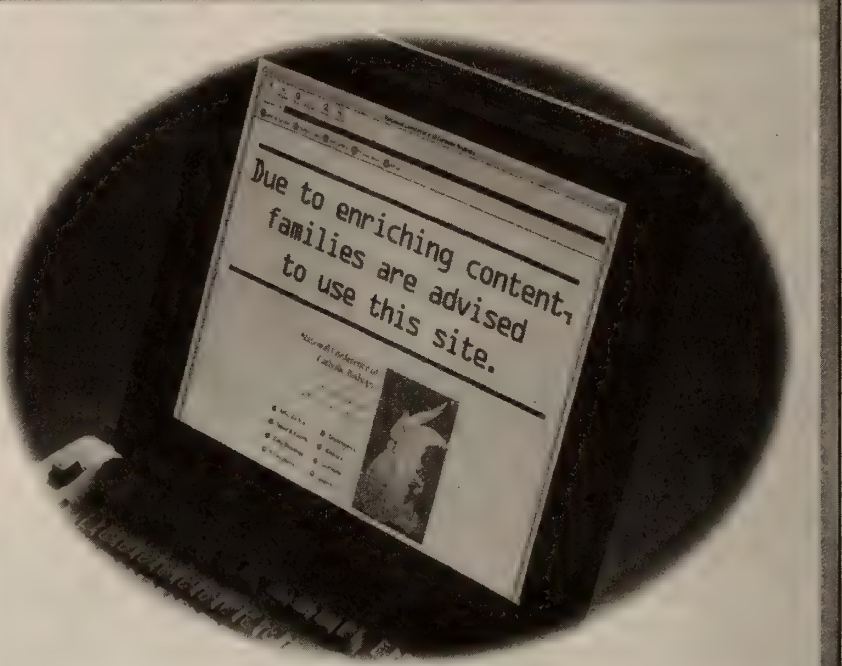
But in the next paragraph the catechism adds: "Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of 'over-zealous' treatment. Here one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted."

The paragraph that follows addresses palliative care: "Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted. The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged." ▼

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Europe is MO fun on a cruise.
Even MO fun when you fly free to Europe.
Departing November 8 for a 13 day/12 night cruise from Venice to Lisbon.
Coming soon, full details on this MO-vulous voyage.
Holland America Line
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel



Due to enriching content, families are advised to use this site.

Quality television and Web sites. Enlightening radio and print. They're all made possible by the Catholic Communication Campaign. And of course, the Catholic Communication Campaign is made possible through donations from people like you. People who care about spreading the Good News of God's love through mass communications. Half of your CCC donation stays right here in your community, so the work we do touches you and your neighbors. From broadcast Masses to our toll-free Movie Review Line. So this year, when your parish takes up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign, please give generously. Because, in today's media, we could all stand to see more advisories like these.
Catholic Communication Campaign
HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND
1123 South Church St. Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 370-3336

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S298 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 14, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 35

Inside

Diocese of Charlotte prepares for refugees' arrival
...Page 3

From the cover
Pope John Paul II visits Romania
...Page 7

Cardinal Arinze to celebrate Mass in Charlotte
...Page 14

Local News

Living the Faith
Lexington parish gives first Salesian Award
...Page 15

Annual event celebrates life
...Page 13

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5
Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Pentecost Sunday is May 23

"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."
— Acts 2: 3-4

Music group's visit is latest chapter in story of faith, hope

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Meymis Elizabeth Guevara Serpas' face doesn't show the years of pain and suffering she and her family endured during the war. She smiles happily instead, talking earnestly of hope for the future.

The woman nods to the five young men assembled around her. Holding guitars, violins and percussion instruments, they, too, wear contented smiles despite their individual stories of tragedy.

The group has gathered at St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte to present a concert of songs that tell of their experiences and ideals. Their journey to Charlotte is the latest chapter in a story about two communities many miles apart but connected by a concern for peace and justice.

The parish family of St. Peter's and the community called Segundo Montes in northeast El Salvador have been in union since 1990. Through various forms of outreach, the Charlotte congregation has learned much about their southern neighbors' plight. They've learned even more about the Salvadorans' spirit.

It is a spirit marked by determination, patience and faith.

"In our struggles, our sadness and our happiness, God is always with us," Serpas says through a translator. "He has given us strength and hope to keep going forward."

The young woman pauses before announcing the music group's next tune. It's called "I Believe in God."

"El Grupo"

Serpas and her five friends are collectively known as "El Grupo Morazán," Salvadorans from Segundo Montes now in their teens and 20s who grew up in a Honduran refugee camp. Members of their families were among the more than 75,000 who died during El Salvador's decade-long civil war.

Relatively safe from the destruction wrought in their homeland, the then-young children found a tentative escape in music as the war raged.

Several years passed. Against a backdrop of scarred countryside and scattered peace talks, refugees with whom the six young people sought asylum — more than 8,000 of them — returned to El Salvador in 1989 to build new lives.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Members of "El Grupo Morazán" play their instruments during the group's May 4 performance at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. The six-member music group, made up of Salvadorans in their teens and 20s, visited Charlotte as part of their first U.S. tour.

The refugees settled in Segundo Montes, a community about 100 miles northeast of San Salvador. While there, the six who would become "El Grupo" continued to pursue music with an optimistic passion.

Their May 4 stop at the Charlotte parish is part of their first tour in the United States.

Thousands of miles and several years have passed since "El Grupo Morazán" first performed, but memories remain vivid in their lively music.

Works such as "Monseñor," written in memory of the murdered Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, recall specific martyrs and their efforts at peace and religious freedom. "Segundo Montes" honors the community's namesake, Father Segundo Montes, a Jesuit priest who

See EL GRUPO, page 9

Catholic Charities USA assists Oklahoma, Kansas tornado victims

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA has sent emergency grants of $10,000 to both Oklahoma and Kansas to help residents recover from destructive tornadoes. Catholic Charities agencies in Oklahoma City and Wichita will use the money to provide food, shelter, and other immediate needs of people displaced by the tornadoes while they determine the long-term needs of their communities. "These are some of the strongest, most destructive tornadoes in recent memory. Reports of fatalities and destruction are still coming in," said Jane Gallagher, director of disaster response for Catholic Charities USA.

Trappists plan to carry on mission at Algerian monastery

ROME (CNS) — Three years after the kidnapping and killing of seven Trappist monks from an Algerian monastery, five Trappists planned to carry on their order's mission there. "A key factor of martyrdom is to forgive your enemies," said Trappist Father Augustine Roberts, a U.S.-born official of the Rome-based order, also known as the Cistercians. "This group of monks, by offering their physical presence at the monastery, hopes to show that they forgive those who killed their brothers." The five monks, volunteers from different parts of the world, were awaiting the Algerian government's permission to move to the Monastery of Notre Dame de l'Atlas within the next few months, Father Roberts said May 10.

CNS photo from Reuters

Nuns in Beijing

Nuns in Beijing gather May 10 at the U.S. Embassy to protest the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Chinese authorities made no secret that they were organizing demonstrations outside the U.S. and British embassies in Beijing following the May 8 bombing that NATO said was an error.

Priests' federation urged to embrace cultural diversity

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Some 280 priests addressed challenges of multiculturalism in the U.S. church at the annual convention of the National Federation of Priests' Councils. U.S. Catholic parishes today form an "increasingly complex tapestry of peoples from many cultures," said the keynote speaker, Precious Blood Father Robert Schreiter, director of the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Real multiculturalism in a parish does not mean just acknowledging or tolerating the cultures of others, he said, but building positive intercultural relationships and respecting cultural differences — "coming to value the difference in its own right, that it adds to the richness of the world."

S. African bishops' headquarters to be election observation center

PRETORIA, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference headquarters will become the center from which a coalition of church and nongovernmental organizations will observe South African general elections June 2. The South African Civil Society Observer Coalition will be based at Khanya house, the bishops' headquarters in the South African capital of Pretoria, said Ashley Green-Thompson of the bishops' justice and peace commission.

Fifty-three arrested in SOA protest at Pentagon

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Fifty-three people from around the country were arrested and charged for acts of civil disobedience at the Pentagon May 3 during a protest by the School of the Americas Watch. Several priests, sisters and lay members of Catholic Worker houses were among those cited, said Reba Mathern-Jacobson, of the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington. They were arrested while trying to paint outlines of human bodies in washable paint on the pavement. After being booked and processed they were released on their own recognizance.

Public responding quickly to pleas for Kosovo refugee sponsors

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Public response has been overwhelming to requests for sponsors for refugees from Kosovo, representatives of Catholic refugee agencies said May 5. Since the administration announced April 21 that 20,000 Kosovo refugees would be admitted to the United States instead of housed in temporary quarters outside the U.S. mainland, Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Conference has been soliciting sponsors for the Kosovars. Patricia Maloof, director of refugee programs for MRS, told reporters May 5 that calls have been almost continual to refugee assistance programs run by Catholic dioceses and the MRS main office in Washington.

N. Ireland human rights leader calls for cultural, police reforms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Northern Ireland must create a "human rights culture" and reform its police force to invigorate the peace process, said a Northern Ireland human rights leader. The director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Martin O'Brien, said "issues of justice and fairness have been always at the heart of the conflict" in Northern Ireland, and the peace process is stuck at the moment because of those issues. "We'd like to see the creation of a human rights culture, building a society where people are concerned not only when their rights are abused but when other people's rights are abused," he said in an interview with Catholic News Service in early May.

Tornadoes make it hard to find family, friends, priest says

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — In the wake of mammoth tornadoes that hit Oklahoma and Kansas May 3, an Oklahoma City priest said power outages, a disruption in telephone service and blocked roads were making it nearly impossible for friends and relatives to let one another know if they were safe. "We have 27 students (out of a total of 180) who didn't come to school this morning and we don't know why," Father Thomas Boyer, rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, said May 4 in a telephone interview with The Tidings, the Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. "The city is in a state of shock and travel in the southern part of town is very difficult," he added.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

May 14, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 35
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 16 — 9 am
Mass for Wake Forest University Community with Cardinal Arinze

May 17 — 9 am
Wake Forest University commencement address by Cardinal Arinze

7 pm
Concelebrated Mass with Cardinal Arinze, Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

May 19 — 9:30 am
May Crowning
St. Ann School, Charlotte

7 pm
Confirmation
Holy Family, Clemmons

Diocesan planner

May

19 BOONE — An informational session on The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) program, which provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those preparing for or engaged in a variety of ministry, is today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 256 Pilgrims Way. For details, call Peg Ruble at (704) 845-2649 or Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013.

20 CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based weight loss seminar begins today with a free informational session at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Registration for the seminar is $103. For more information, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., today at 7:30 p.m.

21 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, a home-school support group, meets today at 6 p.m. for a picnic potluck dinner. All families are welcome. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

HICKORY — Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke, a counseling psychologist, leads "Healing for Traumatic Pregnancy Loss," a workshop for professional counselors, physicians, nurses, peer counselors, pregnancy center volunteers, campus ministers and clergy, today at the Catholic Conference Center from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The presentation is to help participants better understand how abortion affects women, men and families. The fee is $50 for professionals, $30 for pregnancy care volunteers and other volunteers, and $15 for full-time students. Send checks payable to Transfiguration Ministries, Inc., to Dr. Martha Shuping, 1400-B Millgate Dr., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Call Shuping

CNS photo from Reuters

A U.S. Air Force serviceman helps a Kosovo refugee woman as she deplanes at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. The March 5 flight carried 453 refugees from Macedonia to the United States.

Refugee airlift to U.S. eases overcrowding in Macedonia

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — When a planeload of 453 Kosovar refugees took off from Macedonia for the United States, it left a little more breathing space in a camp managed by Catholic Relief Services.

The flight May 5 was the first of many U.S.-bound airlifts aimed at easing the growing humanitarian crisis in northern Macedonia, where CRS administers Stenkovac I, the country's largest refugee camp at a former airfield in Brazda.

During the last three weeks of April, the camp's population mushroomed from 18,000 to more than 30,000, as refugees continued to flow over the Kosovo-Macedonian border. That meant more crowded conditions, more sanitation problems and more human tensions in the camp, said Nancy Shalala, a CRS spokeswoman in Macedonia.

"The biggest problem for us is that there's simply not enough ground space to erect tents. There's a severe shortage of land," Shalala said in a telephone interview May 5.

Macedonian farmers who own property surrounding Stenkovac I have been offered money to lease it to humanitarian organizations, but have refused. One expanded area of tents, approved by the Macedonian government, had to be dismantled after angry farmers objected, Shalala said.

The refugees' presence is a hot political issue among Macedonians, who fear that the newly arrived Kosovars may never leave, adding to the country's growing population of ethnic Albanians. That's one reason why CRS is emphasizing the need to speed up the airlifts to third countries and relieve the pressure on Macedonia, Shalala said.

At the end of April, some 25,000 refugees had been flown out of Macedonia to other host countries. But more than 165,000 Kosovars remained. That led Macedonian authorities to temporarily close the border to arriving refugees in early May.

Shalala said the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia is also taking a huge toll on the Macedonian

See REFUGEE AIRLIFT, page 12

Diocese of Charlotte preparing for refugees' arrival

CHARLOTTE — As many North Carolinians express concern by the conditions and suffering of the Kosovo refugees and seek ways to help, local resettlement agencies, along with the State of North Carolina's Division of Social Services' Refugee Office, are making preparations for families who may soon be arriving in the state.

The first planeloads of Kosovar refugees, from the camps in Macedonia, began arriving in the United States May 5 at Fort Dix, N.J.

The Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte has assisted local Albanian families to apply for their relatives in Macedonia and Albania. Seventy Kosovar refugees are expected to arrive in Charlotte to join their relatives soon, the office announced May 11.

In addition, the Refugee Resettlement Office expects about 50 more refugees with no family ties in the area. The most vulnerable are expected to be women with young children, frail elderly, and those in need of emergency medical care. Family groups range in size from seven to 15 persons.

"These refugees will need many resources from our community in order to make a successful transition," said Cira Ponce, director of the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office.

"This is an excellent opportunity to become a missionary right in your own backyard," added Sonia Hayden, coordinator of volunteer services.

There are a number of ways you can help provide for the refugees' special needs, including resources and volunteer work.

Among the most pressing resource needs are financial resources, which are tax-deductible and can be used where most needed; housing, both temporary and long term, in the Charlotte area; furniture, especially bedroom and kitchen furniture, and other household items; storage facilities in Charlotte for housing donations; and automobiles in good working condition.

Volunteers most requested for service include interpreters who speak Albanian; medical personnel who can provide screening and emergency medical care if necessary; mental health professionals who can provide counseling for children and adults; persons to become "American friends" to help with social adjustment and orientation, transportation, and other needs; and English tutors. ▼

To become part of the resettlement program, contact Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services, United States Catholic Conference, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203-3405, (704) 370-6930 (phone), (704) 370-3290 (fax).

Monetary donations may be sent to the Refugee Resettlement Office at the above address. Make checks payable to CSS Refugee Resettlement Office — Kosovo Relief.

---

for details at (336) 659-1342.

22 GREENSBORO — Players, advertisers and sponsors are invited to participate in the Our Lady of Grace School Golf Classic, the school's annual education fund-raiser, starting at 7 a.m. today at the Grandover Resort Golf Course. Cost to play is $99, which includes course play, a golf shirt and a catered luncheon. Proceeds will provide for instructional materials, information technology, media center resources, scholarship endowment funding, athletics and fine arts. For details call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 548-4325.

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Monica's Guild of St. Benedict the Moor Church hosts its spring retreat in the parish hall beneath the church, 1625 E. 12th St., today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Special speaker is Mercy Sister Laretta Rivera-Williams, a parish administrator, religious educator and liturgist. Lunch will be served in the parish hall. For more information, call (336) 725-9200.

23 CHARLOTTE — Ultreya, a Christian community, meets to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen for details at (704) 542-1241.

26 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women hosts its May luncheon, including a fashion show, today at 12 noon at the Sedgefield Country Club. Cost is $15 per person, and guests are welcome. Send checks to Lillian Leonard, 828 Pebble Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410 by May 21. For details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

27 ASHEVILLE — Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry hosts a healing Mass today at 7 p.m. in St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 919 Haywood Rd., for anyone in need of spiritual, emotional or physical healing. Refreshments will follow. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — "Who Do You Say I Am?", a Scripture series studying the early church's focus on Jesus' ministry, is June 14 through June 18 at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.. Tuition is $6 per day, or $30 for all sessions. Send checks, payable to St. Gabriel Catholic Church, to Caryn Cusick, St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28211. Childcare ($3 per day) and vacation Bible school ($25 for the week) will be offered the same days for children ages 4 through the fourth grade. Register by May 24 by calling Mary Ellen Paine at (704) 362-5047, ext. 272.

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 16 in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate Aug. 1 through Aug. 6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Christians, Muslims must promote dialogue, respect

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The faith Christians and Muslims share in one God as the creator of all must lead to a renunciation of violence and a commitment to promoting dialogue and respect, Pope John Paul II said.

"In today's world, tragically marked by a tendency to forget God, Christians and Muslims are called always to defend and promote human dignity, moral values and freedom in a spirit of love," the pope said May 5 at his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, the pope called on nations to maintain the commitments made at the 1994 U.N. Conference on Population and Development to respect the right to life, moral values and religious sensitivities in development programs.

The pope said a follow-up meeting to the Cairo conference, being held in New York, must look at problems connected with population growth in ways that respect human dignity and the role of the family in protecting "human, spiritual and moral values."

In his main audience talk, Pope John Paul said the Catholic Church respects Muslims for their faith in God and for their emphasis on doing God's will.

"This willingness and openness to the will of God translates into an attitude of prayer that expresses the existential situation of each person before the Creator," the pope said.

While Christians and Muslims believe in one God, he said, Muslims do not accept the Christian belief in the Trinity.

"We know, in fact, that the unity of God expresses itself in the mystery of the three divine persons. Being love, God is always the Father who gives himself completely generating the Son, both of whom are united in a communion of love which is the Holy Spirit," the pope said.

Belief in the Trinity does not contradict faith in one God, but explains God's oneness, he said.

"It should not be forgotten that the Trinitarian monotheism of Christianity remains a mystery inaccessible to human reason," which must be accepted on faith, the pope said.

The differences between Christianity and Islam should not detract from the common obligations Christians and Muslims have to serve God and love his creation, he said.

"The common pilgrimage toward eternity must be expressed in prayer, fasting and charity," Pope John Paul said, and "also in a commitment of solidarity for peace and justice, for the promotion of the human person and protection of the environment."

"Walking together on the path of reconciliation and, in humble submission to God's will, renouncing every form of violence as a means of resolving differences, the two religions can offer a sign of hope, making the wisdom and mercy of the one God who created and governs the human family shine in the world," the pope said.

Strategic Planning

CAROL BROWN
Guest Columnist

Formational Ministries Committee

The Formational Ministries Committee is made up of 22 members representing diverse segments of our diocesan population. They are lay and religious, representing many diverse roles in the Diocese of Charlotte. They represent directors and coordinators of faith formation, youth ministers, campus ministers, leaders engaged in adult education and RCIA, diocesan staff and active parishioners.

These dedicated individuals have been meeting since September to assess the needs for our diocese over the next 20 years. Bishop Curlin's mission statement for the Strategic Planning Process includes the following statements: To meet the demands of the future, the faithful of all age groups and ethnic backgrounds need to be properly formed in the faith. Those who have fallen away from the faith should be invited to return to the church. We need to provide programs that will welcome them back to the faith community in a spirit of love and reconciliation.

These statements form the basis for the work of the Formational Ministries Committee. The committee's mission, as defined by its members, is to recommend a framework which promotes formation and lifelong learning in the Catholic faith to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population in the Diocese of Charlotte, and resulting in all baptized persons being engaged in discipleship.

In contemplating goals for the next 20 years, members of the committee have reiterated at each meeting the primacy of adult formation. In the past, faith formation programs have primarily been directed toward children and youth. While this continues to remain an important function of our church, the evangelization and catechesis of adults should have a place of primary emphasis within the diocese and each parish. Frequently, Catholics have the perception that confirmation is the culmination of the "learning phase" of our lives as Catholics.

On the contrary, it is imperative for each Catholic, each parish, and the diocese, to provide for the continuing growth and understanding of our faith throughout our lives. Only then can we fully become Christian disciples, sharing our faith with one another, and witnessing to the principles of Christian discipleship throughout our daily lives. A key goal of this committee, therefore, "is to develop mature adult discipleship which is essential to lifelong faith formation from which all other ministries flow."

The committee has been concerned that evangelization must become the driving force for all Catholics in their call to discipleship. Above all, we must strive to form a Catholic population that is open to the guidance of the Spirit, and in tune with the message of the Gospel. Perhaps, we will finally become the "salt" and the "leaven" that will transform our society in the 21st century.

The members of the Formational Ministries Committee welcome the views and ideas of Catholics throughout the diocese. Please feel free to send your comments or suggestions to the Formational Ministries Committee in care of the Faith Formation Office, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or send them to Carol Brown, Chairperson, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Boone, NC 28607.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

The measurement of success

The academic year is coming to an end and graduation is almost upon us. Universities enter into a process of launching this time of year. College graduates, after years of study and preparation, ably land into the job market. The landings of their launchings are the measures of success for educational institutions. They tout their track records as evidence of their quality.

Families face a similar phase of launching. This may occur when children go away to college, graduate school, or the military. It may occur when they marry, enter the job market, or move out on their own. Measurements of quality and success, however, aren't as clear for families as for the academy.

We may think our success is in the productivity our offsprings generate in the marketplace. Achieving the prestige of certain professions (e.g., doctor, lawyer, engineer, or priest) may for some be evidence of successful family formation.

Yet, so many high achieving young people matriculate into a life of high salaries and/or prestigious professions and find it difficult to experience happiness. The experience of "is that all there is?" supplants in them feelings of disillusionment where there once was wide-eyed hope. The gaping gulf between the dream and reality stifles them and leaves them jaded, cynical.

So, what went wrong?

Our measure of success as families has little, if anything, to do with the market potential of our launched young adult children. Nor does the prestige of any profession, no matter how noble, determine for them a life of happiness. The successful family teaches children how to live well. Living well, in our opinions, is having the ability — skills, if you will — to love and be receptive to love, and to choose happiness.

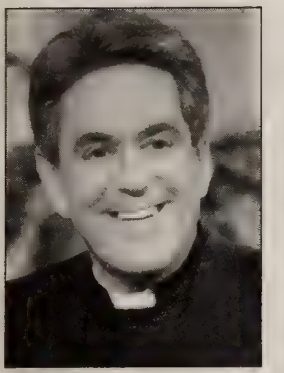
Foremost to skillful loving is the willingness to compromise and negotiate. Having a sense of abundance gives us capacity for generosity. This makes compromising and negotiating less threatening. Love won't run out; you can never give or get too much of it. Loving families resist zero sum thinking.

Winning is a group project that is not at the expense of anyone. Compliments are commonplace. Apologies are given readily. Forgiveness flows easily. People are more important than things. Living well, for successful families, has more to do with whom you're with than what you have. Love is a verb, not a noun.

The ability to choose happiness develops from the ability to make decisions. Parents who direct the lives of their adult children have not succeeded in teaching them to choose happiness. As the child transitions into adulthood, so should their relationship with the parents. An indicator of successful parenting is the adult to adult relationship with the launched offspring. We've heard it said, "The parents' role shifts from being C.E.O. to outside consultant."

Your adult child may not have found success in the marketplace and enjoy a high-paying career. However, if they have good people in their lives whom they love and who love them, and if they are capable of choosing happiness, to you God says, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Future memories

Preparing to write a column on Memorial Day got me to thinking about the marvel and usefulness of memory itself. Memory is the treasury of the mind where all our monuments to success and failure are kept. And it is from memory that we draw our lessons for future actions.

What if we could project into the future and forecast what might be the collective memory of a generation, say, in the year 2021? In that year people born between 1961 and 1980 — Generation X — will begin turning 60. What will be their memories? And what will they do with those memories?

These are questions Dr. William Thorn, chair of the renowned journalism department at Marquette University, has raised with his students. His intriguing, even stunning, conclusions are presented in an essay in the Catholic Press Association's book "The Mission and Future of the Catholic Press."

Dr. Thorn agrees with historian David Hackett Fischer who dubbed Generation X, the "13th Generation," suggesting that it may be the unluckiest in American history. "It was the first to learn what no one should know: whether they were conceived by mistake, by intention, by contraceptive failure, or some other purpose. Its numbers were reduced by legalized abortion; its members learned firsthand about abortion of unwanted siblings, cousins, and children of high school friends and classmates."

Other memories: "skyrocketing divorce rates, failed educational experiments, drug abuse, AIDS; [as the first latchkey children] grew up in day care and a milieu of constantly changing caretakers, because no extended family was available when the parent(s) went off to work." Many "grew up in a Church which offered little shelter against the storms raging outside."

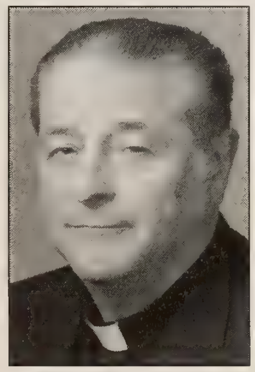
Yet, owing to these memories, Dr. Thorn argues optimistically that Generation X will reverse some of the priorities of their elders by creating a world that reflects their own priorities and values. "A pragmatic, problem-solving generation, they will stabilize family, church, and society to assure their children never have to endure the things which scarred their own childhood. They will sacrifice themselves to solve the problems they inherited ...[and] seek a life balanced in favor of family and close relationships with their children." They have the opportunity to choose "community cohesion and relationships over domination and winning, family over career, teamwork over individualism."

William Thorn is wise enough to know that "the reality of the future will embarrass those who dare to predict." Still, I hope he is right about the choices and priorities that today's young adults will have to make as they become the decision-makers and leaders in this soon-to-be new millennium.

Every generation has its choices to make. All of us are strongly affected by the events that shape our lives, by the choices of those who have gone before us. And each one of us has the chance to create memories. If we are interested in doing the right thing for ourselves and our world, we will not waste time regretting mistakes — our own or those of anyone else.

Instead, we can take a positive approach. A Sanskrit poem expresses it well: "Look to this day... For yesterday is but a dream, And tomorrow is only a vision: But today, well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, And every tomorrow a vision of hope."

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Dying loved one's troubling wish

Q. Your column is always helpful, and we hope you can assist us in a family problem. My eldest brother is seriously ill with lung cancer. Although he was raised a Catholic, he hasn't practiced his faith since childhood.

He wishes to be cremated, with no religious service whatever. His brothers and sisters don't know what to do and are upset over this situation. Do you have any suggestions on how we can handle it?

A. Normally, we all want to respect the wishes of a loved one who is dying or has died. The church always tries to do this. Obviously you and the rest of your family do also. There may not be a great deal you can do.

I don't know how close you are to him, of course. But how would he react to your telling him that, while a Catholic funeral of some sort (prayers, Scripture and so on) may mean nothing to him, it would be very important and spiritually valuable for the rest of you?

Perhaps he would change his mind for your sakes. At least it would give him something to think about concerning his faith and yours.

If that is not possible, the rest of you may arrange a memorial Mass after his death, not to challenge his wishes, but to give yourselves an opportunity to express your own faith, to pray for him and to thank God for his life.

Who was Melchizedek?

Q. The Bible often quotes the phrase "the order of Melchizedek." All I can find about this man is that he was a pagan priest. Who was he, and why is he so important?

A. The book of Genesis (14) tells us that once when Abraham was returning victorious from battle he encountered "Melchizedek, king of Salem" and "priest of God most high." Melchizedek blessed Abraham, who in turn gave the priest a 10th of his spoils or possessions.

Centuries later, Psalm 110 named King David "a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Understanding Salem to mean Jerusalem, the city David conquered and made his capital, the psalm apparently intended to infer that David united in himself both kingly and priestly dignity and power.

For Christians, the most significant references to Melchizedek (the only ones in the New Testament) are in the Letter to the Hebrews. They maintain that Jesus himself is the "priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" spoken of in the psalm.

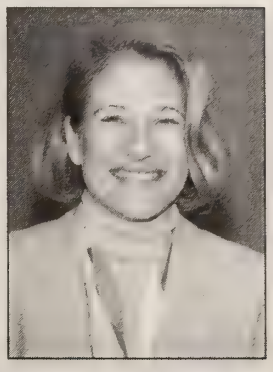
If Abraham, the venerable patriarch of the Jews, was blessed by Melchizedek and paid him tithes, then Melchizedek must be the superior of the two. The inferior person is always the one who is blessed by the greater.

Thus, argues the author of Hebrews, since the priesthood of Jesus is in the "order of Melchizedek," then Jesus, too, must be greater than Abraham. (5-7)

Those are the only three books in our Bible that mention Melchizedek. One of the Books of Enoch, however, which may go back to early Christian times and were often considered revered writings among the Jews, tells that Melchizedek was conceived without sexual intercourse, and was born from his dead mother's body. He was taken to paradise, where he awaits a new Melchizedek, who will be greater than all former priests and kings. (2 Enoch)

Since the Letter to the Hebrews mentions this Enoch, the father of Methuselah, as one of the faithful heroes of the past (Heb 11:5), it is conceivable that this legend had some influence on what the author of Hebrews teaches about the priesthood of Christ.

Planned Giving



CINDY RICE
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING

Tributes for people you love

Spring is one of the most glorious times of the year. It is a time for reflection and spiritual renewal. It is also a time to celebrate those people who have touched our lives in profound and meaningful ways. On Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, and other special occasions, we try to find gifts to express how we truly feel about those dearest to our hearts.

Instead of giving flowers, consider a gift that will tangibly benefit the entire Catholic community – a gift in memory or tribute to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the foundation.

Who has touched your heart?

It may be your grandmother whose faith inspired you, or perhaps your best friend who has seen you through thick and thin. Maybe you would like to commemorate your parent's 50th wedding anniversary. These are just a few reasons people make memorial and honor gifts to the church. Such a gift allows donors to remember loved ones, including those no longer with us, in a fitting, meaningful way.

What should be given?

Gifts made in honor of a loved one are most often made in the form of a check. This is a convenient method for the giver, provides a tax deduction within allowable limits for those who itemize their deductions, and can readily be put to good use by the church.

But cash is only one of many funding sources for memorial gifts. Do you own assets such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds that have increased in value? If so, such assets can also be used to make gifts in honor of others. In addition, by using appreciated assets to create a memorial or honor gift, you can receive extra tax savings.

When you fund a memorial gift with an appreciated stock you have owned for more than one year, you can deduct the entire market value from your taxable income. Plus you avoid any capital gains tax on the stock because you donated it for charitable use. These additional tax savings are why many people prefer to make memorial gifts using assets other than cash.

Memorials as a legacy

You may also establish memorial gifts through your estate plans, such as your will, living trust, or other arrangements. Some families in our diocese have made provisions through their estate plans to establish endowments in the diocesan foundation as permanent tributes to loved ones. These endowments will leave a legacy serving generations of Catholics in western North Carolina and will be a perpetual tribute in honor of those for whom they are named.

For more information about memorial giving, please feel free to contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, (704) 370-3320, or Jim Kelley, director of development, at (704) 370-3301.

عزمي بشارة
لرئاسة الحكومة

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Arab Israeli runs for prime minister in national elections

Azmi Bishara, the first non-Jew to run for prime minister of Israel, attends a campaign rally May 9 in the northern village of Tarsheeha. Bishara, a Catholic from Nazareth, said he did not expect to win, but the goal of his candidacy was to draw attention to Arab concerns. "The absence of an Arab in the elections means an absence of Arab issues in these elections. I don't want to be prime minister. This candidacy is an important and influential card," Bishara told a press conference when he announced his candidacy.

Bishops of Ethiopia, Eritrea decry war, urge government reform

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ethiopia and Eritrea must teach their people peace while undertaking government reforms to ensure an end to war, the two countries' bishops said. Capping a four-day meeting at the Vatican, the church leaders appealed to individuals and civil institutions to promote "an attitude of reconciliation and a courageous public commitment to the future of peace."

Msgr. James McCarthy named New York auxiliary bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Msgr. James F. McCarthy as auxiliary bishop of the New York Archdiocese. Bishop-designate McCarthy, 56, is pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Shrub Oak, N.Y., and served as secretary to New York's Cardinal John J. O'Connor for more than a decade. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington May 11.

N.M. bishop urges church to press Guatemala on Gerardi murder

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (CNS) — The Catholic Church should use its considerable influence to press the Guatemalan government to solve the year-old murder of a Catholic bishop there, said Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces. "It's time to mobilize, network and apply political pressure (on the Guatemalan government)," Bishop Ramirez said. "After all, the church is international." Bishop Ramirez represented U.S. Catholic bishops at an April 25 Mass in Guatemala City that marked the first anniversary of the bludgeoning death of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City.

Bishop Belo hails U.N.-mediated agreement on autonomy vote

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili, welcomed the U.N.-mediated agreement on broad-based autonomy for East Timor reached by Indonesia and Portugal. In an interview with UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Bishop Belo called the agreement an "excellent diplomatic achievement." "The important thing is the agreement to consult people regarding the final status of East Timor, as I proposed 10 years ago, but which was rejected (until now) by the government. I was accused of opposing the government policy, and the media criticized me. But now what I proposed 10 years ago is finally materializing," said the bishop, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.

Cardinal leads Holocaust workshop for Baltimore group

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Though it was his third visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore described the experience as "numbing." "One just has to be silent before these appalling scenes of inhumanity," the cardinal told Catholic News Service May 6 during a tour of the museum. The tour inaugurated a two-day Baltimore Archdiocesan Holocaust Workshop. Co-sponsored by the archdiocese and the Baltimore Jewish Council, the workshop brought 37 parish priests, deacons and lay leaders to the museum for a tour, candle lighting ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, and educational talks.

Archbishop Levada decries execution of California man

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — By executing Manuel Pina Babbitt May 4 the state of California provided "validation and support for the view that killing is an acceptable means" of solving problems and redressing grievances, said San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada. The execution of Babbitt, convicted in 1982 of killing a Sacramento grandmother in 1980, "reinforces our conviction that the death penalty should be abolished and replaced with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole," he said in a statement the same day. Several days before the execution Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law wrote to California Gov. Gray Davis asking that Babbitt's sentence be commuted to life in prison.

NCCB official says pope upholds Vatican II view of Jews

NEW YORK (CNS) — The new direction in Jewish relations endorsed by the Second Vatican Council has been institutionalized by Pope John Paul II and is sure to continue after him, according to the director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Addressing an interreligious audience in New York, Eugene J. Fisher said there were still anti-Semites among the world's 1 billion Catholics, but they are not among the cardinals. Most of the cardinals have been appointed by the current pope, and whoever is chosen to succeed him can be expected to continue his policies on Jewish relations, Fisher said.

Trip to free POWs in Yugoslavia called 'united plea of faith'

CHESTNUT HILL, Mass. (CNS) — A Jesuit theology professor from Boston College is back in the classroom after joining an interfaith delegation led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson to win the release of three American POWs held captive in Yugoslavia. "It was a united plea of faith to two sides who were seeing no way out of this cycle of violence," said Jesuit Father Raymond Helmick May 4. He commented at a press conference in Chestnut Hill at the Jesuit-run university a day after his return from a trip that not only put him in Belgrade but also in Washington, where the group met President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Czech cardinal gets police protection after death threats

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (CNS) — A Czech cardinal has been assigned police protection after receiving death threats. A spokesman for the Czech bishops' conference, Father Daniel Herman, said a series of anonymous Czech-language letters had reached his office from Britain and other countries threatening Cardinal Miloslav Vlk of Prague, president of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences. Father Herman said he and another priest, Father Tomas Halik, director of Prague's Christian Academy, also had been threatened with "physical violence" in letters received since late April.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL
MORTGAGE
STORE,
INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
• DEBT CONSOLIDATION
• LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
• CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Celebrating our 15th Anniversary!
On Time — Every Time.
United Mailing Service, Inc.
UMS
(704) 392-2805
(704) 392-2807, fax
Our modern 50,000 square foot facility allows us to offer you complete,state-of-the-art mailing services— with our emphasis on service!

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD
YES, IT WORKS!
The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...
"The Catholic News & Herald not only reaches my target market, but
I was amazed at how quickly ModularCorp actually had responses.
It has been a great investment."
— Daniel Murray, President, ModularCorp
Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...
For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal
Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete
medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Pope says Catholic-Orthodox paths are converging

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II sits with Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist during an arrival ceremony for the pope in Bucharest May 7. This was the first visit by a Catholic pontiff to the mainly Orthodox country.

BUCHAREST, Romania (CNS) — After 20 years of promoting Christian unity, Pope John Paul II flew to Romania, showing that the separate paths Catholics and Orthodox have traveled for more than 900 years are finally converging.

"At the end of the second millennium, the paths which were separated are beginning to draw near to each other, and we are witnessing the intensification of the ecumenical movement aimed at reaching the full unity of believers," the pope said May 9 during an evening Mass in Bucharest.

The Mass attended by Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist was the last event of the pope's three-day visit, his 86th foreign trip and his first to a predominantly Orthodox country.

While neither the pope nor the patriarch received Communion from each other, they attended each other's liturgies — wearing their liturgical vestments, processing together to the altars and jointly blessing the mixed Catholic and Orthodox crowds.

At the morning Divine Liturgy celebrated by Patriarch Teoctist, he and the pope — both carrying their processional staffs — met on a pathway in front of the altar and kissed each other on both cheeks before kissing a large stone cross.

At the end of the liturgy, Patriarch Teoctist gave Pope John Paul a pectoral cross, placing it around his neck. Then, the two gave each other chalices.

The May 9 service was not the first Orthodox Divine Liturgy the pope had attended; during a 1979 trip to Turkey, he was present at a Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople.

But Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said the level of the pope and Romanian patriarch's joint activity during the trip was unprecedented.

At the evening Mass, the pope told the crowd, "I am here among you pushed only by the desire for authentic unity.

"Not long ago it was unthinkable that the bishop of Rome could visit his brothers and sisters in the faith who live in Romania," he said. "Today, after a long winter of suffering and persecution, we can finally exchange the kiss of peace and together praise the Lord."

As he did throughout the trip, Pope John Paul acknowledged how much Romania's Catholic minority had suffered, especially under communism, but he told Catholics their well-tested faith in Christ must give them the strength to overcome their differences with the Orthodox and work with them to preach the faith.

In an evening meeting May 8 with Patriarch Teoctist and the country's three dozen Orthodox bishops, Pope John Paul said it was time for Catholics and Orthodox to admit their own mistakes, then move on to their main task, which is proclaiming together salvation in Christ.

"Common witness is a strong means of evangelization," the pope said. "Division, on the contrary, marks the victory of darkness over light."

The pope said he hoped his visit would promote a healing of hurt feelings and painful memories from past tensions between Catholics and Orthodox in Romania.

While throughout the trip Pope John Paul made extraordinary gestures honoring the predominant place Orthodoxy holds in Romania — including visiting the Orthodox cathedral before going anywhere else and having Patriarch Teoctist join him in the popemobile — he also called repeatedly for equality for the country's Catholics.

Justice, he said, includes returning to the Catholic community more of the schools and churches the communist government confiscated and, in many cases, handed over to the Orthodox.

Emphasizing that he was not pointing a finger at the Orthodox, he asked the Orthodox to recognize how much the country's Eastern Catholic Church suffered after it was outlawed in 1948.

"The Romanian Greek Catholic Church underwent decades of violent repression; its rights were battered and violated. Its children suffered greatly, some of them making the supreme witness of shedding their blood," the pope told the Orthodox synod.

"The end of the persecution has brought freedom, but the problem of church structures still awaits a definitive solution," he said, referring to the continuing property disputes.

To facilitate the papal visit, Eastern Catholics in Romania promised to withdraw lawsuits demanding the return of all their property and instead submit the disputes to a Catholic-Orthodox commission.

"Let dialogue be the way to heal the

See POPE-ROMANIA, page 9

Please join us...

Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate

For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Charities, parishes help tornado-stricken Great Plains residents

By **MARK PATTISON**
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities agencies and individual parishes are doing their best to help Catholic families devastated by the tornadoes that swept through the Great Plains May 3.

An emergency relief system in Oklahoma City, where many of the twisters set down, was working well because of the extensive use it received four years ago during the bombing of the federal building there.

Housing and transportation have been the biggest needs for families who lost virtually everything in the funnel clouds.

Church resources have been strained in the effort to help.

Shirley Cox is director of social action for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. "But I haven't been doing too much lobbying the past week" she noted, as she has been reassigned to pitch in with tornado relief efforts. She said hundreds of calls had been made to Catholic Charities in the week following the tornadoes.

Cox estimated that Catholic Charities in the week following the tornadoes helped 25 families who didn't go through the protocol with temporary emergency assistance.

Many of these people, Cox added, had just been released from hospitals for injuries sustained during the tornadoes.

Cox said Catholic Charities has been helping sort goods, including all kinds of food and clothing, donated in the wake of the tornadoes. She added that "the state of Oklahoma is inundated with goods. We don't need any more goods!"

She said Catholic Charities' next step was going to be a parish-to-family program in which a parish would adopt a family who suffered severe losses in the twisters.

Catholic Charities has sent all of its social workers to hospitals to help families deal with grief and loss issues in the twisters' wake. Cox said it would soon send social workers to work for an open-ended time out of three parishes hard-hit by the tornadoes.

[Cox] said Catholic Charities' next step was going to be a parish-to-family program in which a parish would adopt a family who suffered severe losses in the twisters.

And to help families who lost loved ones, Catholic Charities has offered up to $200 to help pay for flowers, death certificates and death notices. The most recent estimates attributed 41 deaths to the tornadoes.

While Oklahoma was receiving plenty of goods, such was not the case in the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., where clothing, cleaning supplies and trash bags were still being sought by the diocesan Catholic Charities office.

"What we're looking at is meeting of some of the more delayed needs," said Kelly Goss, communications director for Catholic Charities of Wichita.

Goss explained it this way: In the first days after a tornado, victims , once their own health is assured, are interested in retrieving what they can from what's left of their home. But, she said, "the emotional healing part of it" takes longer to recognize.

She said, "We've had more calls from people wanting to help than people needing help." Goss added that Catholic Charities clients already being served were in particular need of aid after the twisters.

Father Ken Kulinski, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in the Oklahoma City suburb of Del City, Okla., said that while no deaths or injuries were reported, 17 families in his parish lost their homes due to twisters.

A relief agency set up shop in the parish hall with food, clothing, household equipment, bedding, and "all kinds of things people need," he said.

The parish organized able-bodied men to help families sift through the rubble that was once their homes to pull out any salvageable items.

"Most of the people in the parish who were affected were elderly," Father Kulinski said. "The upheaval is starting to set in. Now they're dealing with the tremendous loss. Everything they had is gone." ▼

Donations can be sent to Catholic Charities, 437 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67202, and should be marked tornado relief.

Church and media can bring hope, says pope

By **CINDY WOODEN**
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church and the mass media have expertise and gifts which, if shared, can help the world's people make sense of events and face the future with hope, Pope John Paul II said.

"Every form of cooperation will be for the good of everyone," the pope said in his message for World Communications Day 1999, to be marked May 16 in most dioceses.

"Mass media: A friendly companion for those in search of the Father" is the theme for the 1999 celebration.

"To be human is to go in search," the pope said in the text released Jan. 29 at the Vatican. Ultimately, to search is to look for meaning which is found most fully in God, he said.

With its huge influence, he said, the media have a special responsibility to all who are searching: "to witness to the truth about life, about human dignity, about the true meaning of our freedom and mutual independence."

The Catholic Church can help the media reach the heights of its potential, he said, but the church also can learn from the media and benefit from its proper use.

"The church's culture of remembrance can save the media culture of transitory 'news' from becoming a forgetfulness which corrodes hope; and the media can help the church to proclaim the Gospel in all its enduring freshness in the everyday reality of people's lives," the pope said.

The church's "culture of wisdom" can help the media's "culture of information" ensure that it is not simply presenting meaningless facts, he said. And the media can help the church keep abreast of new discoveries and knowledge.

"The church's culture of joy can save the media culture of entertainment from becoming a soulless flight from truth and responsibility; and the media can help the church to understand better how to communicate with people in a way that appeals and even delights," he said.

The church and the media, Pope John Paul said, must cooperate to ensure that the media bring people together, that it not be "a force which destroys, but a love which creates," a love which reflects the love of God the Father. ▼

Carolina

Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen

6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

El Grupo, from page 1

was killed in 1989. The song also tells the group's story of their refugee experience.

Some songs — with titles like "Development," "Literacy," and "Victory Is" — focus on survival.

Courageous pride in their people's journey is a common theme.

"Long live our city, Segundo Montes, named for a man who so loved peace," the group sings. "Long live this courageous people. Long live solidarity!"

Here ...

The Charlotte concert featuring "El Grupo Morazán" is a happy reunion of sorts.

It was springtime in 1990 when Father Miguel Ventura, a Salvadoran priest serving in the Segundo Montes area, visited St. Peter Church as part of a missionary effort to garner interest in supporting the Central American community. The stories of the Salvadoran refugees' spirit of survival sparked the interest of the parish.

Support of Segundo Montes seemed a natural choice. Parishioners Barney and Jan Valder Offerman — seeking a way to commemorate the life of their son, Patrick, who died in May 1990 — offered memorial funds to open school buildings in the Salvadoran community.

A relationship between St. Peter Church and Segundo Montes was born.

More financial and pastoral aid followed. The parish has hosted breakfasts and raffles whose proceeds benefit Segundo Montes. An El Salvador interest group budded at the parish, and now meets monthly with as many as 30 parishioners involved.

"What we have tried to do the whole time, and what they ask for, is to listen to them and to tell their stories," says Jan Valder Offerman. "There's a feeling of community that they're striving to hang on to, and hopefully our interest can help them do that a little bit."

... and there

While "El Grupo Morazán" sings of advances made since the civil war's end, much still needs to be done in El Salvador.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

"El Grupo Morázan" plays a song of hope and faith during their concert at St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte. In addition to the parish concert, the group also performed at Charlotte Catholic and North Mecklenburg high schools during their Charlotte stay.

"It was really a transforming experience for me," says Sister Eileen McLoughlin of her journey to Segundo Montes earlier this year. "I was deeply moved by the faith and strength of the Salvadoran people in the midst of their suffering, and amid ashes of such destruction."

Sister Eileen, a Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity and a member of the interest group at St. Peter Church, was part of this year's parish delegation who traveled to the Central American country.

It's the seventh time in the past eight years that St. Peter's has sent a delegation to El Salvador.

Sister Eileen speaks of her anger and sadness at witnessing people bathing in water polluted with human waste, at seeing children and elderly languish in grossly understaffed and under-equipped day care centers, at hearing tear-filled stories from mothers who have lost their sons in the war.

Like most of El Salvador, Segundo Montes is still racked with rampant poverty, poor infrastructure and the task of facing the horrors of the past. "But there is hope, there is faith, there is love," says Sister Eileen. "As sad as it was, they're rebuilding. They're a real Christian community where they share everything."

The people of Segundo Montes, most of whom are Catholic, have constructed a church with their own hands. A pastoral team provides countless areas of outreach. People are constantly working to ensure that basic human needs are being met. Cultural exchanges between Segundo Montes and other communities are organized by Voices on the Border, an organization based in Washington, D.C.

Sister Eileen says the parish interest group's presence is mutually beneficial. "You go to support the people and hear their stories," she adds. "If there's going to be any healing, they have to be able to be heard and loved and respected, and helped in their right of self-determination."

Ambassadors of hope

In Segundo Montes, "El Grupo" members spend their days teaching music full time at the community's Art and Culture Center. The music school is yet another small step toward a hope-filled tomorrow for the people El Salvador.

"This is an unusual, unique group," says Tom Kelleher, a member of St. Peter's El Salvador interest group. "Their songs are from the heart, and they have an important message.

"I've never seen people, despite all the tragedy in their lives, with such happiness." ▾

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Pope-Romania, from page 7

still-open wounds and resolve the difficulties which continue today," Pope John Paul told the Orthodox prelates.

"The victory of love will be an example not only for the churches, but for all society," he said.

At the meeting, in which the pope and patriarch issued a common appeal for peace in Yugoslavia, the pope said Europe and the world "need a witness of fraternal love" to overcome "hatred and quarrels and to open hearts to reconciliation."

"Who will forgive us if we fail to witness?" he asked.

"I have sought unity with all my strength, and I will continue to dedicate myself to this because it should be among the priority concerns of the churches and those who govern them," the pope told the Orthodox.

Patriarch Teoctist, addressing the same gathering May 8, said he hoped the pope's visit would give new energy to Catholic-Orthodox dialogue in Romania.

"Certainly, along the path toward full communion there still exist wounds inflicted in the past which have not completely healed," the patriarch said.

But, he said, the Orthodox are committed to highlighting the elements of faith and culture they already share with their Catholic neighbors.

At the Divine Liturgy he celebrated the next morning, Patriarch Teoctist said Christians must repent for the scandal and the hurt their divisions have caused believers and unbelievers alike.

"We believe the Christian churches must unite their efforts and concentrate on the work of the sanctification of man and the world," the patriarch said. "We give Christ to the world. What can we offer the world that is more precious than God himself?" ▾

Express Press Ltd. FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS • ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) Member St. John Neumann

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others
Need extra cash?
PartyLite® offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities
• No cash investment
Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite® Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

Book Review

Historian tracks down story of pope and his pachyderm

By GERARD PERSEGHIN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It all started when Washingtonian historian Silvio Bedini visited the Vatican and started asking about a pope who had an elephant.

In an age when Pope John Paul II gives priority to the poor and asks the faithful to be mindful of the need for justice, a pope who keeps an elephant no longer fits the picture.

"I got the whole Vatican upset when I started asking about it," said Bedini, 82, talking about research that began in 1977.

In an interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington's archdiocesan newspaper, he talked about how he began to write "The Pope's Elephant," first published in Britain and published in the United States in late 1998 by J.S. Sanders & Co. of Nashville, Tenn.

It is one of more than 20 books Bedini has written during a lifetime of researching and collecting that has taken him back and forth across the Atlantic.

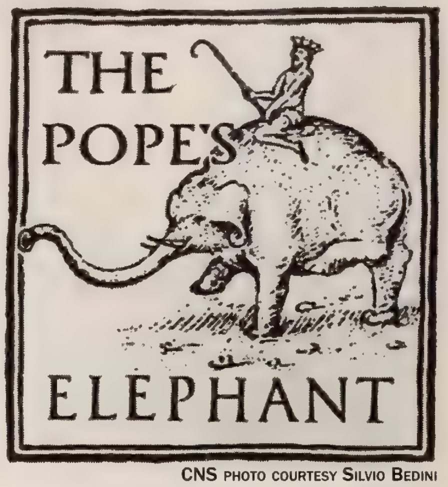
In 1514 Pope Leo X was presented with a young elephant with lots of personality. The king of Portugal, Manuel I, had sent it, along with an aide as part of the so-called "mission of obedience" which heads of state accorded a newly elected pontiff.

Since Pope Leo was born Giovanni de' Medici, of the aristocratic Florentine clan, he knew luxury, and Manuel knew the pope would appreciate the luxury of a rare beast seldom seen in Europe. That was especially so when the elephant named Hanno knelt before the pontiff as if it recognized the vicar of the church, then stood, dipped his trunk into a barrel of water, raised it, and spritzed everyone in a baptismal-like greeting.

The story Bedini tells of how the elephant was brought from India draws on the texts of obscure documents he researched in the Vatican, in Portugal, in Spain, in Paris at the Louvre, and many other places. What he couldn't find, like how much Hanno ate daily, he estimates from contemporary scientific information.

"The Pope's Elephant"

By Silvio Bedini
Published in the United States by J.S. Sanders & Company, Nashville, TN



CNS photo courtesy Silvio Bedini

In this antique print, an Indian mahout guides Hanno, the pet elephant of Pope Leo X.

Gaining access to so much information that might still be moldering in archives is one of the major talents of Bedini, who is historian emeritus at the Smithsonian and former deputy director of the National Museum of History and Technology, now the National Museum of American History. He knows his way around some of the best archives in Europe.

He found references to Hanno, Pope Leo's elephant, all over; no one questioned why elephants turned up in depictions of adorations of the magi, in a fresco, in an epitaph, and were featured in works by Raphael, Romano, and many others.

Bedini even turned up a majolica platter — richly colored and decorated Italian pottery — at London's Victoria and Albert Museum that shows the papal procession of Leo X on his "sedia gestatoria," the papal throne carried aloft, preceded by his beloved Hanno. That image is used on the dust jacket of the American edition of the book.

But "The Pope's Elephant" is not just about Hanno and Pope Leo X. Bedini points out that Martin Luther used the elephant to attack the pontiff, as a symbol of Leo's frivolity. And it was Leo who excommunicated Luther after Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. ▼

Word to Life

May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cycle A Readings:

1. Acts 1:12-14
   Psalm 27:11,4,7-8a
2. 1 Peter 4:13-16
3. John 17:1-11a

By SHARON K. PERKINS
Catholic News Service

Like most people, I heard the news about the shooting of high school students in Littleton, Colo., with great sadness and concern for the community. In the days that followed, however, the amount of media coverage — much of it repetitive — served both to numb and distance me from the event. That is, it did until I heard a radio announcer solemnly read the names of the victims over the air.

Suddenly, I could imagine each young person's face, and, having a teen-ager of my own, I could envision them obsessing over hairstyles, coming home from school ravenous, spending hours on the phone — doing those things that teens in America do. The images shocked me out of numbness and into the suffering of their parents.

The biblical authors of today's readings are concerned with names. Luke could have saved space in Acts by simply using the generic term "apostles"; yet he takes pains to mention them each by name, and in doing so he gives the Christian community a dose of concrete reality. Luke is saying, "If this experience of the risen Lord could happen to Peter and Bartholomew and Simon, it could just as easily happen to you."

In the "land of the living," God calls each individual by name, and so our relationship with him is concrete, personal and intimate.

The relationship is also mutual. We know the "only true God" because Jesus has revealed his Father to each of us — not as an impersonal, abstract being, but by name.

Of course, the "name above all names" gives meaning to our suffering, according to the First Letter of Peter. It is the name of Christ that identifies us as believers and imparts the blessing of God's Spirit. In Scripture, the name of a person is synonymous with his or her identity.

During the Easter season, as Christ calls each of us by our names, let us not be ashamed to suffer for his.

Questions:
How did you come to receive your own name — and does it have a special history or significance? In prayer, imagine God addressing you by your name. How does this deepen your experience of God?

"I revealed your name to those whom you gave me."
— *John 17:6.*

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 16 - 22, 1999

Sunday, Acts 1:12-14, 1 Peter 4:13-16, John 17:1-11; **Monday**, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday**, Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday**, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday**, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday**, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday**, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
Redecorating your gardens? Need new ideas?
Landscape Designer available to help with hundreds of plants and shrubs! Come Visit!
10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

For First Communion & Confirmations
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

TV Review

"Joan of Arc" mini-series to be aired on CBS

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Maid of Lorraine follows her voices to unify medieval France in the sprawling two-part spectacle, "Joan of Arc," airing Sunday, May 16, and Tuesday, May 18, 9-11 p.m. EDT both nights on CBS.

Sixteen-year-old Leelee Sobieski stars in the title role of the peasant girl who at 17 led an army to victory at Orleans, then was betrayed and burned at the stake two years later.

Choosing a teen-ager to play a teen-ager would seem obvious, though the historical Joan was obviously someone quite extraordinary, a person whose inner resources were far beyond her tender years.

While Sobieski certainly looks the part, she does not have the dramatic experience to convey the interior emotions and spiritual depths of the role.

Though the performance is not a debacle, it is almost as serious a handicap as that of the young Jean Seberg in the 1957 movie, "Saint Joan."

Scripted by Ronald Parker and Michael Miller, Sunday's episode follows Joan as she leaves loving mother (Jacqueline Bisset), brutish father (Powers Boothe) and friendly village priest (Robert Loggia) to serve the Dauphin, Charles (Neil Patrick Harris).

Charles agrees to let her lead an army to lift the English siege at Orleans, but her first battle is winning the loyalty of the army's commander, La Hire (Peter Strauss).

Tuesday's episode begins with Joan's great victory at Orleans, Charles' coronation as king, his betrayal of Joan to the Burgundians and their sale of her to the English who want to destroy her reputation by having the church condemn her as a heretic.

CNS photo from Reuters

Actress Leelee Sobieski, 16, portrays Joan of Arc in an Alliance-Atlantis production about the 15th-century French heroine. The film, which will air as a two-part miniseries on CBS on May 16 and 18, is the most expensive made-for-TV movie with a budget of $20 million.

Though the miniseries opens and closes with Joan's 1451 martyrdom at the stake, the script views her as a national heroine rather than a saint.

In fact, the foreword mistakes the 15th century for the Dark Ages and cites "the great prophet Merlin" as having foretold Joan's mission to "unite her divided people."

An afterword explains how France was joined after Joan's death and the annulment of her trial in 1456 but no mention of her canonization by Pope Benedict XV on May 16, 1920.

Director Christian Duguay succeeds best with the medieval spectacle of ornate costumes, exquisite castles, the clash of armies, court intrigues and political factions.

It's a muddled picture of a complicated period in which Joan's faith in her saintly voices is about as convincing as Joan's speedy but inconsistent trial by the Inquisition under a wild-eyed Peter O'Toole.

The result is an historical pageant, filled with colorful and energetic proceedings but it's all on the surface with little sense of the interior dimension of its adolescent heroine, St. Joan of Arc. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

New at the box office

"The Castle"

Sophomoric satire in which a good-hearted Australian family of nitwits refuses to let a planned airport expansion rob of them of their home and the case goes to Australia's highest court. Director Robert Sitch's goofy underdog tale is undercut by heavy-handed treatment of the comical situations. Minor menace and vandalism, occasional profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Mummy"

Spirited horror adventure set in 1920s Egypt where a treasure-hunting Yank (Brendan Fraser) and an archaeological librarian (Rachel Weisz) inadvertently revive a 3,000-year-old mummy (Arnold Vosloo) whose evil powers of destruction seemingly know no bounds. Writer-director Stephen Sommers stuffs the lavishly shot action movie with spooky special effects and a comical tone that generally adds up to rousing, old-fashioned entertainment. Recurring stylized violence and fleeting partial nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Fanciful adaptation of the Bard's comedy is updated to 1900 Tuscany in a magical forest where the fairy Puck (Stanley Tucci) causes all manner of romantic mix-ups overnight casting spells on mismatched young lovers (including Christian Bale and Calista Flockhart), an aspiring actor (Kevin Kline) and the fairy queen (Michelle Pfeiffer). Romantic complications and fleeting nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION
and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Refugee airlift,

from page 3

economy, which had traded heavily with Yugoslavia. More than 40,000 Macedonians have lost their jobs since the bombings began in late April, she said.

Inside Stenkovac I, the main logistical problem now is overcrowding, as more and more families have had to be squeezed into existing tent space. Tensions, fights and threats have increased along with people's frustration, and CRS had to call in Macedonian police in early May to quell a potential serious disturbance, Shalala said.

She said many of the logistical aspects of the camp — food distribution, sanitation, vaccination programs — have improved. Toilet areas are more plentiful, are lit at night and are guarded against vandalism by a "latrine police." The situation is better than in one nearby camp, where refugees must wait 20 minutes in line to go to the bathroom, she added.

CRS has helped provide activities for children, such as drawing, painting, theater and outdoor games. But despite attempts to organize community leadership, Shalala said, refugees have been slow to assume control of their own lives in the camp. Many have a sinking feeling that a return to their homeland in Kosovo may mean a wait of months or longer.

"In the beginning, almost all the refugees said they wanted to go back to Kosovo as soon as possible. But as this campaign has spread out over several weeks now, they're becoming a little more cynical about whether that will really be possible. Some want to get out of the region, not just return ... they're realizing that everything is destroyed back home," she said.

The refugees who left the Stenkovac I camp for Fort Dix, N.J., were mainly selected according to the amount of time they had spent in the camp. Most will be placed later with sponsoring families and eventually will be eligible to apply for permanent residence in the United States if they choose to do so.

Part of the Kosovo refugee population in Macedonia is expected to end up in Albania, which has more willingly accepted refugees and placed them temporarily with host families. But David Snyder, a CRS spokesman, said new problems are expected to emerge in Albania.

"We have about 300,000 refugees in Albania now, and this is bound to cause stress among those families that have taken them in. As the months go by, where are they going to go?" Snyder said.

He said that at a certain point, some host families are going to begin to think they have done enough for the Kosovars.

"There are going to be conflicts to deal with in terms of refugees maybe getting kicked out of houses they're staying in now. These things are going to cause critical tensions over the next few months," he said.

Snyder said that, as the immediate humanitarian needs have tapered off, CRS and other agencies are looking more and more at possible solutions to these long-term placement problems. ▼

Serving the investment needs of the community.

Stocks and Bonds
Mutual Funds
IRAs and Pension Plans
Money Management

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsor . . . and I invite you to join me. CFCA is a dedicated organization working on behalf of the poor at Catholic missions worldwide."

Most Reverend James P. Keleher
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas – Sponsors José Muños of Honduras

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Many children in the developing world live in poverty with little hope for the future. Can you help a poor child? Become a sponsor today!

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program,* can show you the affordable way to sponsor a child.

Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship helps provide a poor child with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most.

You receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important,* you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
420

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ________
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ________.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ________________________ Exp. Date ________
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ________.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

CNH5/99

Name ________________________
(please print)
Address ________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________
Phone (_____) ________________________

Send to:
Christian Foundation for
Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Pro-Life Day offers opportunity to learn, reflect

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

ABORTION stops a beating heart
Even a child knows when life begins

Photos by Jimmy Rostar

A variety of literature was available at the annual Pro-Life Day conference, aimed at promoting education, prayer and discussion.

GREENSBORO — They represented a diversity of faith traditions, age groups and experiences, but they were united in a common spirit. They were there to celebrate life.

Teen-agers and adults from across the state devoted to the pro-life movement gathered May 1 to share information and prayer while observing Pro-Life Day '99, an event sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life, Inc.

The conference, held at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, was a mixture of workshops, speaking presentations and educational literature focusing on what organizers called the dangers of and alternatives to abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Workshop leaders and guest speakers included nationally known figures in the pro-life movement:

— Dr. Joel Brind, a professor of biology and endocrinology at Baruch College of the City University of New York, gave the keynote speech and directed two workshops on his research on the link between abortion and breast cancer. For 15 years, Brind has researched the connections between reproductive hormones and human disease. He published a peer-reviewed research paper on the abortion-breast cancer link last year.

— Dr. Wanda Franz, president of the National Right to Life Committee, directed workshops on fetal development, the health risks involved in abortion as compared to those of childbirth, and Post Abortion Syndrome's affect on the adolescent. Franz represents the National Right to Life Committee at state conventions and has spoken internationally as well.

— Dr. David Osteen, executive director of the National Right to Life Committee since 1984, gave workshops on assisted suicide and led a question-and-answer session on the present and future of the pro-life movement. A Greensboro native, Osteen commended participants for their devotion to causes for life. He is the author of many articles on abortion, euthanasia and pro-life politics.

Volunteers, members of the state organization's executive committee and members of the organization's board of directors — many of whom head chapters throughout North Carolina — were also present at the conference.

"It's by working together that all of this is possible," said Barbara Holt, president of North Carolina Right to Life, of the organization's efforts. "It takes a team effort, and it's only (by) working as a cohesive team that we can accomplish anything."

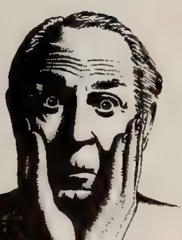
North Carolina Right to Life was founded and incorporated in 1973 with the purpose of educating the public about abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia through encouraging public policy and legislation. In addition to education, the organization also actively promotes alternatives to abortion and euthanasia. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Barbara Holt, president of North Carolina Right to Life, Inc., addresses participants at Pro-Life Day '99.

OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

This is a Test.



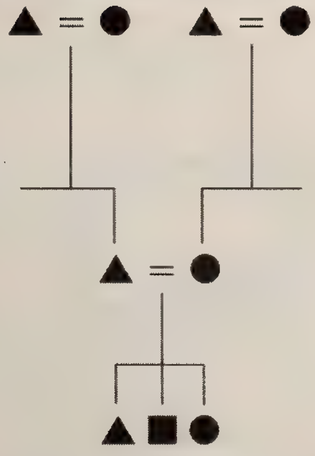
	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

For a free information packet, call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving.
(704) 370-3320

Exploring Family of Origin Awareness

Sponsored by the Special Ministries Office, Catholic Social Services



Saturday, June 5, 1999
9 am — 12 noon
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1400 Suther Road
Charlotte, NC
1½ blocks from UNCC

Presenter:
Joan Lyons, Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida

In dating and relating to other adults, does it really matter what my family life was like when I was young?
As a family, do we seem to be bogged down with issues involving grandparents, in-laws and our extended families?

Spend a morning growing and learning more about yourself in the "Exploring Family of Origin Awareness" workshop. You will experience an in-depth explanation of family of origin issues and learn ways in which you can benefit from a new self-awareness of your family of origin.

For more information or registration, call Marlo Wallace (704) 370-3228 or e-mail cssgac@aol.com
Cost: $15 individual $25 couple $30 family

CFC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Holy Angels honors volunteers

BELMONT — Holy Angels recently honored the many volunteers who contribute their time and talents to help the children and adults with mental retardation and multiple disabilities who live at Holy Angels.

In all, the volunteers, teen-age volunteers called volunteens, and Mercy Corp volunteers contributed 14,559 hours to Holy Angels for 1998-99.

"The Magic of Volunteering," was this year's theme for national Volunteer Awareness Week (April 18-24). Holy Angels — which provides innovation developmental programs and residential services to people with mental retardation, some of whom are medically fragile — presented top awards in four categories and introduced a new honor this year.

The "Holy Angels' Touched by an Angel Award" recognized four individuals who showed "a magic touch," great love and devotion in their first year as volunteers at Holy Angels. Roman Harisim, Tom Long, Ricky Alexander and Butch Ziegler received the reward.

Other recipients at the 9th Annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Banquet for Holy Angels included the following people:

— The Dennis McClain Volunteer of the Year is Kathy Manning of York, S.C. She first volunteered with Holy Angels in 1992, then worked at Holy Angels for a time before again becoming a volunteer in 1995. She helps with residents' clothing, assists in every office and department at Holy Angels and she and her husband serve as special friends to Katie, who lives in the South Point Group Home.

— The Ed Sabatini Advocacy Award recipient is Kristy Leonard. She regularly visits the Lakewood Community Group Home and is a special friend with resident Lorraine. She shares the story of Holy Angels with people who can benefit the corporation and be benefited by having Holy Angels in their lives. She served as co-chairman of this year's American Girls Fashion Show, a benefit for Holy Angels.

— The Volunteen of the Year is Travis Adams, an eighth-grade student at Cramerton Middle School. He volunteers with the pre-school children in the Little Angels Child Development Center. He spends a great deal of his holiday time off helping out at Holy Angels.

— The Volunteer Group of the Year is Metro School in Charlotte. It is an educational institution that shares the same vision and values as Holy Angels — to give life quality for people with developmental disabilities. The group visited Holy Angels at Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day to sing and perform for the residents and staff.

Holy Angels depends on a diverse group of volunteers to have one-on-one friendships with Holy Angels' residents, or give a hand during special fund-raising events such as the annual Angel Bowl, Golf Classic and the American Girls Fashion Show.

"Your unyielding dedication and service to the residents is shown through the every day love and support you give them, as well as the special activities in which you participate," said Regina Moody, president/CEO at Holy Angels. "Your volunteer efforts are truly one of the reasons why Holy Angels can provide the quality of care that it does."

Holy Angels is a private nonprofit corporation founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. It is a place of loving, living and learning and offers spiritual, physical, educational, social and emotional support to those individuals with special needs.

Programs include Holy Angels Residential Center; Fox Run ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded) Group Homes (Pinehaven, Brookview and Oakcrest) and Community Group Homes (Lakewood, South Point, Belhaven, Carrabaun and Gary Home). Other programs and services include Little Angels Child Development Center; Great Adventures; Life Choices; Camp Hope; and Cherubs Café, Gifts & Candy Bouquets (located in downtown Belmont). ▼

Cardinal Arinze to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church

CHARLOTTE — Cardinal Francis Arinze, a native of Nigeria, will preside with Bishop William G. Curlin during a Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte, on Monday, May 17, at 7:00 pm.

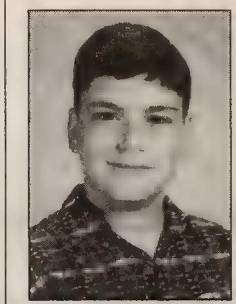
Cardinal Arinze, 66, was ordained a priest in 1958 in Rome after study of theology at Pontifical Urban University. He was ordained the coadjutor bishop of Onitsha in 1965 and was appointed the first indigenous archbishop of Onitsha in 1967, a position he served in until 1984, when he was appointed pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians. He was elevated to cardinal in May 1985 by Pope John Paul II and made president of the secretariat, which was renamed in 1988 the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Cardinal Arinze also serves as a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and many pontifical councils and committees, including the Cardinals' Committee for Jubilee 2000. ▼

In brief...

Lenoir parish breaks ground for new church

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Parish celebrated continued growth May 1 with a groundbreaking ceremony signaling the construction of a new church. Participants and guests included Father Michael Buttner, pastor; Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, diocesan director of properties, and is his wife, Rachel; Lenoir Mayor Jerry Brooks; the Rev. Dale Fisher, director of the Caldwell Baptist Association; and parishioners and supporters. The new church was designed by Blowing Rock architect Gwyn Bean of Blowing Rock and Allen Stewart, an architect and parishioner. The western North Carolina parish chose "Faith Moves Mountains" as its capital campaign theme.



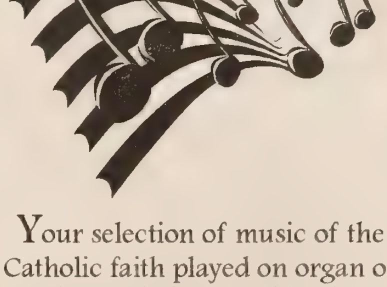
Robert Ferrin

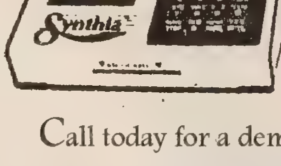
Holy Trinity student wins geography bee

CHARLOTTE — Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School eighth-grader Robert Ferrin recently won the school's geography bee, and after taking a state test qualified to participate in the state geography bee in Raleigh. Ferrin is one of 104 students from across the state who contended for the championship and the chance to move to the national bee in Washington, D.C. He is the first Holy Trinity student to advance to the state championship. Ferrin is the son of Anthony and Lisa Ferrin of Charlotte.

Imagine...

Music beautifully played at every Mass, special service or gathering...

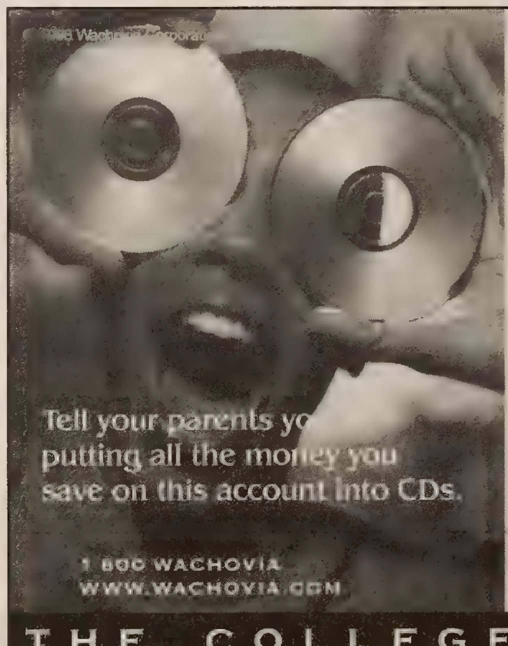




Your selection of music of the Catholic faith played on organ or electronic keyboard by the amazing Synthia... at the touch of a button.

Call today for a demonstration.

Music & Electronics
Corner Oak & Broad Streets
Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 (800) 331-0768


Tell your parents yo
putting all the money you
save on this account into CDs.
1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM

The Wachovia College Account basically offers you *free* checking. VISA Check Card with no monthly maintenance fee. *Free* online account access. No minimum balances. Even your very own credit card. And Wachovia has branches and ATMs all over the place

You've got enough on your mind with books, tuition and money for the latest CDs. You shouldn't have to worry about the cost of banking.

WACHOVIA
Let's get started.℠

THE COLLEGE ACCOUNT
FREE CHECKING FREE WACHOVIA ATM USE NO MINIMUM BALANCE UNLIMITED CHECK WRITING
Wachovia Bank is a member FDIC. Accounts subject to approval.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church gives first Salesian Award

By ANA AGUD
THE DISPATCH

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA AGUD, THE DISPATCH

Ruth Cloos stands next to the organ at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church. In addition to being the church organist, Cloose also serves as administrative assistant and choir director.

LEXINGTON — In creating the Salesian Award, the Rev. Al Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, hoped to honor St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

"He is known as the gentleman saint," Gondek said, "noted for his compassion, kindness, loyalty and dedication."

"I established giving an award to a parishioner who exemplified those qualities. People in the parish could nominate someone from the parish and she came out on top."

"She" is long-time administrative assistant, organist and member Ruth Cloos, recipient of the First Annual Salesian Award given earlier this year.

"I felt very honored by it and humbled by it too," Cloos said. "It is very humbling to be so appreciated."

The award is truly a small token of appreciation for the dedication Cloos has shown to her church. The Wellsboro, Pa., native has been the administrative assistant for 27 years. She has worked with six different priests.

"Basically, I've learned something from every one of them," she said, "something that made me a better person."

Cloos' tenure at the church began approximately two years after her family's 1970 move to Lexington. Her husband's health problems prompted her to find a job, and she began helping with the bookkeeping at the church.

As the responsibilities of then pastor the Rev. Anthony Sylvestri began to increase, so did the need for someone else to be in the office.

"So that's how I landed here," Cloos said with a laugh.

Although technically employed part time, Cloos can be found long after the end of her day.

"It's my own choice," she said. "I like people so being here is no problem."

"She even comes on her day off," Gondek said. "She's an exceptional lady concerned person and very much known by the community."

Cloos' dedication doesn't end there. She has played the organ at each of the church's three masses since 1984, and is the choir director.

"We all work together," she said with a smile. "I don't pretend to be choir director but that's what they call me."

Cloos sees her actions as a thank you to the church that has become her extended family and supported her through some very difficult times. She remembered how kind people were during her husband's final months.

"People just pitched in and helped here," Cloos remembered.

More recently, she was touched by the outpouring of concern shown her and her family as they dealt with the loss of her infant granddaughter. Cloos recounted the number of people present for the funeral service — so many, in fact, that her son-in-law's mother commented on the wonderful support.

To her surprise, the choir even asked if they could sing at the funeral service. "I played the organ for her service," Cloos said. "I wanted to do something. That was my gift to her. But I would never have expected the choir — they all have jobs or children."

The award is truly a small token of appreciation for the dedication Cloos has shown to her church. The Wellsboro, Pa., native has been the administrative assistant for 27 years. She has worked with six different priests.

And as she takes yet another phone call in the church office, speaking quietly and with genuine interest to the caller, the gentle demeanor and humility are clear. Cloos is at home with the people of her parish.

"I love the people in this parish," she said close to tears. "They're so terrific to me."

But despite her love for what she does, Cloos is ready to move on. Retirement is on the horizon as soon as a replacement is hired. She is ready to have more time to read, line dance and square dance, travel, and visit with her six remaining grandchildren.

"I've enjoyed it and have no regrets whatsoever," Cloos said. "I feel like I've owed it to the parish. It's not all I did but what the parish did too." ▼

Ana Agud is a staff member at The Dispatch in Lexington, N.C. Her story and photo were reprinted with permission.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

School Counselor/Youth Minister: A combined full-time position or two separate part-time positions are available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and School (1000 households; 260 students K-8). The candidate(s) will serve as part-time school counselor and as part-time Youth Minister for the parish in Total Youth Ministry for middle and high school youth. Applicant for the Youth Ministry position must be practicing Catholic. Experience in Youth Ministry and religious education is desirable. Applicants for the counseling position must have a Master's degree of Education in School Counseling. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC, 27262, or fax to (336)884-1849.

Organist: St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, NC. Salary negotiable. Please call Mary Lubic at (336)625-6528 for information.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teacher openings beginning August, 1999: English, PE/Health, Religion, Science, part-time Spanish, and part-time Dance. Please call (704)543-1127 for an application.

Environmental Service Aide, Floorcrew, and Linen Serviceworkers: All shifts. Aides complete routine and discharge cleaning, dust, floorcare, remake beds. Floorcrew handles floor maintenance, dust, wet mop, stripping and waxing, and operation of buffer. Linen serviceworker sorts, folds, irons, and packs linens. Please apply in person weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm at Carolinas Healthcare System, 1012 S. Kings Drive, Suite 101, Charlotte, NC 28232. Call (704) 355-2101.

Nanny: Cheerful, energetic nanny needed for two children, ages 4 and 2, for 30+ hours/week near intersection of Providence and Wendover in Charlotte. Some light housekeeping. Loving family looking for a long-term commitment and willing to offer excellent pay for the right person. References, valid immigration papers, and ability to communicate in English required. No smokers. Call (704)442-2166.

Director of Religious Education: St. Leo the Great, a parish of 1600 households, in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a qualified person to administer the parish religious education program for 350 children grades pre-K-8th and family-based sacramental preparation. MA in religious education or theology is preferred; previous experience required; possess good organizational skills and ability to work with volunteers. Candidate may be sent to Fr. Jim Solari, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104 or Fax (336)724-7036; phone: (336)724-0561.

Faith Formation Director (Sunday School Coordinator): Master's or undergraduate degree in Theology or Religious Studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Salary range $30-35K. Housing available. Projected start date July 1999. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Attn: Julie Dilick, Education Commission, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

Administrative Assistant: Immaculate Heart of Mary School and Church have a full-time position available for a person who can be extremely flexible, has good communication skills, computer/word perfect experience, and some bookkeeping background. Responsibilities also include school admissions and general secretarial duties. If interested in becoming part of a warm, energetic team, please send your resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Fully furnished. Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000. Call (704)597-1545.

Life
MEDICAL PROGRESS | ETHICAL ISSUES

Care for dying judged by case, ethicist says

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church neither condemns nor condones any particular technology used to care for the dying, said an ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Boston.

Peter J. Cataldo is director of research at the center, formerly known as the Pope John Center for the Study of Ethics in Health Care.

He said Catholic teaching on care for the dying is articulated in general principles on conserving human life "to be applied in individual cases according to the circumstances of those cases."

Speaking by phone with Catholic News Service, Cataldo said, "The church does not specify particular treatment modalities that are either permissible or not permissible."

Such treatments — made possible by technological advances — would include:

— Resuscitation: trying to restart a patient's heartbeat or breathing.

— Artificial breathing: using ventilators and respirators to help patients breathe when they can't breathe on their own.

— Artificial nutrition and hydration: feeding patients via tubes when they can't eat or drink on their own.

— Pain management: using drugs to alleviate or suppress pain, even when such treatment might shorten patients' lives.

> He said Catholic teaching on care for the dying is articulated in general principles on conserving human life "to be applied in individual cases according to the circumstances of those cases."

Regarding all of these, said Cataldo, "church teaching seeks to ensure that what is provided is done so according to whether (the technology) is an ethically ordinary means of conserving or preserving life or whether the technology is an ethically extraordinary means."

He said a treatment judged to be ethically ordinary is morally obligatory to use, while one that is judged ethically extraordinary is morally optional.

A treatment is morally obligatory, he explained, when "it holds out a reasonable hope of benefit for the patient and is not excessively burdensome on the patient or those responsible for the care of the patient."

To be morally optional, a treatment "does not hold a reasonable hope of benefit for the patient," said Cataldo. "It's futile or useless. Secondly, it indeed is excessively burdensome on the patient or those who care for the patient."

A treatment might be excessively burdensome if paying for it would make the patient and/or family destitute, he said, adding this is unlikely today because of insurance.

The ethicist said decisions about these technologies should be made by all medical decision makers involved in a case "and primarily the patient."

Since treatments are evaluated according to the general principle of ethically ordinary and extraordinary means for a particular patient, said Cataldo, "one type of technology might be considered ethically ordinary in one case and in another case be considered ethically extraordinary."

Where something has been judged ethically extraordinary, he added, "very often the particular treatment or technology is either foregone or it's withdrawn if it's already in use."

However, there may be reasons to continue a morally optional treatment, he said: "For instance, if the patient is waiting for a family member to arrive, or the patient needs to reconcile himself or herself with the family or with God and receive the sacraments."

Cataldo said there has been some confusion over the use of painkillers or analgesics that can have "undesired, harmful side effects," such as suppressing respiration.

If the act and dose are therapeutic — that is, targeted to a patient's pain — he said, "and if the intention on the part of the health-care provider and the patient or surrogate decision makers is indeed to use the medication to control pain, then, morally speaking, the act of administering pain control measures is a good one, even though it may hasten death or shorten life."

The ethicist also addressed a disagreement over medically provided nutrition and hydration for patients in a persistent vegetative state, or PVS.

Some theologians believe such treatment is "ethically extraordinary and therefore not morally mandatory," he said. Others believe it is "useful in some sense, if it does hold out a certain benefit and is not excessively burdensome, and ... ought to be provided."

Cataldo said, "Neither the Holy Father nor the Vatican have made any declaration with respect to nutrition and hydration for the PVS patient."

So, in situations where theologians in accordance with church teaching disagree, he explained, "the patient or the decision maker needs to become fully informed or as informed as is possible with respect to the medical situation and the teaching, and then make a decision in good conscience until such time as there is a definitive teaching from the magisterium (church teaching authority)."

He noted that recent ethical and religious directives and papal statements "have made it clear that there is a general presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration." Only afterward, he added, should one "begin to make an evaluation as to whether the nutrition and hydration is ethically ordinary or ethically extraordinary."

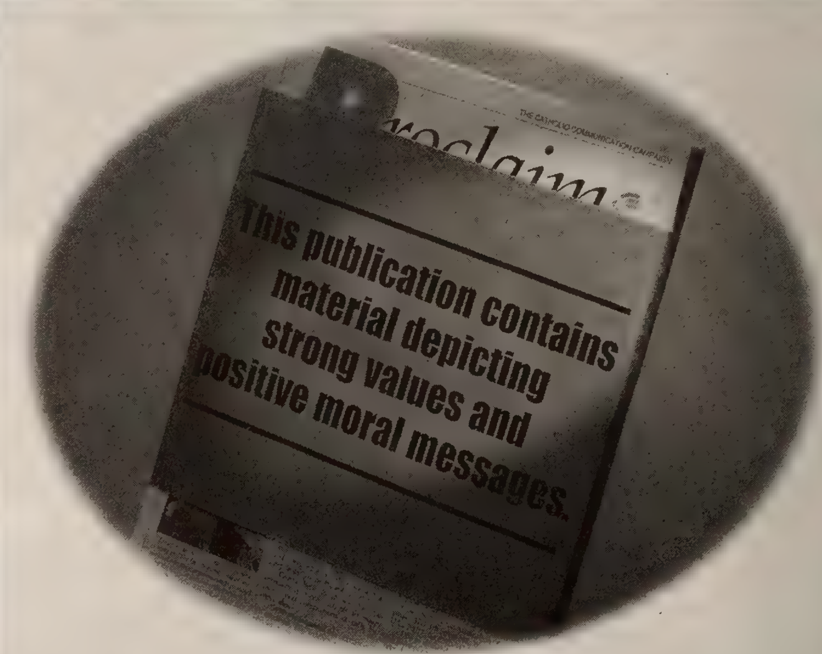
Cataldo said church teaching on care for the dying is found in the 1980 "Declaration on Euthanasia" by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; the U.S. bishops' "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" in 1994; and Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical, "The Gospel of Life." ▼

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with *honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service* on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com


Proclaim
This publication contains material depicting strong values and positive moral messages.

Quality television and Web sites. Enlightening radio and print. They're all made possible by the Catholic Communication Campaign. And of course, the Catholic Communication Campaign is made possible through donations from people like you. People who care about spreading the Good News of God's love through mass communications. Half of your CCC donation stays right here in your community, so the work we do touches you and your neighbors. From broadcast Masses to our toll-free Movie Review Line. So this year, when your parish takes up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign, please give generously. Because, in today's media, we could all stand to see more advisories like these.

Catholic Communication Campaign
HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

1123 South Church St. Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 370-3336

*************************3-DIGIT 275
42093 5301 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 21, 1999
Volume ~~8~~ 9 ▾ Number 36

Inside

Tornado-struck town rebuilds with bricks of faith

...Page 11

Restored "Last Supper" to be unveiled this month

...Page 15

Mercy Sister has love of fly-fishing, tying lures

...Page 16

Local News

Parish center named in pastor's honor

...Page 3

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...Pages 4-5

Entertainment

...Pages 10-11

> "Our faith is something of joy. It is something beautiful. Not put together by us, it is the eternal Father who loved the world so much that He sent His only son ... The son of God took on human nature, for love of us and for our salvation."
>
> — *Cardinal Francis Arinze*

NATO strikes

Catholics in Vietnam empathize with Yugoslavs

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (CNS) — In Vietnam, the target of bombing by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War, Catholics empathize with victims of NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia.

"The conscience of the world is being tortured by today's most sophisticated weapons," Pierre Nguyen Thanh Long, deputy editor of the Catholic weekly Cong Giao Va Dan Toc (Catholicism and Nation), wrote in the May 14-20 issue.

UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported the editor's and several readers' opinions about the crisis in the Balkan region, where NATO has conducted air strikes against Yugoslavia to stop what it calls the "ethnic cleansing" of ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo region. The situation has created hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people.

Le Chinh, a Catholic layman in Phu Nhuan district, argued that "the Kosovo crisis is basically a religious and ethnic conflict, and such conflicts have happened in many places around the world. The point is that it is not necessary for the U.S. and NATO to intervene in this conflict.

"This has set a precedent for the U.S. and NATO to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country in their own brutal way," he added.

Kim Anh, a Catholic laywoman of Gia Dinh Parish in Binh Thanh district, said she did not understand the causes of the war between NATO and Yugoslavia, but said she feels sad "to see scenes of destruction shown by the mass media."

"Should the ongoing war be waged to defend justice? It has no reason to be justified at all. We are witnessing a man-made calamity as countless innocent civilians are being killed because of the bombings," she added.

Viewers can follow the Kosovo crisis from different angles as central and provincial television in Vietnam produce world news programs using several sources, including the British Broadcasting Corp., Cable News Network and Russian, Chinese and other programs.

Dang Ngoc Ha of An Lac Parish in Tan Binh district said, "I feel terribly sad at watching scenes of great damage caused by the war in Yugoslavia as they are shown every night on national television.

"On the one hand, humanitarian organizations are trying to come to the rescue of victims of air strikes. On the other hand, people keep waging all-out destruction against a sovereign country," Ha said, adding that "there are people who use all kinds of pretexts to cover up their ambitions.

"I wish the international community would come up with a peaceful solution to the war in Yugoslavia soon," he said.

Tran Thi Hau, a 78-year-old Catholic woman from Tu Dinh parish in Go Vap district, said she does not know "where Yugoslavia or NATO are on the map."

As an elderly woman, she said, she cannot help the homeless or the traumatized children.

"The only thing I can do is recite the rosary every day and pray that the war in Yugoslavia will come to an end," she added.

Doan Cong Nhon from District 3 said, "I do not know what Yugoslavia's internal affairs are all about, but it is clear that the U.S. and NATO are committing inhuman acts in the name of humanitarian issues."

Vietnam was among the first countries to protest the NATO bombings of Yugoslavia, and many sections of the population have publicly protested in the national mass media. ▾

Photo by JoAnn S. Keane

Cardinal Arinze visits The Diocese of Charlotte

Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria greets the Missionaries of Charity and parishioners at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte on May 17.

...See Special Section, pages 7-10

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Vigil in East Timor

Nuns join a candlelight march through the East Timor capital of Dili May 13 to call for an end to violence in the troubled territory. More than 1,000 people joined the May 13 march led by Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo.

Church leaders from Mideast, North Africa meet in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — More than 200 Catholic patriarchs, bishops and delegates from the Middle East, North Africa and the Vatican were meeting in Lebanon to discuss the future of the Catholic Church in the Arab world. "We will discuss the cooperation between the Eastern churches and how we can preserve our tradition in the Middle East," said Coptic Bishop Youhannes Zakaria of Luxor, Egypt. "We face the phenomenon of emigration, especially of Christians." Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem spoke of the challenges facing the church: "questions of peace and justice, the shaping of democracy, personal human freedom, the problem of religious extremism, whether it be Muslim, Jewish or Christian."

More than 2,000 participate in pro-life march on Parliament Hill

OTTAWA (CNS) — More than 2,000 people from across Canada marched through the streets of the nation's capital and onto Parliament Hill May 14 to commemorate what the Canadian pro-life movement calls a "Day of Infamy." "Canada abandoned its pre-born sons and daughters and their mothers 30 years ago, and we are here to say enough is enough," said the master of ceremonies, Dr. Andre Lafrance, before introducing a long string of pro-life speakers. On May 14, 1969, Parliament passed a bill permitting abortions in certain circumstances.

S. African bishops call for 'solidarity tax' to reduce disparity

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference has asked the wealthy to accept higher tax rates to reduce the wide disparity between rich and poor in South Africa. In a 48-page pastoral letter issued May 13 at a squatter settlement called Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, the bishops criticized business, labor and the government for not doing enough to create jobs and promote economic growth. They called for a "solidarity tax" and recommended that some executives have their pay scales frozen or cut "until the wage gap has been substantially narrowed."

New survey finds continued increase in lay parish ministers

NEW YORK (CNS) — A 1997 follow-up to a 1992 survey of lay parish ministers found that their numbers had increased by 35 percent, according to a report released May 14. Dioceses have become more involved in the recruitment and training of lay ministers, but their growing numbers have increased the need for the church to respond to their presence, the report said. "That 93 percent of the pastors look for diocesan help with staff development indicates that they realize the new situation of parish staffing calls for new kinds of help," it said.

Eastern bishops from U.S. see positive side to Mideast emigration

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — Although bishops in the Middle East fear Catholic emigration, some Eastern-rite bishops from the United States see the situation in a different light. Bishop Stephen Hector Doueihi of the Maronite Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., said the emigration from the Middle East is part of a bigger picture. "Migration is a global phenomenon," said the bishop, one of several from the United States who attended a meeting of more than 200 church leaders from the Middle East, the Vatican and countries with Arab Catholics. The patriarchs of Eastern churches "see emigration as an evil. They do not know how to deal with losing their flock," said Bishop Doueihi.

Vatican ratifies U.N. convention outlawing chemical weapons

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The international convention outlawing chemical weapons was ratified by the Vatican May 12. Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, deposited at U.N. headquarters in New York the instrument of ratification, a declaration signed by Pope John Paul II April 21. The pope declared that he had "duly examined in person the final texts of the convention" and "found them in conformity with our will."

Canadian bishops renew commitment to aboriginal peoples

OTTAWA (CNS) — Recognizing what they call "the legacy of the deeply damaged relationship between aboriginal and nonaboriginal peoples," the Canadian bishops said they are renewing their commitment to a spiritual dialogue with Canada's First Nations. "The church needs your leadership in this dialogue," the bishops said in a pastoral message. The message, "Rediscovering, Recognizing and Celebrating the Spiritual Heritage of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples," was to be distributed in all aboriginal Catholic parishes across Canada May 16.

New deacon directory is chief focus as diocesan directors meet

BRAINTREE, Mass. (CNS) — Christian service and witness in the world are at the heart of the permanent diaconate, said Msgr. Theodore W. Kraus, keynote speaker at the 1999 convention of the National Association of Diaconate Directors. With a new national directory on the diaconate approaching final drafting stages, a record 300-plus diaconate directors and spouses from the United States, Canada and England attended the April 21-24 meeting in Braintree. Msgr. Kraus, a priest of the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., is project director of the task force drafting the new "National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States."

Arizona priest says Catholic Church facing youth crisis

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — To say the Catholic Church has a vocations crisis unfairly places the blame for a lack of priests on God, says Father Dale Fushek. "I humbly submit we do not have a vocations crisis, we have a response crisis and a youth crisis in the Roman Catholic Church," said the priest, featured speaker at the annual dinner of the Diocese of Tucson's Catholic Foundation. "And where does this culture end up?" he asked the crowd of more than 500 at the May 10 dinner. "Littleton, Colorado."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

May 21, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 36
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 23 — 12:30 pm
Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
5 pm
Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
May 24 — 7:30 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem
May 25
Priest Retirement Continuing Education Day, St. Joseph, Newton
7:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
May 26 — 7:00 pm
Confirmation
Holy Infant, Reidsville

Diocesan planner

May

26 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women hosts its May luncheon, including a fashion show, today at 12 noon at the Sedgefield Country Club. Cost is $15 per person, and guests are welcome. Send checks to Lillian Leonard, 828 Pebble Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27410. For details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

28 CHARLOTTE — Today is the postmark deadline for Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl minigrant applications for parishes, schools, vicariates, or other diocesan programs for local initiatives on international issues or projects. The $500 grants will go to projects that reflect diversity among Catholics; a range of international, immigration or migrant issues; and a range of approaches, such as linking faith and justice, education, advocacy, and media. Ask your pastor for an application or call the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3231.

27 ASHEVILLE — Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry hosts a healing Mass today at 7 p.m. in St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 919 Haywood Rd., for anyone in need of spiritual, emotional or physical healing. Refreshments will follow. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

June

4 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30; Benediction and adoration follow the Mass. Call (336) 884-0244 for details.

5 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are hosted today at Belmont Abbey Basilica, with a Mass at 9:30 a.m., rosary at 10, and the sacrament of rec-

Parish center named in former pastor's honor

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary Churches in Murphy and Hayesville, wasn't sure why he'd been invited back to St. Pius X parish in Greensboro.

He wasn't clear why some 200 parishioners gathered on a Friday evening in April to celebrate Mass with him and share a dinner in the parish hall afterwards.

He thought it might be a celebration honoring those who have served St. Pius in past years; lay as well as religious leaders. But only Father Kloster showed up and only he was the honored guest.

> "Father George was a dreamer, a visionary, an advocate and head cheerleader whose efforts turned brick and mortar into a building and prayers and hopes into a dream come true."
>
> — *Frank Rodgers*

Even throughout the dinner, while people came up to the head table to shake his hand, kiss him on the cheek and ask how he's been doing, he wondered what all the fuss was about.

And while the speakers lauded him with praise for his many contributions to the parish for nine years (1978-87), he never suspected that he would receive more than these good words of thanks.

Finally, in reading a proclamation from the St. Pius X Parish Council, President Pat Spivey revealed the purpose of the event: to name the two-year-old parish center in Father Kloster's honor. From that moment on it would be called Kloster Center.

Although he blushed often that evening, especially when funny stories were told on him, Father Kloster managed to go a shade more crimson as the proclamation was read. His signature wide smile appeared to go even wider as he searched for proper words of gratitude for the honor.

But the friends gathered there needed no words from him. Instead, under his leadership, they got the successful parish retreat program, Jubilee; a sister parish in Peru where a school and clinic were built with donations from St. Pius folks; Dolan Manor, the retirement center for low-income seniors which sits behind the church and a second building is set to open soon; strong ties to the community at-large through ecumenical programs and events; and good, strong leaders who were inspired by his willingness to share the work of running a parish.

"Father George was a dreamer, a visionary, an advocate and head cheerleader whose efforts turned brick and mortar into a building and prayers and hopes into a dream come true," said Frank Rodgers of the Dolan Manor project. "In the end, in true Kloster fashion, he gave credit to others for the project's success." The same could be said for all his pastoral achievements.

"Father George has the resiliency of the poor," said Father Frank Connolly, present pastor of St. Pius X. "He does not give up. He is a survivor in that sense. He also is priest I admire because he can reach out both in a parochial and ecumenical way. We need more priests like him."

Before the crowd dispersed and before Father Kloster headed outside to pose under the building's new brown letters spelling his name, he managed to find some words to sum up his feelings that night.

"The church is a community of people whom I was grateful to serve and for whom I am grateful now have Father Frank Connolly as their pastor," he said. "You know how blessed you are. I am humbled and honored by all this. I was proud to be your pastor for nine years and grateful to all of you for making it so special." ▼

Mary Coyne Wessling is a free-lance writer living in Greensboro, N.C.

KLOSTER CENTER

Photos by Pattie Murray

Father George Kloster stands outside the St. Pius X parish center in Greensboro which was named in his honor.

Father George Kloster, right, poses with Father Frank Connolly, pastor of St. Pius X parish and Pat Spivey, parish council president. Mrs. Spivey holds the proclamation naming the parish hall the Kloster Center.

onciliation at 10:30. For details, call Phil or Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.
BOONE - Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. in the Catholic campus ministry facility at Appalachian State University, 232 Faculty St. A covered-dish dinner precedes the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.
7 CLEMMONS — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.
9 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets today at 10:30 a.m. at the church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., for its monthly meeting. Lunch will be served, and new officers will be installed. For more information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.
13 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East. Prayer teams will be available at 3. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.
ROCK HILL, S.C. — "Sacraments for the Third Millennium" is the topic for the 1999 Visions in Faith program at the Rock Hill Oratory today through June 16. Franciscan Father Tom Richstatter, an educator and author, will facilitate the overview of sacraments for the contemporary church. Cost is $100 for the program; room and board are available for an extra $35. For details, call Sarah Morgan at (803) 327-2079.
14 CHARLOTTE — A Scripture series on Jesus' ministry and the early church's response to it is today through June 18, from 9:30 a.m.-noon each day. Cost is $30 for all sessions, or $6 per day. Send checks payable to St. Gabriel Church to Caryn Cusick, St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28211.
17 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For details, call Rev. Mr. or Bette Steinkamp, (336) 427-9717, or (336) 882-9717.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 16 in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.
HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate Aug. 1 through Aug. 6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.
BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says his Romania visit was one of 'historical importance'

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II described his pastoral trip to Romania as an "event of historical importance," marking a step forward in Catholic-Orthodox relations.

"Predicting a papal visit would have been completely unthinkable" 10 years ago when Romania was under a communist dictatorship, the pope said during his May 12 weekly general audience.

"The Lord, who guides the human journey, has made possible that which humanly seemed unrealizable," said the pope the week before his 79th birthday.

"It was an event of historical importance because it was my first visit to a country where the majority of Christians are Orthodox," he told an estimated 15,000 at the audience.

Under communism, the pope said, Christians in Romania shared the experience of martyrdom.

"The witness which Orthodox, Catholics and Protestants gave to Christ with the sacrifice of their lives was one," he said. "From the heroism of these martyrs there arises an encouragement to agreement and reconciliation to overcome the divisions which still exist."

During the trip, the pope said, he paid special homage to Romania's Eastern Catholic Church which was outlawed by the communists in 1948 and was forced to function underground for more than 40 years.

"Honor to you, church of God in Romania!" he said at the audience. "You suffered much for the truth and the truth has set you free."

The pope said "one of the greatest joys of this pilgrimage" was his opportunity to embrace the ailing Cardinal Alexandru Todea, the former archbishop of Fagaras-Alba Iulia who was imprisoned for 16 years and under house arrest for 27 years.

Pope John Paul said he used the visit to assure the Romanian Orthodox Church of the Catholic Church's willingness to cooperate in renewing Romanian society and in promoting ecumenical dialogue.

"Brotherly love is the soul of dialogue and it is the way to overcome the obstacles and difficulties which continue in order to reach full unity among Christians," the pope said.

Pope meets Iraqi delegation, expresses hope for embargo relief

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met with Iraqi Catholic and Muslim leaders and expressed hope for a "just and definitive" solution to the impasse that has left Iraq under economic embargo for nearly nine years. The Vatican said the pope and other Vatican officials who met with the Iraqi delegation May 14 had stressed the need to remember the plight of the Iraqi people in seeking an end to the ongoing crisis. The pope has strongly criticized the U.N.-mandated embargo as causing unwarranted suffering for innocent civilians in Iraq.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Testifying against the death penalty

As March came to a close, there was encouraging news from Massachusetts. That state once more defeated continuing efforts to reinstate the death penalty. Ever since 1976 when the Supreme Court re-established the death penalty as punishment for murder, only 12 states have been holdouts. Massachusetts is one of them.

I was in Massachusetts the day after the deciding vote was cast. Some students from Boston College, a Jesuit institution, have formed an anti-death penalty group. They wanted to hear the voices of some anti-death-penalty people who are survivors of homicide victims.

I was invited, along with Clementine Barfield and the Rev. Walter Everett, a Methodist minister, also parents, like myself, who have lost a son to murder. We are all members of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, survivors who oppose the death penalty, striving to live the Lord's way — with love and forgiveness overcoming hatred and vengeance.

We were joined by Mike Carlucci, the man who killed Rev. Everett's son. The minister and the murderer together tell one of the most touching stories of forgiveness, redemption and reconciliation that one could ever imagine.

A few days before we spoke at Boston College, hearings had been held on the death penalty bills at the state house in Boston. One of the outstanding moments was when Cardinal Bernard Law testified. The Catholic Free Press, weekly publication of the Worcester diocese, reported that Cardinal Law said, "The base line of our opposition is the inviolable dignity and right to life of every human person."

I was especially touched when the paper reported that Bishop Daniel Reilly of Worcester said that the "hardest question is that of murder victims' families." In his words, "There's where we have to help people, to lead them through this time of grieving, this time of loss" when they feel violated. The newspaper paraphrased his further comments this way:

"The church and the faith are so important, because there is a spiritual dimension to getting beyond grief. Being reconciled with the Lord, the perpetrator and others involved is not easy, and takes openness from both victims' families and perpetrators."

Bishop Reilly perfectly expressed what we speakers at the Boston College program have learned. Barfield, for example, refused to stay in personal mourning. In her state of Michigan she initiated and organized what has become a national movement to save our youth from violence.

She calls her grassroots organization Save Our Sons and Daughters. What she has done should be a model for communities across the nation. With more than 10 staff members, the organization provides grief counseling and support to survivors of homicide victims, training in violence prevention, crisis intervention, peer support and something more — a peace program.

Barfield is creating "peace zones" in her city of Detroit. "A peace zone," she says, "is violence free, drug free, gun free. It is a place where peace activities are held and peacemaking training is conducted." When they can get these peace zones linked together, the entire city will be "a place of peace."

Her work to combat violence and Rev. Everett's work to promote forgiveness are the good that comes out of the evil of the pain suffered after the murder of a loved one. Life and death are left in God's hands; ours is healing work.

The Lighter Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

A great new fad at wedding receptions

There is this great new fad now going on at wedding receptions. Self-contained snap-and-shoot cameras are placed on the tables all over the place. Guests are encouraged to take all kinds of candid pictures during the reception and then drop the cameras in a bin as they exit, the bin being clearly marked "camera bin" with black grease pencil. Another butcher paper note is added to the punch bowl during the reception that says, "Not camera bin, you idiots."

It is widely rumored that this fad was the invention of a father-of-the-bride who, when presented with the estimate of a professional wedding photographer, was quoted as saying, "What the (bleep) is this? Who is this jerk, George Lucas or Stevie Spielberg? We don't need a full-length motion picture here. We just need a bunch of posed shots of people in rented clothing the price of which would subsidize health care for Honduras.

"These pieces of art, then, our daughter can jam into a $200 scrapbook with fancy lettering on it that says 'Our Wedding' that she can stuff into a drawer and try to figure out while she's doing a 2 a.m. feeding a couple years down the road — and then take it out again when she's 40."

Or something like that.

Another theory is that the new fad was an import from dorm parties, but that's doubtful given the fact that the average male dorm dweller faced with the decision of buying a $6.95 camera or a half-rack of animal beer will say, "Who has two bucks I can borrow for another half rack?"

Needless to say, professional wedding photographers, videographers, "portrait masters" and "dream savers" were not put out of business. However, snap-and-shoot stocks have risen sharply.

This is understandable when one sees a person with the distinct appearance of a bride's father (red eyes, drooping shoulders, mildewed boutonniere stapled to suspenders) wheelbarrowing a load of snap-and-shots into K-Mart.

On the positive side (not that any of the preceding was negative), the happily wed couple now will have several pounds of snapshots they can spend hours pouring over, trying to figure out who the several strangers attending their reception might have been.

There is also the potentially lucrative black market. They can fantasize about calling the bride's engaged brother and saying in a husky voice, "How much for the negatives of you holding hands with your old girlfriend?"

"We weren't holding hands," he'll scream. "She was handing me back my high school class ring."

"Small, unmarked bills will be fine," the husky voice replies.

For years to come on their anniversary the couple can sort through endearing and nostalgic shots of extreme close-ups of noses, shots of the floor, shots of pants pockets, shots of knees and elbows, shots of Aunt Shirley twirling her favorite blue wig on her finger.

This is such a great fad, there's talk of it spilling over into the children's birthday and anniversary celebration markets. Excuse me while I check the price of my Kodak and Fuji stock.

Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Haven of welcome and faith

It will hardly surprise you that over the years I have visited many churches and other houses of worship. It comes with the territory for most priests, of course. Simple or elaborate, ancient or modern, the architecture and adornments of each church embrace and welcome the faithful who gather there.

Enter St. Patrick's Cathedral, here in New York City, and the word magnificent comes to mind. Because I have been fortunate enough to say Mass there regularly for the last two and a half years, I have come to feel very much at home in "St. Pat's." The thing about home is that it's an easy place to take for granted.

I have grown accustomed to looking up at the vivid colors of the Rose Window and the rest of the stained glass...the rich sounds of the organ...the scent of flickering candles...by now they have come to blend into the background. But the people — they stand out more clearly all the time. They can never be taken for granted.

So many come, 365 days a year: local people who work or live in midtown Manhattan stop in to attend services or have a few moments of reflection. Many tourists come to see one more New York sight, and to take a break and rest their feet for a few minutes. But I notice how many of them have come to pray.

Visitors from every state, country and religion of the world find a place to refresh their spirits. I see them quietly sitting, or standing or kneeling in front of the main altar or one of the many side chapels. St. Jude and St. Anthony are obvious favorites with many people. And lately I have realized just how many are drawn to the presence of the beautiful painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There is virtually no time from the moment the doors open until they are shut for the night that visitors are not gathered before this inviting image of Mary.

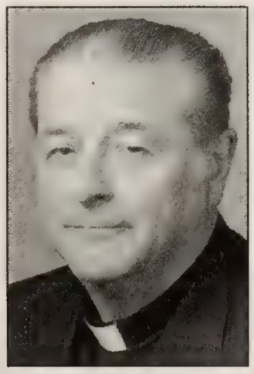
Intrigued, I asked about the picture's history and learned that it was painted by an anonymous 18th century Mexican artist. In 1991, the painting was given by the people of the Archdiocese of Mexico City to the cathedral. Cardinal Ernesto Corripio personally brought it here and presented to New York's Cardinal John O'Connor. Now it hangs in a place of honor close to the main altar.

But the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back much further. In 1531 Juan Diego, an Indian, saw a beautiful lady appear to him on a hill near Mexico City. She told him to tell the bishop that she wanted a church built there so that she could "console and help all those who seek me, and give them all my love." The bishop did not believe Juan Diego and asked for a sign. The lady told Juan Diego to gather roses that appeared on a previously barren hillside. When he unwrapped his tilma or cloak bearing the flowers in front of the bishop, the lady's image appeared on the cloak. It's a wonderful story.

I can see why so many people are attracted to the strong, gentle, compassionate face of this manifestly young Indian woman today just as they were centuries ago. She came into a violent age, sadly, too much like our own, to offer comfort to all. People of different backgrounds and languages and needs still feel welcomed by Our Lady of Guadalupe, now patron of the Americas.

I believe what each of us seeks when we enter a place of worship is this sense of welcome, of being wanted for ourselves. This is the spirit of God's own love. And every time we express our hospitality and our compassion to others, we, too, become channels of his merciful grace.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The flag at the funeral Mass

Q. Lately when a veteran dies in our parish, the American Legion is not permitted to post the colors at the funeral Mass. The flag was not draped over the coffin to replace the funeral pall. (I realize this is not permitted in the Order of Christian Funerals, 132.)

According to the American bishops' document, "Environment and Art in Catholic Worship," national flags should not constitute part of the regular environment in church, but it says they may be used for particular occasions or holidays (101).

Would this not mean that having the flag in church at funerals of veterans would be appropriate? If the church is universal, why do these things vary from church to church?

A. You make a good point. For those who may not be familiar with the subject of your question, the American or other national flag may be draped over the casket until the body enters the church. The flag is then folded and may be replaced on the casket until after Mass.

The white pall, of course, along with the sprinkling of holy water, symbolizes the water and white cloth used at baptism. It expresses the baptism faith of the deceased, which is shared by others present for the funeral liturgy.

Likewise, as you note, according to Catholic liturgical instructions permanent display of a national flag in church is not appropriate. Older Catholics may remember that display of the American flag in churches became widespread around the time of World War II.

Even then, however, the custom held only in the United States. Apart from special events, Catholics of other nations even today do not display their national flag in church, at least in the sanctuary.

In churches of Italy, for example, one sees no Italian flag. It would be considered improper and foreign to the spirit of the Eucharist, which knows no national or other political boundaries.

As our bishops' Committee on the Liturgy put it, responding to a question similar to yours: "When Catholics assemble for worship, they bring with them their cultural, ethnic and national identities. These traits should not be devalued or denied." Still, it said, the liturgy must always reflect a church which is truly Catholic (1982).

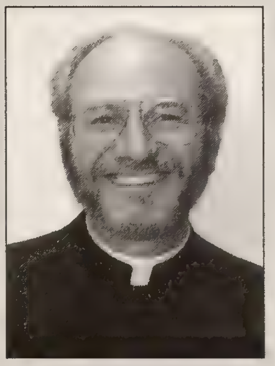
As a Christian and as a human being, a person who has died owed many loyalties: to God, to his or her spouse and children, to others who rightfully depended on him or her for love and care, to work and profession — and of course to a patriotic commitment to honor and preserve our country's ideals of justice and freedom.

A primary intention of our Catholic funeral liturgy is to acknowledge and thank God for this particular Christian's faithful adherence to all these commitments and loyalties, rather than single out one aspect of Christian generosity as symbolically the primary focus of the Mass and other burial liturgies.

Obviously, to display the flag or other symbols of our nation and its ideals during major celebrations or holidays makes sense, and is certainly appropriate and proper. Perhaps it is possible to interpret "posting the colors" at the funeral Mass of a military veteran, somewhere outside the immediate liturgical area, as one of those "particular occasions" the bishops described.

Liturgical instructions of the Catholic Church leave room for much flexibility in many instances and, as here, some possible differences of interpretation. Some priests and liturgy personnel are, I believe, simply unaware of many relevant liturgical documents and the directions they contain, and the background and reasons they offer for those directions.

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

The healing rhythm of Sabbath

When Truett Cathy started his diner in 1946, he opened 24 hours a day, six days a week. Based on biblical reasons Cathy observed Sunday as a day of rest and a day for the family. When Chick-Fil-A, his franchise chicken business, expanded to Southern malls in 1967, they also closed on Sundays. Today his $900 million business — with 842 franchised stores in 36 states employing over 40,000 — yields its Sunday trade to other fast food chains. Chick-Fil-A does its business in six days. Many patrons maintain their allegiance to the business partly because of the Sunday closure. Yet, the policy remains especially popular with the franchise operators and their employees for a day of rest.

But, Chick-Fil-A is bucking a trend. The demands of the economic system and a change in American values are squeezing opportunities for leisure from workers and families. Expanded hours and demand for workers offer important benefits to the economy and convenience to shoppers, but at a price. Estimates range from eight to 17 percent of workers face undesired overtime.

Americans now work 163 hours more per year — an extra month — than 25 years ago. They spend ten to 12 fewer hours per week with their children. The allure of pricy leisure activities drives some to work harder and longer. Others making low wages must balance two jobs with the demands of family life. The result: loss of free time, missed opportunities with the family and fewer possibilities for personal renewal.

The teaching on Sabbath rest represents a neglected insight about economics, ecology and the worship of God. The Third Commandment offers a path for meeting the material needs of people while respecting God and creation. In the biblical story after creating the world in six days, God "rested on the seventh day" (Gen. 2:2). The Sabbath offers a healthy rhythm that balances work and commerce with prayer, rest and play.

First, Sabbath keeping addresses the treatment of workers. Workers can never become simply an input to production. The Sabbath calls for a just wage so no one need work two jobs without leisure. It also rescues the approximately four million workers wanting full time employment from the trap of part-time jobs with few benefits. The Sabbath stands as a symbol of freedom from slavery, whether that be political or economic.

Secondly, Sabbath calls for a renewed appreciation of creation as a gift from God. People who enjoy hikes, plant gardens and marvel at the world's beauty will find creative resolutions to the false dichotomy of "jobs versus the environment." Simpler lifestyles will save resources, lessen pollution and decrease waste caused by producing frivolous things.

Finally, the Eucharistic celebration on the Lord's Day motivates believers to visit the sick, help the poor and care for the elderly. The Day of the Lord becomes a day for the family.

The Sabbath promises to change society's emphasis on the bottom line for a better quality of life.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky.

Georgetown University names first woman provost

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dorothy Brown, the first woman named provost of Georgetown University in Washington, says she has been asked to move the institution forward. It's a task the Catholic history professor and author said she is eager and prepared to undertake. Brown, whose appointment was announced in April by Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan, university president, has been interim provost since last July. As provost, she is the university's chief academic officer, overseeing undergraduate and graduate schools, the library, and numerous centers, institutes and programs. In Father O'Donovan's absence from the campus, she becomes acting president.

Father John Castelot, Scripture scholar, dies

LIVONIA, Mich. (CNS) — Father John Castelot, 82, an internationally known Scripture scholar, died May 14, the 57th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A funeral Mass was to be celebrated May 18 at St. Edith Parish in the Detroit suburb of Livonia for the priest, who was a diabetic and died following a lengthy illness. Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida was to be the main celebrant of the Mass, with Saginaw Bishop Kenneth E. Untener as homilist. Father Castelot, in addition to his scholarly work, contributed a regular column on Scripture for more than 20 years to the Faith Alive! religious education series distributed by Catholic News Service.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Newly elected Barak

The newly elected prime minister of Israel, Ehud Barak, prays at the Western Wall in Jerusalem May 18. Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah said he hoped Israel's new leaders will "answer the people's expectations for peace."

Catholic Charities official says AIDS patients marginalized

ROME (CNS) — As the survival rate for people with AIDS continues to climb, more are being marginalized — in the same way that society pushes the long-term poor to its edges, said a San Francisco church charity official. "Not all people who have HIV are economically deprived," said Frank Hudson, chief executive officer of the San Francisco archdiocesan office of Catholic Charities USA. "However, the disease has such a stigma — even in a sophisticated city like San Francisco — that one tends to become ostracized from loved ones and family. This is a form of poverty which is extreme."

Priest's WWII heroism to be featured at Memorial Day concert

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The first priest to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor will be remembered during the National Memorial Day Concert May 30 at the U.S. Capitol. Jesuit Father Joseph T. O'Callahan was serving as a Navy chaplain during a kamikaze attack in 1945 against the USS Franklin. His first-person account of the horror of the attack will be recited by actor Charles Durning during the program, which will be televised live by PBS 8-9:30 p.m. (EDT) Sunday, May 30.

Eighty-year-old Colorado woman volunteers for Mexico mission

DENVER (CNS) — Age has never been a barrier to 80-year-old Bridget Olguin, who is heading to Hermosillo, Mexico, to serve a mission sponsored there by Colorado's three Catholic dioceses. Olguin, the mother of five children, grandmother of seven, and great-grandmother of two, was commissioned by Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput on Mother's Day, May 9, along with two others accepted for the mission. She will be new to the Mexico mission but not to foreign mission work. She served in Colorado's former mission in Colombia, from 1986-88, and before that spent two years in the Peace Corps.

Former abortion nurse tells how she became pro-life advocate

CONVENT STATION, N.J. (CNS) — A former abortion clinic nurse described for an audience at an event for the New Jersey Legal Center for Defense of Life how she finally turned her back on the abortion industry and walked away after assisting at more than 10,000 abortions. "I realize very astutely that you have all been involved in defense of human life and put your lives on the line while I have had hundreds and hundreds of pro-lifers arrested," said Joan Appleton, who was head nurse at an abortion clinic in Falls Church, Va., and an active member of the National Organization for Women, working to keep abortion legal.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:
C.C.H.D. (704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe (336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services (704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief (704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry (704) 370-3220
Family Life (704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand (336) 725-HAND
Host Homes (336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation (704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning (704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl (704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper (704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza (704) 370-6928
Respect Life (704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille (704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network (704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced (704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

COMMUNITY...

At Domino's Pizza of Charlotte we strive for just a little more than the perfect pizza.

We like to have a perfect relationship with our community.

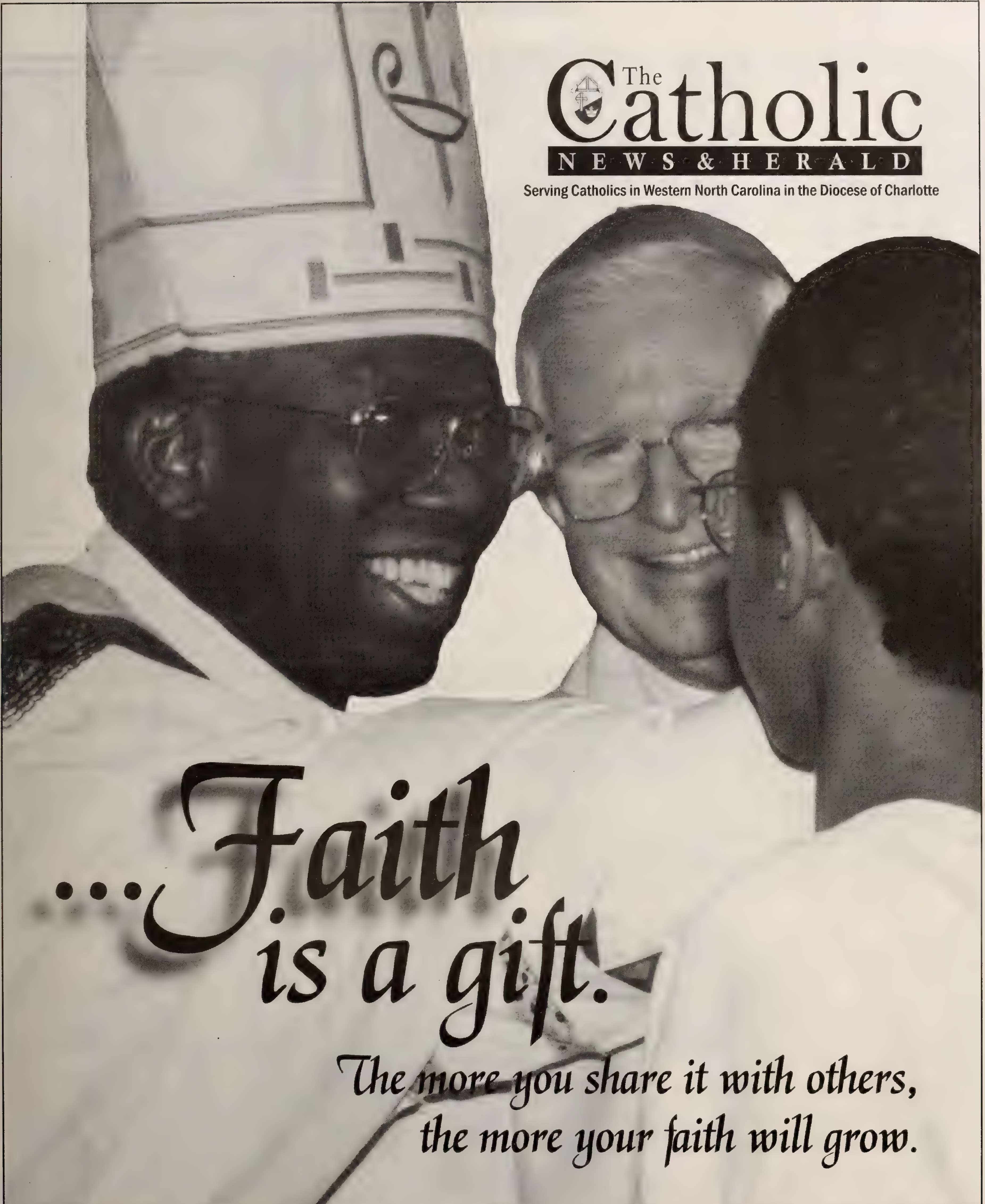
Domino's is happy to partner and support the Catholic schools of Charlotte!

Domino's wishes the Catholic students of Charlotte a safe and happy summer!

Domino's Pizza

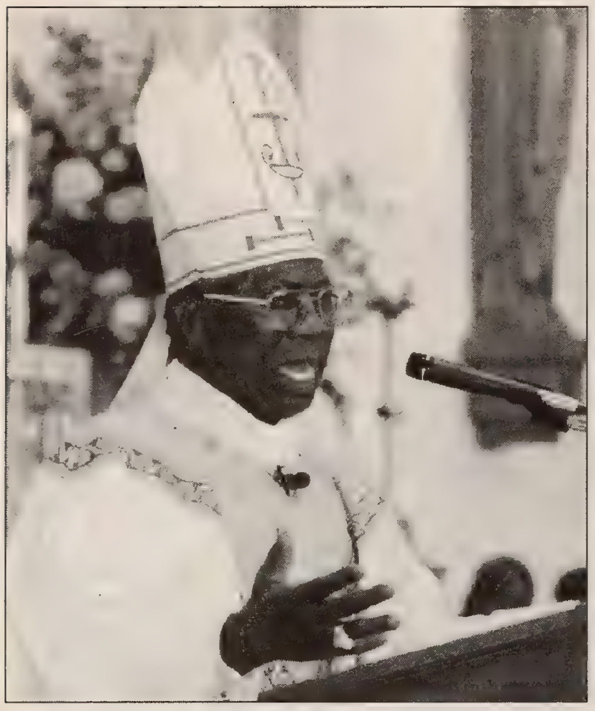
Charlotte's Pizza Delivery Experts!

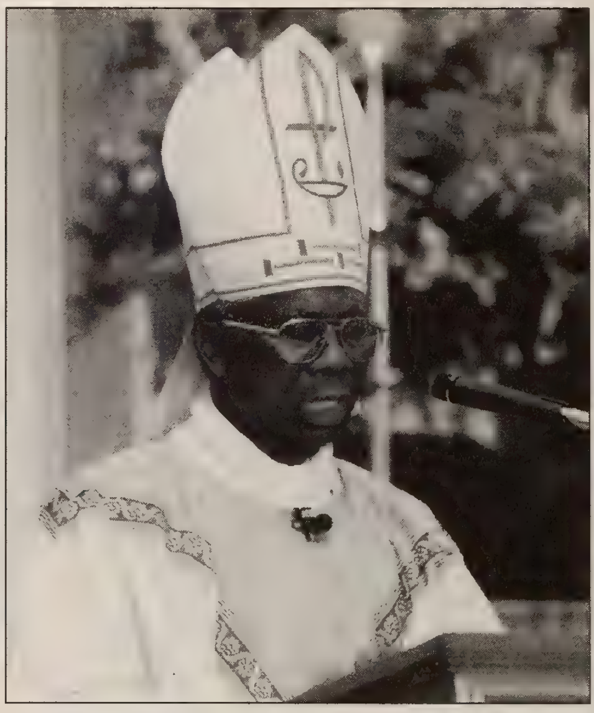
The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

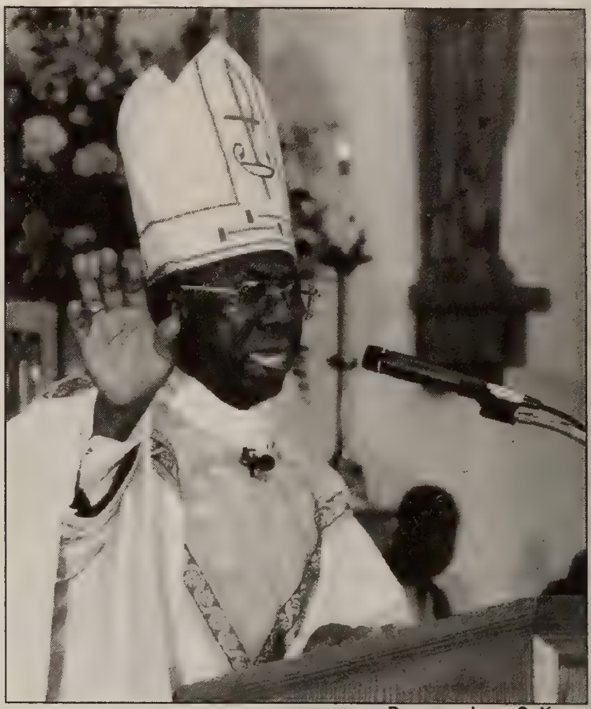


...Faith
is a gift.
The more you share it with others,
the more your faith will grow.

Honoring the Visit of His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze May 1999







Photos by Joann S. Keane

Faith is a gift

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

In his homily, Cardinal Francis Arinze reflected upon three tenets of the faith: The beauty of our Catholic faith; on the liberating power of our faith; and what is expected of us as a response.

Following are excerpts from the homily of Cardinal Francis Arinze:

— "Our faith is something of joy. It is something beautiful. Not put together by us, it is the eternal Father who loved the world so much that He sent His only son ... The son of God took on human nature, for love of us and for our salvation."

— "The church was put together not by international executives ... it was the son of God who Himself chose 72 disciples and an inner circle of 12 apostles, among them St. Peter who built His church on a rock ... and entrusted it to St. Peter and the apostles and their successors to look after. On His behalf, He gave them this divine authority."

— "Our faith is not a matter of opinion. It isn't *I think* or *maybe* or *perhaps* or *sometimes* or *let us see.* It isn't a matter of majority opinion. ... the gospel is fixed not by the bishop, not by the pope, not by the priests, [it is] by Christ. The pope and the bishops and the priests and deacons are only servants. When they have read the word of God, they say to us, 'the word of the Lord,' not *my word.*"

— "The faith is universal. It is not a village celebration, it is not a local club. It is God's family for all humanity. It is a faith which goes down well for all people and cultures and languages and social groups."

— "This is the church ... that goes well with human nature, respecting how we think. Good philosophy is the foundation for good theology. So that whatever is best even in Greek philosophy of Aristotle or Plato, Christianity does not scorn it. [With] Christian theological giants like St. Augustine or St. Thomas Aquinas, the church is able to articulate our faith in categories taken from good philosophy."

— "Work is a dimension of life. By my work I relate with my neighbor. My work is my way of holding the right and the left hand of the brotherhood and sisterhood with my fellow human beings on the journey of life. We are not islands, we are interdependent. So, our work is our way to express our love for other people. If you work well, then it is part of your religion. Religion is not something for Sunday morning, and work something else for Monday. There is sacredness, the integration of life with religion."

— "This faith is also very liberating ... with this faith, the human person is taken seriously and honored and elevated. As Christ Himself says, 'You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' We must not be afraid of the truth. The will of God does not oppress us."

— "Because Christ took on human nature, He united himself somehow with every human being, so that every human being is unique and worthy of respect. Man or woman, child or grown-up, whether that human being is handicapped or is old or is sick or is unborn. That human being is a person, and that human being has rights."

— "God says I know you by name. Even if there are 6 billion of us on earth, none is a figure or a number before God. Each of us is an individual."

— "It is not because we are very clever that we became Catholics. It is because God is good. There are some people who are not Catholics and perhaps they perform better than we. We don't know. On the last day before God, we shall see. Only God can judge the opportunities you had and the generosity of your response."

— "Gratitude for the faith ... is not enough. We should know our faith more and more. Learn about it more and more. Read about it. It is not enough what you knew about your faith at the age of 14, now at 45 you have to know more. Read serious books. There is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the latest compendium of our faith by some of the best brains in the church today, given authority by the pope."

— "It is not enough to know our faith. We should also love it and we should also live it. And living our faith, we should live it in an integral way, in a total way."

— "We should not engage in pick and choose Christianity. *I like this doctrine, the other ones, I don't like and will not follow.* Our faith does not depend on opinion poll."

— "It is not enough to be a Christian. What have you done to share our faith with others? If you are happy in your faith, what have you done to share it with others? How many people can thank God because of through you, they began to know Christ?"

— "My brothers and sisters, let us thank Christ who has called us, not because of any good we have done, but beause he is good. Let us beg him that we may know our faith more and more."

— "We love it, we live it, and we share it." ▾

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Cardinal Francis Arinze and Bishop William G. Curlin offer the Eucharistic Prayer in preparation for Communion.

Cover photo by
Joann S. Keane

Cardinal visits Charlotte with message of a living faith

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In a passionate message of praise for Jesus and his church, a Vatican official known for promoting relations among world religions shared a plea with hundreds of the devoted in the Diocese of Charlotte to live, love and share their faith.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, presided over a Mass May 17 at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte with Bishop William G. Curlin and other priests of the diocese.

As part of his visit to North Carolina, Cardinal Arinze's stop in Charlotte was a celebration of religion, spirituality and culture. During the Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church, the cardinal extolled all three in the light of one's beliefs.

"Think about it: The faith is a gift," the cardinal said. "The more you share it with others, the more your faith will grow. The less you share it with others, the more your faith is like a battery that is dying."

Cardinal Arinze is one of five cardinals presiding on the papal coordinating committee for the jubilee year 2000.

His homily in Charlotte, however, focused not on what may happen in the future. Instead, the cardinal said faith is something that must be embraced today as a way to welcome God's love.

"We must not be afraid of Christ," he said. "The will of God does not oppress us. The law of God is not made in order to prevent us from being happy or free."

Real freedom, rather, comes in recognizing the truth in God's law and love through the teachings and traditions of the church, the cardinal said. "The faith is also very liberating," he continued. "As Christ himself said, 'You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.'"

Cardinal Arinze is a member of the Roman Curia, or Pope John Paul II's direct staff. In remarks during the Mass and at a dinner preceding it, Bishop William G. Curlin said the cardinal's sojourn was a significant chapter in the history of the diocese. The bishop also recognized the link between Pope John Paul II and the visiting cardinal.

"In a spiritual way, because of your position in the Curia, you bring the presence of the Holy Father to us," Bishop Curlin told Cardinal Arinze. "The love and the best wishes that we extend to you we hope you will take to the Holy Father from western North Carolina and our diocese."

Crowning his Charlotte visit with the Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church, Cardinal Arinze witnessed and commented on the importance of an ecumenical spirit in today's world. Members of the local Nigerian community greeted the cardinal in song and dance. City Council member Nasif Majeed, a Muslim, presented the cardinal a gift on behalf of the city of Charlotte, and thanked the cardinal for his strides in working with people of all faiths. People of various religious traditions attended the Mass.

Photo by JoAnn S. Keane

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Cardinal Francis Arinze, Bishop William G. Curlin, and Father Eric Houseknecht during the Mass. Father Houseknecht is pastor at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"Your representative character is already a visible sign of the invisible unity that there is here," Cardinal Arinze said to one diverse assembly.

A native of Nigeria, Cardinal Arinze was baptized at age 9 into the Roman Catholic Church. His early years taught him to appreciate variety in forms of religious expression, a lesson that has served him well as president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

"On matters that are not dogmatic, the church is flexible," Cardinal Arinze said in his homily. "The church is open to cultures and languages. Therefore, the Second Vatican Council says that the church respects whatever is good or noble or true in the culture of each people."

That message of universality and inclusion rang true for many assembled at Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte's only black Catholic parish and one of just a few in the 46 counties composing the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Cardinal Arinze's visit served several purposes. "It gave the Diocese of Charlotte some visibility," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, the diocese's vice chancellor and vicar for its African American Affairs Ministry, and a permanent deacon who serves at the parish. "It gives Our Lady of Consolation some visibility because many people don't know that there is a black parish in the city."

"What stood out the most for me was the joy and the happiness and the pride that was expressed in almost everybody's face who met him," Rev. Mr. Todd continued. "During the liturgy, you could see it in people's expressions."

Parishioner Sandy Murdock chaired the cardinal's welcoming committee. "His visit here to Our Lady of Consolation culminates what we have been trying to do, and that is get in touch with our Catholic religion as well as our African culture," she said. "He brings both of those things to us."

Like Bishop Curlin, Murdock noted the event as a special one for the local church. "As far as the parish is concerned, I think this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a lot of us," she said with a smile. "We may never have the opportunity to see another cardinal."

While his ministry is largely focused on enriching religious experiences of people of all faiths, Cardinal Arinze praised Christianity's efforts at celebrating the dignity of the person.

"From the vantage point of the office where I work in the Vatican, ... I can tell you I don't know any religion that takes the human being so seriously as the Christian faith," he said.

The cardinal added that the Catholic Church's doctrines on social life and economics do much to promote the belief that, because Christ himself took a human form, all human life is divine. " ... He united himself somehow with every human being so that every human being is unique and worthy of respect," he said. "Man or woman, child or grown-up, whether that human being is handicapped or is old or is sick or is unborn, that human being is a person; that human being has rights."

The cardinal concluded his homily by reminding the congregation that while gratitude for faith is important, there is more. "We should know our faith more and more," he said. "Learn about it more and more. Read about it. ...

"But it is not enough to know our faith," he continued. "We should also love it and we should also live it.... Stand up and be counted for Christ." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or by sending e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Nigerian parishioner recalls Cardinal Arinze from childhood

By CONSTANCE HOLLOWAY
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — When Collins Ibeto got news of Cardinal Francis Arinze's scheduled visit to Charlotte, he couldn't wait to get on the telephone.

"When I heard that he was coming, I personally made a phone call to the bishop ... asking him what I could do to be involved," says Ibeto. The Our Lady of Consolation parishioner took on the task of "organizing the Nigerian community" in Charlotte: calling families to alert them of Cardinal Arinze's May 17 visit and organizing a group to welcome him at the airport. No doubt he felt it was the least he could to honor a fellow Nigerian.

On Monday, Ibeto, his family and hundreds of other worshippers flocked to Our Lady of Consolation to hear Cardinal Arinze and Bishop William G. Curlin celebrate Mass. It had been nearly 20 years since Ibeto, who's lived in Charlotte for 12 years, saw the cardinal. He was then archbishop of Onitsha in eastern Nigeria, which Ibeto says has a majority Catholic population.

"I saw him celebrate Mass about 15 times. As a matter of fact, he would have confirmed me if I wasn't (living) in another city," says Ibeto, an environmental technologist. Ibeto was about 11 when he first got a glimpse of Cardinal Arinze, and he's been enamored of the cleric ever since.

"There's a power that comes out when he delivers the homilies," says Ibeto, 45, "and you just feel like there's Christ around you. ... He gets you totally focused."

Cardinal Arinze, 66, was ordained a priest in 1958 in Rome after studying theology. He was ordained the coadjutor bishop of Onitsha in 1965 and appointed the first indigenous archbishop of Onitsha in 1967. The pope elevated him to cardinal in 1985.

On Monday, Ibeto and a group of about 50 Nigerians, including his wife, Meg, and four children, welcomed Cardinal Arinze at the airport. In full African dress, members of the group sang and played drums. That day, Cardinal Arinze was given a crystal plaque bearing the inscription, "African People's Award: In recognition of his highest attainment in self-less leadership services to humanity" — a gift that Ibeto, just days earlier, had kept watch over at his home. ▼

Cardinal Arinze tells Wake Forest graduates to seek religious harmony

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (CNS) — In a commencement address at Wake Forest University, the president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue made a plea for interreligious harmony and collaboration.

"Religious plurality is a fact," Cardinal Francis Arinze said May 17 to a crowd of 10,000 graduates, their families and friends, and school officials.

But, he said, collaboration among followers of the various religions "is necessary both for theological and sociological reasons," including recognition of the same God as creator of all and promotion of the common good and mutual enrichment of all members of the human family.

He said citizens of the same country with different religions should "accept and respect one another" and "join hands to seek solutions to major problems of their society."

"There is no Catholic hurricane or Baptist drought," he noted. "There is no Jewish inflation or Muslim unemployment. There is no Buddhist drug addiction or Hindu AIDS."

The commencement ceremony, during which Cardinal Arinze was awarded an honorary doctorate, concluded a "Year of Globalization and Diversity" at the independent North Carolina school. The cardinal's nephew, Niki Arinze, is a Wake Forest undergraduate and member of the men's basketball team.

Speaking on "The Role of Religion in a World Seeking Harmony," the Nigerian-born prelate said people worldwide seek greater harmony and unity.

Science and technology, industry and trade, academic and cultural pursuits, and politics all have contributed to globalization, he said. But, religion and interreligious collaboration also are important to this growing sense of the world as a global village.

"People absolutely need religion in order to find not only satisfactory answers but also a proven way of life," he said, "which promises to help them to reach the desirable goal."

He said religion helps people answer fundamental questions about a supreme being, about the creation and order of the universe, about the meaning and goal of their own existence, about right and wrong behavior, about happiness and suffering.

Cardinal Arinze said religion helps people answer fundamental questions about a supreme being, about the creation and order of the universe, about the meaning and goal of their own existence, about right and wrong behavior, about happiness and suffering.

Religion also helps people "appreciate and establish relationships" with God the creator and with other members of the one human family, he said.

Consequently, he said, much in human behavior comes under the purview of religion: "respect for the rights of others, questions of justice and peace, the necessity to eliminate unjust discriminations based on language, race, place of origin, social status, sex or religion."

In his speech, Cardinal Arinze said religions "are expected to contribute to a more just economic, social and political order."

When people and nations sincerely accept their interdependence, it leads to solidarity, a moral virtue that teaches sharing, he said. "Solidarity is interdependence accepted, loved and lived."

The cardinal said his plea for interreligious collaboration should not be misinterpreted as "support for the foundation of more religions." There already are too many, he said.

"Much as it might be beautiful if there were only one religion," he added, "we should not deny any human being the exercise of the right to religious freedom, within due limits."

CNS PHOTO COURTESY WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Francis Arinze receives an honorary degree at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., May 17. Cardinal Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, told graduates at the commencement ceremony that religion is "an air, an atmosphere, a climate in which we live from Sunday to Saturday, from January to December."

But, he said, arguing in favor of interreligious collaboration also "does not aim at depriving any religion of its identity. ... We are not trying to make an omelet of the religions. Such a religion would be the religion of nobody."

He said interreligious cooperation presumes that participating believers belong to a religion with clear beliefs, rituals and code of conduct. "It should equip the believer with a unified view of life," he said. "It should present a vital synthesis of the details that make up a person's daily life."

"In short," he said, "religion is not a special coat put on for one hour on Sunday morning. It is life, which we live 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Cardinal Arinze said those who argue that religions have caused tension, violence and war must not be ignored. "Prejudices generated or occasioned by religions, and handed on from generation to generation, are not easy to discard," he admitted.

But, he said, "it must be asserted that every religion worthy of the name teaches the golden rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.' Genuine religion is about love of God and consequent love of neighbor."

The cardinal said true believers are "known by love of neighbor, readiness to admit guilt where there has been any, openness to reconciliation and positive promotion of solidarity between peoples, cultures and religions."

"Give us such people in large numbers," he concluded, "and our societies will be able to look to the future, to the forthcoming millennium, with a sense of renewed hope that greater harmony is not impossible." ▼

Who is Cardinal Francis Arinze?

- Cardinal Arinze was born in 1932 in Onitsha, Nigeria, from an African traditional religion.

- He was baptized Catholic at age 9 and entered the seminary at age 13.

- Cardinal Arinze was ordained a priest in 1958 and a bishop in 1965.

- He was Archbishop of Onitsha during Nigeria's civil war (1967-1970).

- As Archbishop and, later, President of the Nigerian Council of Bishops, he helped mobilize the native clergy, religious and laity and was a major contributor in the evangelization which doubled the number of Catholics in Nigeria in less than 14 years.

- By 1984, 65.6% of the Onitsha Archdiocese was Catholic, while the national average of Catholics was only 11.2% in a population of 89 million.

- In 1985, His Eminence was named a cardinal by Pope John Paul II. The same year he was named President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue.

- Today, Cardinal Arinze is a member of the Roman Curia, the Holy Father's direct staff. He is also one of five cardinals on Pope John Paul II's planning committee for the Jubilee 2000.

- He also serves the Executive Committees of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

- His Eminence can be seen on television on the Apostolate for Family Consecration's "Family Convenant, Spirit of John Paul II," and the Eternal World Television Network's "Be Not Afraid Family Hour" series.

— Compiled by Julie Radcliffe

Special thanks to...

The Cardinal Arinze Planning Committee
Mrs. Sandy Murdock
Chairperson

Wachovia Bank
Hospitality

Special thanks to the Altar Servers, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir and Youth in Action of Our Lady of Consolation, members of the Nigerian community and all others who worked to make this a very special event.

Rebuilding an Oklahoma town with bricks of faith

By MARIA RUIZ SCAPERLANDA
Catholic News Service

MOORE, Okla. (CNS) — The tornado-struck town of Moore is forever changed.

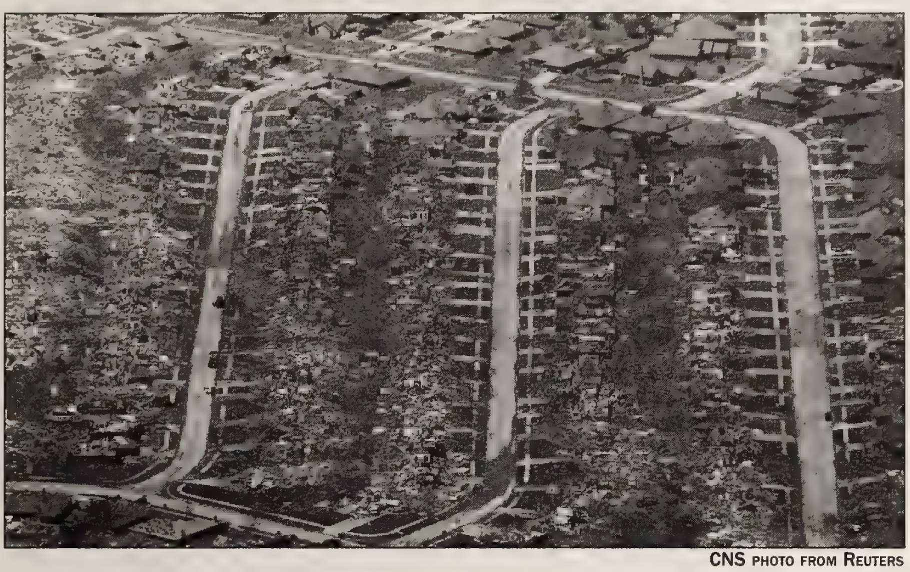
As residents begin long-term planning following a devastating May 3 twister, parishioners at St. Andrew Catholic Church want to offer a new vision for rebuilding their hometown from the rubble — it is a vision built with bricks of faith.

"There is probably no one in the parish who does not know people made homeless by the tornado," said Lee Schoo, business manager at St. Andrew's.

"We've made an effort to contact everyone involved, to talk with the survivors personally, but I'm sure that there are people we still don't know about," Schoo said in an interview.

Only eight blocks from the main path of the F-5 twister, St. Andrew's is at the heart of the devastation. At least 35 parish families had homes and property destroyed or severely damaged.

In this southern suburb of Oklahoma City, more than 560 houses and 60 businesses were destroyed. Thousands of other buildings sustained damage, as broken timber, twisted metal and refuse littered a huge area.



CNS photo from Reuters

An aerial view shows the destruction wrought by a tornado that hit a neighborhood in Moore, Okla. Dozens of people were feared killed and hundreds of homes leveled in Oklahoma and Kansas following a rage of tornadoes May 3.

Amazingly, the church building was not affected, and no members of the parish died, though at least one parishioner suffered a death in the family.

From the onset, St. Andrew's also was at the heart of the response.

The parish immediately turned its parish activity center into a temporary shelter and food station for rescue efforts. Parishioners handed out more than 8,000 sandwiches, lunch boxes, snacks and beverages to residents and workers digging through the wreckage.

Working from maps, church volunteers located and visited hard-hit areas, distributing food, water, clothing, gloves and sun block. "We handed out a lot of stuff very quickly," said Schoo.

St. Andrew's, which housed people for two nights after the storm, has been helping people in need secure long-term temporary shelter. "We're helping people on an individual basis," said Schoo, a Kentucky native who has seen tornadoes "dancing in the sky" before, but never anything like this.

Father John Feehily, pastor of St. Andrew's, hopes the tragedy experienced by his parish community will foster a renewed sense of goodness.

"When you get a tragedy like this, all of a sudden we can see all of the good will," said the priest who is known to parishioners as "Father Jack."

"At all times there are random acts of kindness taking place that are hidden from public view," he said. "But now we look around and we see everywhere people wanting to be helpful, volunteering their time, giving their money, offering items from their own pantry, their own closet."

According to Father Feehily, offers and aid have come from as far away as New Jersey and Massachusetts. A Tulsa, Okla., parish sent $5,600 for the victims a week after the disaster, and a Louisiana parish, which had survived a hurricane, offered to send volunteers to help with long-term recovery.

The pastor said those immediately affected by the tornado were having a hard time identifying explicit needs, making it "very difficult to actually help people tangibly right now." Many urged helping others

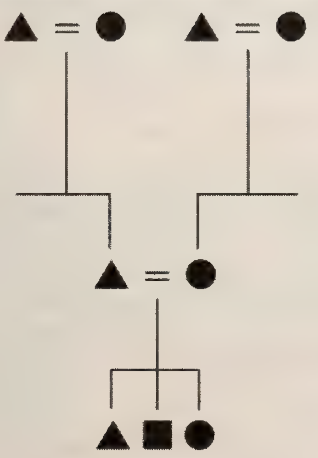
See REBUILDING, page 15

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out
(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen – Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Exploring Family of Origin Awareness
Sponsored by the Special Ministries Office, Catholic Social Services

Saturday, June 5, 1999
9 am — 12 noon
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1400 Suther Road
Charlotte, NC
1½ blocks from UNCC
Presenter:
Joan Lyons, Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies and Theology at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida
In dating and relating to other adults, does it really matter what my family life was like when I was young?
As a family, do we seem to be bogged down with issues involving grandparents, in-laws and our extended families?
Spend a morning growing and learning more about yourself in the "Exploring Family of Origin Awareness" workshop. You will experience an in-depth explanation of family of origin issues and learn ways in which you can benefit from a new self-awareness of your family of origin.
For more information or registration, call Marlo Wallace (704) 370-3228 or e-mail cssgac@aol.com
Cost: $15 individual $25 couple $30 family

Book Review

"The Promise of Virtue" offers something for everyone

REVIEWED BY
FATHER JAMES GILHOOLEY

If you can incorporate Father Eugene Hemrick's "The Promise of Virtue" into your life, it will make you a more attractive person.

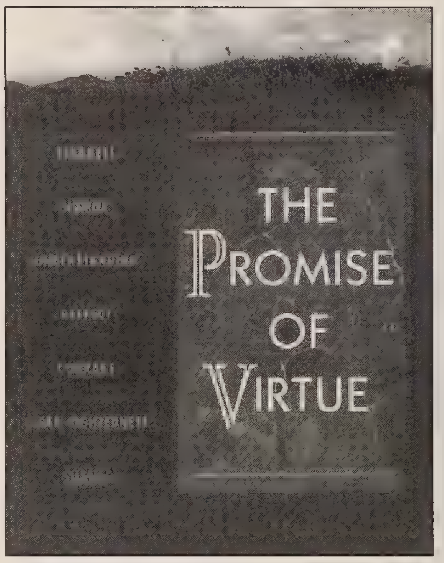
The virtues that Father Hemrick treats are kindness, humor, understanding, respect, courage, clear-sightedness, and silence.

Sprinkled throughout his challenging text, one finds wonderful 30-second bytes. They will bring readers up short and cause them to reflect on their own condition whether they like it or not.

For example, consider this powerful one-liner from C.N. Bovee: "Kindness is a language which the dumb can speak, the deaf can hear." Or this polished gem from Brenden Francis found in the chapter on courage: "Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them." Obviously Father Hemrick, a research specialist at The Catholic University of America and the Washington Theological Union, is well read — and then some.

I apologize for the cliche, but there is something in the text for everyone. I especially enjoyed the author's interpretation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is the finest summation of the spiritual intent of designer Maya Lin that I have read.

Father Hemrick thoughtfully offers "questions for reflection" at the conclusion of each chapter. The questions are followed by a prayer or meditation. I found particularly memorable the meditation offered by Rainer Maria Rilke: "Listen my heart, as only saints have listened..." Rilke's prayer appropriately enough is placed in the chapter on silence.



"The Promise of Virtue"

By Father Eugene F. Hemrick
Ave Maria Press
(Notre Dame, Ind., 1999).
152 pp., $12.95.

The foreword by Scott Appleby of the University of Notre Dame deserves particular mention.

This would be a wonderful book to bring on a retreat. Each day spent on a different virtue could well bring some extra spice and get-up-and-go to those few days with God. ▼

Father Gilhooley, of the Archdiocese of New York, is the author of "Reflections on the Sunday Gospel."

Word to Life

May 23, Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A Readings:
1) Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-31, 34
2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
3) John 20:19-23

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Tornado season is part of the landscape of spring. It brings with it images of the wind's awesome power and autonomy. Alongside tragic stories of devastation there are incredible tales of straw driven through telephone poles and of beds, complete with sleepers, lifted out of houses and deposited unharmed, hundreds of feet away.

The power of the wind is undeniable. The mystery of it, however, is that the wind itself cannot be seen. We can recognize its presence only by its effect on other things — roofless houses, snapping flags, mountainous snow drifts, sculpted dunes on an ocean beach.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that "the term 'Spirit' translates the Hebrew word 'ruah,' which, in its primary sense, means breath, air, wind" (No. 691). As with the wind we recognize the power and presence of the Holy Spirit only by the shape it gives our lives.

In the Pentecost liturgy, Paul identifies one of the principal examples of how the Spirit invisibly moves us: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit."

It's not that mere utterance of the words requires divine inspiration; rather, to say "Jesus is Lord" and mean it both requires and proves that the Holy Spirit is moving within us.

Whenever we see the Lordship of Jesus given shape in human community, we are seeing the effects of the Spirit. The loving attention of friends for a dying person; the courage of an employee refusing to cheat customers; the self-sacrifice of sleepless parents with a sick child; the inspiration of a heartfelt homily — all signal the Spirit's moving our hearts and hands and minds.

May Pentecost open us more fully to the movement of God's Spirit. May our lives give evidence of Christ's love in a hurting world.

Questions:

What is one good thing you've done for others that you were surprised you could do? What evidence of the invisible movement of the Spirit do you see daily that you tend to take for granted?

"Then he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit"'

— John 20:22

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 23 - 29, 1999

Pentecost Sunday, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday**, Sirach 17:19-27, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday**, Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday**, Sirach 36:1, 5-6, 10-17, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday**, Sirach 42:15-25, Mark 10:46-52; **Friday**, Sirach 44:1, 9-13, Mark 11:11-26; **Saturday**, Sirach 51:12-20, Mark 11:27-33

For First Communion & Confirmations
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others
Need extra cash?
PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities
• No cash investment
Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
➤ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
➤ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Buying? Selling? Relocating?
RE/MAX® Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320, Charlotte, NC 28277
- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities
Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
(704) 543-6680 (800) 726-1231 relocarolina@mindspring.com "Your Realtor for Life."

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install
Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Movie Review

“Phantom Menace” is triumph of visual design, emotionally empty

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The massively anticipated prequel, “Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace” (20th Century Fox), turns out to be a visual spectacle that is emotionally empty.

Writer-director George Lucas leaps forward technically over the previous trilogy, but in so emphasizing fantastical creatures and myriad special effects the human dimension is largely lost.

And so, viewers are unlikely to be on the edge of their seats when the climactic battle between anonymous robotic droids and assorted frog-like Gungans occurs.

Nor are the human characters particularly well-developed. The new villain, Darth Maul (Ray Park), whose two-toned demonic head spouts miniature horns, glowers with frightening intensity — but otherwise has no personality or defining dialogue.

Ewan McGregor as young apprentice Jedi knight Obi-Wan Kenobi is mostly wasted in this critical role, reduced to the submissive sidekick of his Jedi teacher, Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson). Just as handicapped in her role is Natalie Portman as Queen Amidala, whose character pales under exotic Kabuki make-up, incredible coiffures and extravagantly bejeweled costumes. Stiff and trance-like in her delivery, her character ends up being one-dimensional.

Most perplexing is central character, 9-year-old Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd), whom virtually everyone knows going in grows up to become the trilogy’s evil Darth Vader (the prequel’s story is set 30 years earlier). Here he is a cute towheaded tyke, but exhibits none of the charisma or any hint of the dark side that would eventually overtake his character. Viewers will wonder why Qui-Gon Jinn is convinced upon meeting him as a slave boy on the desert planet Tatooine that Anakin is the chosen one destined to become a Jedi and bring balance to the Force.

CNS photo from Lucasfilm

Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson), left, and his apprentice Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) take on Sith Lord Darth Maul (Ray Park) in “Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace.”

When the boy is asked to leave his mother (Pernilla August) forever to train as a Jedi knight, what should be a piercing emotional scene of parting is handled matter-of-factly. Time and again the viewers’ emotional involvement is shortchanged as Lucas’ flat direction shuffles scenes from one to the next without perceptible impact.

The story, however, is jam-packed with action and incident, which will especially endear it to young boys. Qui-Gon Jinn and his trusty apprentice Obi-Wan Kenobi are on a mission to rescue Queen Amidala and her peaceful planet, Naboo, from the wiles of the greedy Trade Federation.

Early on, the two Jedis are aided by goofy Gargun creature Jar Jar Binks, an entirely computer-generated character apparently inspired by the formula animated comic critters in Disney cartoons. A little of Jar Jar goes a long way, but his contrived clumsiness goes all the way through the story. At times it’s obvious that the actors aren’t looking precisely at him when they speak as they had to emote to a blue screen, with Jar Jar being added in later on.

In fact, the movie uses more computer-generated shots than any previous film. This allows for some fabulous backdrops, as when the queen argues her case against the Federation in the awesome Galactic Senate.

Youngsters will probably be thrilled by all the action set pieces of intergalactic space battles, Anakin’s breathtaking pod race, exploding starships and crisscrossing light sabers, even if the relationships in the story are not compelling. And the sci-fi violence is largely stylized, so that it need not be restricted to all pre-teens.

In a triumph of visual design, each planet looks nothing like the other, from lushly green Naboo and its opalescent underwater city to the golden sands of Tatooine and the silvery skyscrapers of Coruscan. The spectacle is there in abundance, but with so many creatures and robots crammed in there is less humanity, and one can’t help but wonder if the movie is really geared to selling toy figurines — a cynical outlook perhaps, but a justifiable question.

Usually, Hollywood sequels can’t compare to their originals; in this case, it is the prequel that is light years behind the trilogy that preceded it.

Due to sci-fi swordfights and battle sequences, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

MOVIES ONLINE

Can’t remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you’re connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service’s online site, then look for movie reviews.

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
“Nothing Could Be Finer” Members of St. Gabriel

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody’s goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *“Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement.”*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
K of C
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor’s: AAA

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Elementary School

Immaculata Catholic School, a pre-school through 8th grade school, enrolls 200 students with a professional staff of 20. Immaculata is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte and is in the application process for SACS accreditation.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in education or a related field and have teaching and school administrative experience. Immaculata is a parish school located in Hendersonville, NC.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by June 10 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

Redecorating your gardens? Need new ideas?
Landscape Designer available to help with hundreds of plants and shrubs! Come Visit!

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

School Uniform Sale!

Lower prices!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Free shipping on orders over $75! 1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

All American

Service to Asheville Buyers & Sellers

Over 40 Years Experience in 3 States

Member of:
National Assn. of REALTORS®
Asheville Board of REALTORS®
Asheville Multiple Listing
Asheville Chamber of Commerce
Asheville Executive Sales Assn.
St. Eugene's Church

American
Real Estate Associates, Inc.

TOM "DIXIE" NIELSEN
REALTOR®, Broker
"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
828-299-9211 toll-free: 877-OL-GLORY
E-mail: American-realestate@bigfoot.com

% of fees or compensation donated to your charity or house of worship

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Kindergarten Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher to teach Kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. The teacher will be responsible for teaching all subjects including Religion. Please send resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Middle School Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher in the Middle School starting December 6, 1999 through June 2000. The teacher will be responsible for teaching Language Arts. Please send resume to: Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Assisted Living Caregivers: Homemakers and CNAs — enjoy rewarding work with flexible part-time schedules as a Kelly Assisted Living caregiver. If you have life skills and are caring and compassionate, please call us in Charlotte at (704)523-7884.

Youth & Family Minister: Immaculate Conception Church, Durham, is seeking a full-time Youth & Family Minister to work as a team member in the faith formation of parish families with youth in the 6th - 12th grades. Person must know and relate well to young people and be conscience-driven to serve the people of God in a parish setting in the inner city. Applicants should have a degree in theology, religious education or related field and 3 years' experience (preferred). Salary and benefits commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to SEARCH YFM: Office of Faith Formation, Immaculate Conception Church, 725 Burch Ave., Durham, NC. 27701-2811. Attn: Barbara Pegg.

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and part-time needed, all shifts. Prefer experience in developmental disabilities. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic School, Rocky Mount, NC (grades PK-6th) seeks a Principal. Religious or lay person who is a strong leader and will work closely with the Pastor. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have state certification as a teacher, and a principal's license or its equivalent. Send resume to: Search Committee, 331 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/ Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

Campus Ministry Intern: Full-time position. Intern will work with Catholic Campus Minister assigned to Wake Forest University, WS State University, Salem College, and NC School of the Arts. Requirements: practicing Catholic; bachelor's degree; enrollment in LIMEX (Loyola Institute of Ministry extension program), a three-year graduate program leading to MRE or MPS - application to LIMEX will be sent upon receipt of resume. Benefits: Rm/Bd; $400/mo. stipend (to be increased annually); health insurance; $2,000 tuition grant for LIMEX. Send resume and cover letter by June 1 to Colleen McDermott, Director of Campus Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Call: (704)370-3212. E-mail: campusmin@charlottediocese.org.

School Counselor/Youth Minister: A combined full-time position or two separate part-time positions are available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and School (1000 households; 260 students K-8). The candidate(s) will serve as part-time school counselor and as part-time Youth Minister for the parish in Total Youth Ministry for middle and high school youth. Applicant for the Youth Ministry position must be practicing Catholic. Experience in Youth Ministry and religious education is desirable. Applicants for the counseling position must have a Master's degree of Education in School Counseling. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC, 27262, or fax to (336)884-1849.

Organist: St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, NC. Salary negotiable. Please call Mary Lubic at (336)625-6528 for information.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teacher openings beginning August, 1999: English, PE/Health, Religion, Science, part-time Spanish, and part-time Dance. Please call (704)543-1127 for an application.

Director of Religious Education: St. Leo the Great, a parish of 1600 households, in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a qualified person to administer the parish religious education program for 350 children grades pre-K-8th and family-based sacramental preparation. MA in religious education or theology is preferred; previous experience required; possess good organizational skills and ability to work with volunteers. Candidate may be sent to Fr. Jim Solari, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104 or Fax (336)724-7036; phone: (336)724-0561.

Faith Formation Director (Sunday School Coordinator): Master's or undergraduate degree in Theology or Religious Studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Salary range $30-35K. Housing available. Projected start date July 1999. Send resume/ cover letter to: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Attn: Julie Dilick, Education Commission, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth ministry activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or a related field and three years' experience in youth ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume and credentials to: Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC. Phone (336) 274-6520.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000 fully furnished or $20,000 unfurnished. Call (704)597-1545.

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package

includes free self-installation kit

(professional installation - $49)

Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Restored 'Last Supper' to be unveiled in Milan, Italy, in May

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" never looked so good — or at least not in about five centuries.

The restored masterpiece, probably the best-known depiction of the institution of the Eucharist, was to be unveiled at a May 27 ceremony and available to the public the next day.

The restored masterpiece, probably the best-known depiction of the institution of the Eucharist, was to be unveiled at a May 27 ceremony and available to the public the next day.

"Until now, people have been able to see the painting in its former state or only in part — while the restoration was going on," Cristiana Tugnoli, spokeswoman for the project, told Catholic News Service. "Now they will see it as it was always meant to be seen."

Da Vinci received the commission for the mural in Milan's Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in 1496; it was declared finished four years later and began to flake in 1517, two years before the artist's death.

Experts later determined that da Vinci had experimented in preparing the surface, and that as humidity affected the wall, bits of the painting were destined to drop off. Additional factors, including repeated restoration attempts which at times were improperly done, contributed to its deterioration.

The work was further damaged during the Allied bombing of Milan in 1943. A nearby portion of the convent was bombed, but the "Last Supper" was spared — however, when the protective sand bags were removed, technicians noted that the painting was darker than before.

Later, layers of smog obscured it even more.

Studies for the recent restoration started in 1977; the Italian business giant Olivetti began footing the bill in 1982. The cost to date: about $3.9 million.

The work took more than two decades because "every piece of the painting had a particular characteristic," Tugnoli explained. "Every scrap had to be analyzed and documented, and the workers took many breaks in the interest of being attentive to detail."

The presence of the public also slowed the project, Tugnoli said: "Visitors were often bumping the scaffolding or increasing the humidity or otherwise creating disturbances."

Architects, historians, chemists and other experts were involved, in addition to those who actually scraped away the gook of nearly 500 years.

"It has been a great responsibility," Tugnoli said, "and many people can take pride in it. And many more will benefit from it now." ▼

Photo by Joann S. Keane

The May crowning of Mary
St. Ann students process towards the parish for Mass and the May crowing of Mary. This year, the students filed into the Charlotte parish church, carrying banners reflective of the international church.

Rebuilding, from page 11

who needed it more, he said.

"Most of the people involved in the storm, at least here in the Moore area, were people who were taking care of themselves, who had jobs, had homes, families, cars," said Father Feehily, "and they simply have no precedent for being in a position of need."

The parish is not giving up but making every effort to find out how to help, "emotionally, materially, spiritually," he added.

Statistics can't account for the overwhelming sense of loss experienced in this kind of tragedy, said the priest, who weathered the storm under a highway overpass. As he subsequently drove toward St. Andrew's, he said, "it looked like a war zone."

Insurance will cover many losses, "but the sense of being wiped out is such an overwhelming thing," he said. The best and main thing anyone can do is pray, he added: "Commend these peoples' needs to God. Link yourself to those people through prayer."

Father Feehily, a Boston native who adopted Oklahoma 33 years ago, said the rebuilding of Moore will give the church some unique opportunities.

The week after the disaster, St. Andrew's held a previously scheduled parish mission of healing. And the parish already has contacted tornado victims who are nonpracticing Catholics. "We are very eager to help them," he said.

Also, many people will be moving into the area to construct new homes. "Building a community is about people as well as homes and possessions," he said. "We'll work together to rebuild." ▼

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
BOOKS AND GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
1st Communion, Confirmation, Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, and More!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will: "I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Mercy sister has love of fly-fishing, tying lures

CNS photo by Charmaine Beleele, Arkansas Catholic

Sister of Mercy Carol Anne Corley of Fort Smith, Ark., demonstrates tying a fishing lure. Her fly-fishing hobby has caught the attention of many, including late-night talk show host David Letterman.

By CHARMAINE BELEELE
Catholic News Service

FORT SMITH, Ark. (CNS) — Mercy Sister Carol Anne Corley loves trout fishing, and she is a master at tying lures.

Her skills in the sport have even brought her notoriety beyond Arkansas, including an appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman" on CBS-TV.

But her love of fishing goes beyond sport and has made her something of a stream-side philosopher.

"Fly fishing is so relaxing, so life giving, and you can be one with nature," she told the Arkansas Catholic, newspaper of the Little Rock Diocese.

Sister Corley had been an avid fisher for many years when she developed her affinity for tying flies. When her brother became critically ill and the two of them could no longer go to the streams together to fish, he taught her to tie lures using an exotic array of colorful feathers, yarns, glass beads and delicate tools.

When he died on Christmas Day 1994, Sister Corley inherited his equipment — just as she had been given his love of fly fishing.

"This has so much potential. It's an art, it's a sport, it's a craft, it's a prayer," she said. "You don't have to preach about God when you can just put someone in his hands by a stream."

She studied the art of tying lures at the Fly Fishing Club in Fort Smith. Within six months, she was teaching the class.

It was through a teaching demonstration at the San Mateo International Exposition in California that she began to receive a lot of attention far beyond the boundaries of Arkansas. Then when someone on the Internet dubbed her the "tying nun," she caught the attention of the Letterman show on CBS.

> **Sister Corley had been an avid fisher for many years when she developed her affinity for tying flies. When her brother became critically ill and the two of them could no longer go to the streams together to fish, he taught her to tie lures using an exotic array of colorful feathers, yams, glass beads and delicate tools.**

She was asked to appear on the show, so that meant a trip to New York and presentation of two special lures. Sister Corley created "Dave's Swimming Minnow," a googley-eyed lure with a prominent toothy smile, for which the comedian is known. The second lure, "The Letterman Shrimp," was as serious as the "Swimming Minnow" was funny.

Sister Corley even designed a lure for Letterman sidekick Paul Shaffer with tiny eyes and his trademark sunglasses. It is appropriately named the "Beady-Eyed Minnow."

Her appearance on the show, though, didn't give her a chance to discuss her vision for using fly fishing to help others, specifically women.

A former nurse at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center, Sister Corley's real mission is to help women recovering from breast cancer, especially those who have had mastectomies.

She said there is a national nonprofit program called Casting for Recovery, organized with the idea that women facing their new challenges after breast surgery can be helped in their recovery by coming together in the great outdoors for a retreat to learn how to cast. They also can learn how to tie lures and support each other while doing it.

Sister Corley would like to tap into that program but develop weekly support group meetings instead of longer retreats, she said, and then down the road she hopes to use both fishing and tying lures to develop a youth program.

She has contributed a chapter to a soon-to-be-released book called "The Women's No Nonsense Guide to Fly Fishing," and all proceeds will go to Casting for Recovery. ▼

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

HORIZONS OF THE SPIRIT
Monday, July 5 - Friday, July 9
*"Carmelite Spirituality:
A Resource for Life and Ministry"*
Keith J. Egan - "John of the Cross"
Ernest E. Larkin, O.Carm -
"Comtemplative Prayer in the
Carmelite Tradition"
Vilma Seelaus, OCD - "Teresa of Avila"

For more information write:
Horizons of the Spirit
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Tuition: $150 Room & Board: $200

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

**Remember Confirmation,
Father's Day,
and Graduation Gifts.**

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri. 9am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

*Serving Charlotte with
integrity for over
37 years!*

The LaPointe
Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI
MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S301 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 28, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 37

Inside

Vatican issues stamp to help Kosovar refugees ...PAGE 3

Pope to visit homeland in June ...PAGE 7

Living the Faith
Monk produces multitude of fruit tending orchard ...PAGE 12

Comuniquémonos ...SEE SPECIAL SECTION

Local News

Hamlet parish provides outreach to Hispanics ...PAGE 10

"Caring Hearts" celebrates anniversary ...PAGE 12

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

This issue begins the bi-weekly publishing schedule of The Catholic News & Herald. The next issue will be June 11.

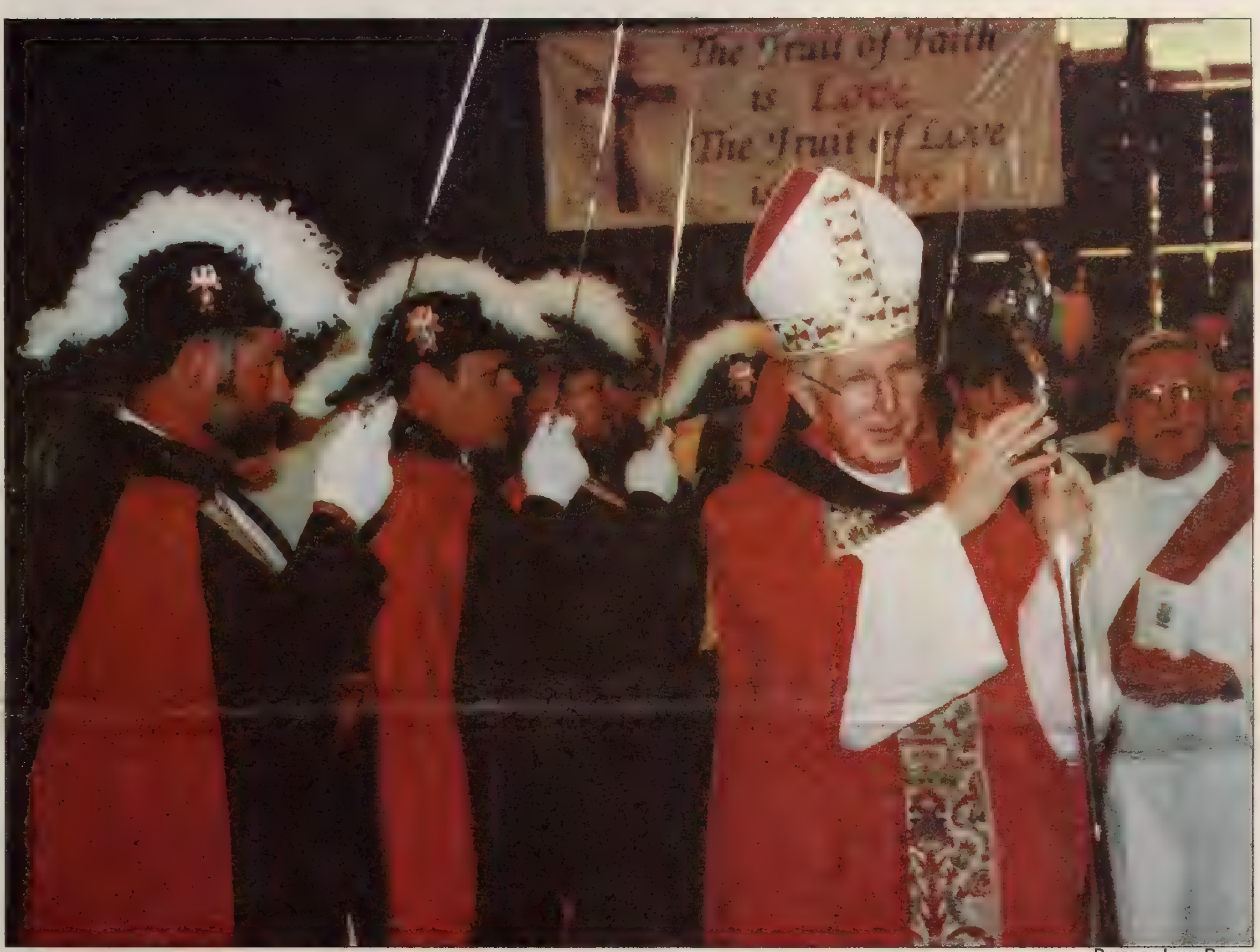


PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Members of the Fourth-degree honor guard line the aisle as Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the congregation at the conclusion of a May 22 Mass at the Adams Mark Hotel in Charlotte. The bishop presided over the Mass during the annual state convention of the North Carolina Knights of Columbus.

N.C. Knights of Columbus gather for annual convention, Mass with bishop

CHARLOTTE — On the eve of Pentecost, Bishop William G. Curlin urged North Carolina's Knights of Columbus and their families to celebrate the birthday of the church and to live for Jesus Christ every day.

Bishop Curlin presided over a Mass during the Knights' annual convention, hosted this year May 21-23 at the Adams Mark Hotel by the Knights councils based in Charlotte. Concelebrants were Father Frank O'Rourke, state chaplain, and Father Anthony Marcaccio, the bishop's priest secretary.

Pentecost, the bishop said in his homily on May 22, is a powerful time to reflect on the gifts of the church.

"We have the tremendous power of God in us, nourished by ... the Eucharistic presence of Christ and guided by the Spirit of God speaking to us in the Scriptures," Bishop Curlin said.

"We have such tremendous gifts," he continued. "We should be so proud to stand up and say, 'I am a Christian; I am a Roman Catholic.'"

Pointing at a large banner affixed to the wall behind him that read, "The Fruit of Faith is Love, The Fruit of Love is Service," the bishop appealed to the congregation to make that message an integral part of their lives.

"Our faith has to be in tune with the heart and mind of Christ, and nourished by prayer and sacrament and love for others," he said. "We have to shine with God's love.

"Let that presence of God grow within you so that, through the power of the Spirit, your marriage, your vocation, your profession and your life become an extension of Christ's life."

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society of Catholic men devoted to the family, the church and the community. The organization was founded in 1882 by Father Michael J. McGivney, whose cause for sainthood is currently under review. The Knights' international headquarters are based in New Haven, Conn. There are nearly 11,000 Knights currently in North Carolina.

Almost 500 Knights of Columbus and their wives from throughout North Carolina attended the 79th an-

> "Our faith has to be in tune with the heart and mind of Christ, and nourished by prayer and sacrament and love for others. We have to shine with God's love."
>
> — *Bishop William G. Curlin*

SEE KNIGHTS, PAGE 11

The World in Brief

Church hails decree pardoning executed beatified bishop

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Bulgaria's Catholic Church welcomed a court decree overturning the 1952 death sentence on Blessed Eugen Bossilkov, a year after the bishop became the first communist show-trial victim to be beatified by the pope. "This rehabilitation is strictly a state matter, but it's also very important for church and faith, and we've done everything to bring it about," said Father Blagovest Vanghelov, vicar general of the Byzantine-rite Apostolic Exarchate of Sofia. "Some people still think he and other condemned priests were really guilty. In this sense, the verdict is a clear moral exoneration," he said.

Citing jubilee, CCHD forgives debt

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Citing the millennium jubilee, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has forgiven the $71,775 debt owed to it by the South Baltimore Learning Center. CCHD is the U.S. Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program. The South Baltimore Learning Center is in a poor area of Baltimore where the high school dropout rate is 76 percent. It offers adult basic education, preparation for general equivalency diplomas and training in computers and other job skills, helping about 400 people a year enter the job market in an area where blue-collar factory jobs have virtually disappeared.

Guatemalan priest: Changes wanted despite reforms' rejection

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Despite rejecting sweeping reforms of Guatemala's constitution, the country's citizens want changes made, said the secretary of the Archdiocese of Guatemala City. "This should be a lesson for the politicians that the voters won't be taken in by promises, and that they want actions and concrete changes, not just words," said Father Ervin Garcia Arandi in an interview May 17, the day after a referendum in which more than 80 percent of 4 million registered voters did not cast ballots. "It is not so much a setback for the peace process ... but more a moment to make us all see that ... the changes must be more open and participatory," Father Garcia added.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Christian image in Beijing

Visitors walk past an image of Mary and Jesus displayed on a large screen at a computer show in Beijing May 19. China has government-approved Catholic and Protestant churches, but underground churches, such as those loyal to the Vatican, suffer repression by the government.

Lay ministry study shows remarkable growth in diocesan role

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study on lay ministry shows dioceses have become far more involved with the lay ministers employed by U.S. Catholic parishes. In 1992 less than 10 percent of the parish lay ministers surveyed said the diocese provided them with continuing education. In 1997 more than three-fourths said the diocese did so. The study showed dioceses were getting more involved in recruitment, training, screening, certifying, commissioning and evaluating the lay ministers hired by parishes on a full- or part-time basis.

Pope, German chancellor discuss Balkan conflict

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder discussed the Balkan conflict during Schroeder's series of mid-May meetings with European and NATO authorities. Schroeder spent about 25 minutes in private with Pope John Paul May 18, the pontiff's 79th birthday. The pair conducted "an overview of the principal themes of the moment, dwelling in particular on the dramatic situation in the Balkans and on the possibility of reaching a just and honorable solution," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a statement.

Papal trip to Armenia to include ecumenical events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When he visits Armenia in July, Pope John Paul II will pay tribute to the fidelity of Armenian Orthodox believers and to the millions of Armenians who died this century under persecution or in natural disasters. Pope John Paul is scheduled to stay at the residence of the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin, during his July 2-4 visit. The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of six independent Oriental Orthodox Churches. They are in communion with each other but not with the Catholic Church or with the Orthodox churches that split with Rome in the 11th century. About 90 percent of the nation's 3.6 million people belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church; Catholics make up less than 4 percent of the population.

High court ruling on welfare limits for newcomers welcomed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. Supreme Court ruling that states may not provide lower welfare benefits to new residents will help ensure that poor people won't be penalized for moving, according to representatives of Catholic agencies. The Supreme Court ruled May 17 that a California law limiting newcomers to only the amount of welfare benefits received in the state from which they moved is an unconstitutional violation of the right to travel. The case, Saenz vs. Roe, was filed on behalf of poor women who moved to California from the District of Columbia and Oklahoma, which pay significantly lower monthly welfare benefits than California does.

Rabbi's condemnation of Pope Pius XII criticized

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A prominent Jewish leader's condemnation of Pope Pius XII drew sharp criticism from Eugene Fisher, national director for Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. bishops. Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, called Pope Pius XII "the pope of the Holocaust" May 13 and said the idea of the Catholic Church declaring him a saint "desecrates the memory of the Holocaust." Fisher said the time has come "to stop raising loud accusations and (instead) sit down together with responsible scholars" to assess Pope Pius' papacy.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

May 28, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 37
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 29 — 4:30 pm
Dedication of Pro-life Monument
St. Barnabas, Arden

5:30 pm — Confirmation

May 30 — 5:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

June 2 — 7:30 pm
Baccalaureate Mass
Bishop McGuinness High School
Winston-Salem

June 3 — 7:30 pm
Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation
Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Matthew, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

June

3 CHARLOTTE — A 12-week, Bible-based seminar to help participants overcome any personal stronghold begins today at 7:15 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. The series includes live lectures, videotapes, audiocassettes, student guides and group discussion. Seminar cost is $88. To register or for more information, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

4 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. in Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30; Benediction and adoration follow the Mass. Call (336) 884-0244 for details.

5 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are hosted today at Belmont Abbey Basilica, with a Mass at 9:30 a.m.; the rosary and the sacrament of reconciliation follow at 10:15 a.m. For details, call Phil or Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

BOONE — Group reunion Ultreya meets today at 6:30 p.m. in the Catholic campus ministry facility at Appalachian State University, 232 Faculty St. A covered-dish dinner precedes the meeting. For details, call (828) 898-5328.

7 CLEMMONS — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 7:15 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

8 CHARLOTTE — "Art from the Heart," a seminar exploring Scripture through simple art exercises, is today beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Eucharist and ending with lunch at noon. No artistic talent is necessary. Suggested donation is $20. Reservations are required. For location and other details, call Joanne Longenecker at (704) 845-9163, or Father John Vianney Hoover at (336) 699-4005.

9 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets today

Raleigh Diocese forgives parish debts totaling $206,000

By JOHN STRANGE
Catholic News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — Ten parishes of the Diocese of Raleigh have received an early new millennium present.

In recognizing the Jubilee of the Year 2000, the diocese has forgiven more than $206,000 in debt, giving most of the 10 parishes a spotless slate.

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman said in a letter to the parishes that Pope John Paul II had called the world to "reconciliation and forgiveness, including the forgiveness of burdensome debt, as we move to the coming of the millennium and the observance of the year of Jubilee."

"While the diocese does not have the means to prudently provide for the remission of all parish debts," he wrote, "we do have the capability to forgive the debt for some of our smallest and neediest parishes."

Bishop Gossman told the NC Catholic, Raleigh's diocesan newspaper, that the idea came from chancellor Russell Elmayan. The diocese presents an example for the state, the country and the world, he added.

"There are so many smaller nations which want to take their place in the 20th century world but are held back by overwhelming debt service," said the bishop. "It's a question of human liberation."

For Elmayan, erasing the red from the books was a way "to show we practice what we preach."

After wondering how the diocese might act on the pope's call for debt forgiveness, he found the answer in the diocesan Deposit and Loan Fund. It is a kind of specialized credit union, where parishes can save, earn interest and borrow at rates significantly lower than bank rates.

Since the fund is designed to break even, deposits and liabilities generally balance out. However, partly because of advantageous bank interest rates to the diocese, the fund built up a surplus of about $350,000 over several years.

After considering several parish loan-related options for the surplus, diocesan officials decided to wipe out the debts of some of the neediest parishes, which had borrowed to pay for construction and other needs.

About $206,000 of the surplus has been tagged for parishes with 1998 ordinary income and capital campaign income of $125,000 or less. Elmayan said the balance will remain in the fund against possible future interest rate shifts or other unforeseen circumstances.

Bishop Gossman noted that Annunciation Parish in Havelock received debt relief even though its income exceeded the target figure. The parish supports a school and a largely military population that continually changes.

"Debt has bedeviled that parish for as long as I have been here," the bishop said.

The other nine parishes are St. Charles Borromeo, Ahoskie; St. Joan of Arc, Plymouth; St. Joseph, Burgaw; Transfiguration, Wallace; Sacred Heart, Whiteville; St. Joseph, Raleigh; Immaculate Conception, Clinton; St. Mary, Laurinburg; and SS. Mary and Edward, Roxboro.

Father Kevin C. Fahey, parish administrator at St. Mary in Laurinburg, called the decision "a stroke of genius, to get the people to see the diocese putting into practice some of the things we've been talking about."

The parish, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, expects to use the extra funds toward building improvements, most likely new air conditioning units, said Father Fahey.

"This makes a big difference for us," he said. "It makes the road ahead seem not as difficult." ▼

Vatican issues new stamp to raise funds for Kosovo refugees

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A new Vatican postage stamp is aimed at raising public awareness of — and funds for — refugees from the Kosovo conflict in Yugoslavia.

Titled "Kosovo 1999" and worth about $2, the stamp features a black-and-white photo of a cordon of refugees walking along a railroad track — a bent, elderly woman with a head scarf takes the lead.

In the lower right corner is the message in Italian, "The pope is with the people who suffer, and implores: It is always time for peace!"

The new issue, due for release May 25, was intended "to give as much resonance as possible to the Holy Father's pleas," the Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office said in a statement. Profits were to support humanitarian aid to the conflict's victims.

The Kosovo province, about 90 percent ethnic Albanian, is in the southern portion of Serbia, the larger of Yugoslavia's two republics.

An autonomy movement gave way in 1998 to armed conflict between Kosovars and Serb-led troops; hundreds were killed, and calls for independence increased along with local support for guerrillas.

Kosovars started fleeing the region in large numbers after the late-March start of the NATO air attack campaign, during which Belgrade stepped up its efforts to reduce rebel forces and to force residents from their homes.

In a May 20 address to diplomats newly accredited to the Holy See, Pope John Paul II decried the continued violence in the Balkan region.

"Beyond the rhetoric in which such conflicts are generally presented," he said, "it should be clear that the atrocities occurring every day on European soil in the Balkans are not the result of peoples' genuinely held aspirations; they have instead been fueled by unspoken motives representing particular interests and very definite forms of thirst for power." ▼

"Kosovo 1999" stamps can be ordered by fax or telephone through the Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office at 39-06-698-84799 be fax or 39-06-698-83708 by phone.

Kosovo Albanian women comfort each other in a refugee camp at the Dynamo Sports Center in Tirana, Albania, in mid-May.

CNS photo by Gerry Lewin, Catholic Sentinel

at 10:30 a.m. at the church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., for its monthly meeting. Lunch will be served, and new officers will installed. For more information, call Joanne Halgas at (704) 535-3745.

11 WINSTON-SALEM — Cursillistas in the Triad are invited to Ultreya today at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., in the St. Joseph House. Babysitting is provided. For details call Brian Lockhart at (336) 377-3595 or (704) 760-4556.

13 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is celebrated today at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East. Prayer teams will be available at 3. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — "Sacraments for the Third Millennium" is the topic for the 1999 Visions in Faith program at the Rock Hill Oratory today through June 16. Franciscan Father Tom Richstatter, an educator and author, will facilitate the overview of sacraments for the contemporary church. Cost is $100 for the program; room and board are available for an extra $35. For details, call Sarah Morgan at (803) 327-2079.

14 CHARLOTTE — A Scripture series on Jesus' ministry and the early church's response to it is today through June 18, from 9:30 a.m.-noon each day. Cost is $30 for all sessions, or $6 per day. Send checks payable to St. Gabriel Church to Caryn Cusick, St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

17 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For details, call Rev. Mr. or Bette Steinkamp, (336) 427-9717, or (336) 882-9717.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — Free tours of the historic St. Lawrence Basilica, 97 Haywood St., follow each weekend Mass. For details and Mass schedule, call (828) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — "Shining Stars Adult Day Respite" is a private not-for-profit providing care for men and women experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Meetings are each Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on the campus of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Cost is $35, which includes lunch and activities. For more information or to apply, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — Classes for people wishing to learn English as a second language are each Monday and Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. There is no fee, and materials are provided. Participants may register on site. For details, call Pat Godoy at (704) 535-0433 (Spanish), or Marlee Battaglia at (704) 597-1331.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins July 16 in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate Aug. 1 through Aug. 6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges discernment in using prayer methods of other religions

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Using the prayer forms of other religions can help Christians draw closer to the mystery of God, but that does not mean that one religion is as good as another, Pope John Paul II said.

"Prayer, as an adoring recognition of God, as gratitude for his gifts and as a request for help, is a special path of encounter" for members of different religions, the pope said May 19 at his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, Pope John Paul greeted 120 students and staff members of the NATO Defense College, which has its campus near Rome.

The pope said he appreciated NATO's role "in the service of peace," but also called attention to the continued NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

"Today, unfortunately, the Balkans are without peace, and we are daily witnesses of the great suffering of so many of our brothers and sisters," the pope said.

"I urge you to keep clearly before your eyes the need for everyone to work to ensure that dialogue and negotiation will succeed in bringing an end to violence in the area," he told the group.

In his main audience talk, the pope said the different forms of contemplation practiced by various religions can respond to people's thirst for an experience of God and can "help all believers to penetrate more deeply the mystery of God."

Modern people, he said, seem to be particularly attracted to meditation techniques taught by Asian religions like Buddhism.

"Christians must apply spiritual discernment" to such experiences to ensure that they never lose sight of the aim of prayer, which is to draw closer to God the Father as revealed by Jesus Christ, the pope said.

Caution and discernment, he said, do not block interreligious dialogue but ensure that the participants are sharing the spiritual riches of their own traditions.

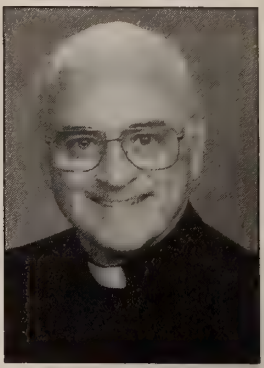
Shared experiences of contemplation and mysticism "can never be invoked to promote religious relativism," the idea that one religion is as good as another, he said.

A shared experience of prayer cannot replace "the value of God's revelation in history" which offers Christ as the savior of all, the pope said.

Pope John Paul said that during his pastoral trips around the world, he repeatedly has stressed the Catholic Church's esteem for everything that is true and holy in other religions.

The universal fatherhood of God stimulates the church to enter into dialogue with other religions in order to promote spiritual and moral values and to bring all people closer to God and to each other, he said.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

The many dimensions of grief

The death of a loved one can bring an avalanche of confused feelings. We call this form of emotional pain "grief." However, the word itself means different things to different people. For some, grief is the pain of separation; for others there is the added element of anger.

A few years ago when I hosted the TV program "Christopher Close-Up," I did a show with Dr. Joyce Brothers on the topic of grief. One year had passed since her husband's death. He was a physician who smoked heavily his entire adult life. He knew better, but despite good intentions and promises to quit, he never did.

Brothers wrote an excellent book on grief. In it she tells the story of how her anger complicated the grieving process. She missed him terribly, but at the same time she resented him for advancing his own death. To deal with her grief she first had to forgive him completely for smoking himself to death. Once she forgave him, her own healing began.

To gain a better understanding of grief, or any emotional trauma for that matter, here is a little formula to keep in mind.

First, identify the problem. The death of a loved one will bring grief, but there may be other issues as well. Whom are you blaming for your loneliness?

Second, search for all the reasons why this happened, and don't be afraid to ask why God allowed it. Be angry with God if you need to. When you calm down think some more.

Does God deserve the blame? Suppose a drunk driver hit your son and killed him. Why does God allow drunk drivers to do such things? Feelings of outrage are understandable. If you try to smother them you will do yourself a disservice. Suppressed anger only leads to depression.

Think about it. Christians believe that God is love. In order to give us the freedom to love, he had to surrender his control over our actions. Thus, we have an endless stream of accidents, murders, wars, etc.

Since heaven is a place of love, there can be no love slaves in paradise. However, God never surrendered his omnipotence. God is not answerable to us. His ways are beyond human understanding.

Shouldn't we give God the benefit of the doubt? When you figure this out, you may be able to deal with your grief more easily. Stop blaming God. He has his reasons even if you don't understand them.

A woman I knew was broken-hearted when she lost her infant in childbirth. She blamed God for taking her child. The anger lasted quite awhile until she read a line from one of the mystics of the church, St. Gertrude. The saint asked God why he takes innocent children and allows evil people to live. The Lord answered, "I take each one home at the time that is best for their eternal salvation."

Maybe that's the reason behind a lot of deaths. Don't try to figure it out. God is mystifying. Accept him, and accept the mystery. Do not judge God too harshly.

Once you resolve the resentment issue, the grief will subside, and you can get on with your life. In time all will be well.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

Confusion of symbols

Not long ago a contingent of local clergy, public officials, musicians and a handful of spectators gathered on the courthouse lawn in our county for the National Day of Prayer. It was a nice event, with noble words and good music. But it started rather oddly, I thought.

As our prayer service was about to begin, a low-flying fighter jet circled our little town. Moments later, while the Junior ROTC color corps from the high school was presenting the U.S., state and county flags, it swooped low, right over the courthouse. The plane was so low that I could see the gear on its underside.

Frightened, a little boy in the front row dived to the ground beside his metal folding chair. A number of adults ducked and covered their heads with their hands, as though a few more inches of clearance were going to make a difference.

The noise was terrifying. Windows rattled. A dog on a leash at the crowd's edge began yelping. Car alarms went off.

For a moment we all stopped still, stunned and deafened. Then one of the clergy stood and said, "Let us pray." It was the oddest call to prayer I ever witnessed.

Don't get me wrong. I love this country. I also love patriotic display. Parades, bands, flags and songs are all great. I believe strongly that we should pray for our public officials. That is what St. Paul tells us to do.

But what I don't like is combining the symbols of military power with the symbols of religion. I think it is a dangerous mix that usually winds up either diluting religion or misusing military power.

What does it mean to fly over a prayer service with a warplane? Is it trying to say that God is "on our side"?

Years ago the sociologist Will Herberg wrote about "civil religion." He cautioned against the identification of government with religion. One or the other suffers. Probably religion.

Military weapons have a place as symbols of civil power. It is appropriate to put a cannon on a courthouse lawn, but not on the lawn of a church.

Military power, by its nature, uses force and violence. It can be controlled and directed to good ends, but it is force and violence nonetheless.

Religious power is different. It calls on us to accept and surrender to the will of God. It uses the language of conversion and persuasion, not force and violence. When religion employs violence, it betrays itself. We Christians look back on the crusades with shame, not pride.

Can anyone really imagine Jesus reviewing the Roman legions or calling the disciples to prayer with a banging of swords on shields? Jesus did not directly condemn the use of military power. He certainly praised some people who were in the military like the centurion whose faith he said was greater than any he had seen in Israel.

However, Jesus never identified his mission or message with any nation, not even Israel. His kingdom was not of this earth. His mission is to all nations.

St. Peter says in the Acts of the Apostles, when visiting the house of Cornelius, the centurion: "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34-35).

Religion has a role to play in public life. It does belong in the "public square." But we should take care how we combine our symbols, lest our prayer get lost in the backwash of a jet fighter.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Courage as an act of worship

While playing football for the New York Jets back in 1992, Dennis Byrd suffered an injury that not only ended his football career, but also threatened to leave him crippled forever. But this ordinary man overcame this extraordinary challenge and learned to walk again.

I should explain that I have gotten to know Dennis personally during the last two years, and, for me, his example makes what the Bible says about men and women of faith palpable.

In the earliest stages of his on-field accident, Dennis prayed constantly, asking the Lord for the strength he needed to be a witness to others, to be brave. Knowing it is beyond human understanding to explain why tragedies strike, he was convinced that through faith and the power of prayer the Lord had a plan for him. Somehow he might even be a better witness for Him than he had ever been before.

"I didn't know His plan. I didn't know how I might be that witness, whether it might be from a wheelchair or not. There were so many questions that had no answers. But I understood that was part of the challenge, part of the test, to accept not knowing and face it with faith."

His courage took on the form of worship. Dennis wove his struggle into the stuff of faith. In the daily ritual of his convalescence he gave thanks to Him Who asks us to never give up hope, to brave adversity no matter what the circumstances.

While still a patient in Mount Sinai Hospital he got his first opportunity to share his faith and courage with the public, in fact tens of millions of television viewers, during an interview with Bob Costas. Dennis recalls: "I never got to the Super Bowl as a player, but as a witness for Jesus Christ, I got something even better. I was allowed to speak about the Lord without wondering how it would be edited or whether it would be deleted." Concerning the source of his courage, Dennis said unabashedly, "Without question, the biggest factor in my life has been my faith in Jesus Christ. That's been able to keep me going whenever the times are really tough."

It is a message he is committed to sharing with those who fight their own battles with physical adversities. This past February Dennis and his wife, Angela, were guests of honor at the 50th Annual Christopher Awards held in New York City. He is this year's recipient of the James Keller Award in recognition of his work with physically or economically disadvantaged children.

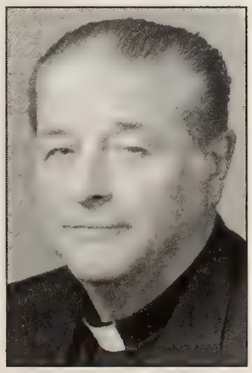
He is working to build Eagle Springs Camp, a terrific summer camp to bring a little sunlight into the lives of some very special kids. With former Jets teammate Jeff Lageman, Dennis created a leadership camp at the heart of the Navajo Nation in Arizona, which nearly 700 native American children attended last year.

In accepting his Christopher Award, Dennis said he was humbled because it is "the only award that asks you to continue to do more." Dennis vowed to do so. Recalling the motto, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness," he declared: "I will light a candle, and then another one, and then another, so that our world will be brighter for all our children and grandchildren."

Ernest Heningway said that courage is grace under pressure. I believe that. I believe that if we allow it, God's love will empower the grace of our human spirit to do and be all that He ever wanted.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Purgatory: A place?

Q. Several weeks ago, you quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church as indicating that purgatory is a process (purification), therefore not necessarily a place or location.

You raised the question, Could that purification take place in the process of death itself or in an instant after death as our sinfulness confronts the infinite holiness of God?

If that were true, what happens when we pray for our beloved dead? Then all our Masses and prayers would be only for those who are dying at that particular instant. Obviously, what you said is possible about purgatory cannot be true.

A. My purpose in this column each week, when dealing with matters of faith, is to explain as clearly, concisely and accurately as possible the traditions and official teachings of the Catholic faith. For this reason, I rarely if ever advert to private visions and revelations, simply because they never add to or subtract from what we already need to believe from church teachings or the sacred Scriptures.

This does not mean such revelations cannot be spiritually helpful for some people. It simply says that, even for those apparitions and messages which are "approved" by the church (such as Lourdes and Fatima, for example), it is not necessary for Catholics to believe anything new that was said, or even that the apparitions actually happened.

This is not cynical or lack of belief that such events can happen. I personally am convinced that the two I mentioned, and some others, are authentic appearances to some individuals. We simply need to keep all this in perspective.

The one essential fact here is that we have all we need for salvation in the Scriptures, the sacraments and in the official teachings of the church through the centuries. Their conformity, or lack of it, to those bases of faith is the first criterion of credibility for any heavenly communications to private persons.

As Pope John Paul II noted during his 1983 visit to Fatima, when the church accepts or approves a message such as Fatima, "it is above all because the message contains a truth and a call whose basic content is the truth and the call of the Gospel itself."

In other words, the church accepts Mary's call to prayer and penance precisely because that call already resounds in the Gospels.

As for specifics, about the nature of purgatory for example, these revelations shed no doctrinally essential light.

To repeat, nowhere in the past 500 years, including in the Council of Trent, has official church teaching used language that states purgatory involves time or place in our sense of those words. Just as for the exact nature of most everything else after death, including heaven itself, we just don't know.

About your prayer dilemma, it is really no problem at all. Since all time, past and future, is one present moment to God, all our prayers, whenever they are said, go to a God who is not limited by "when" they happen to be offered.

Thus, our prayers and Masses for the living or the dead "go back" over their entire lives, their final illnesses and their entrance into eternity. That's why, in some of its prayers, the church can pray as it does, long after a person's death, that he or she die in the state of grace and is saved. And it's why we today can pray that a friend or relative long deceased has a holy life and a holy death.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

What comes after confirmation?

It's spring, which also means it's confirmation time. If you're one of the many thousands of Catholic young people celebrating the sacrament of confirmation during this time, I have a couple of things to say to you.

First, I suppose I should say "congratulations." So — congratulations. There it is.

Second, I have an important announcement that may come as a shock to you: "Confirmation" is not a synonym for "the end of learning about my faith."

I know, I know. Some of you may have been laboring hopefully under that impression. I was a parish director of religious education for four years, and I've heard it directly from confirmation candidates' mouths: "My parents said that if I get confirmed, I don't have to go to religious ed anymore."

Sorry. Oh, that is, unless you actually want to have no more than a ninth-grade understanding of faith the rest of your life. If you think that's all you're going to need to get through the trials life has in store, then go right ahead.

In my work with youth, I've always been a little astonished at how kids somehow have come to think that all you need to know about God and matters of faith is what's contained in eight years of religious education as well as in the "feelings" and "ideas" they cook up in their own hearts and brains.

I always have to ask: When you graduate from high school, do you think you know all that's important to know about any field? History? Physics? Computers? Art? Of course not. You know that those subject areas expand way beyond what you know at this moment.

Why is faith so different? Why would anyone think that 4,000 years of Judeo-Christian tradition can even begin to be meaningfully understood with eight years of formal education offered at a child's level? Do you think that what you learned about God as a fourth-grader or even in confirmation class is going to be what you need to develop a meaningful relationship with God as an adult or even as a high school senior?

I'm not blaming you, I'm just challenging you to go beyond the assumptions you've absorbed. And here's where I'm going to turn to the adults in your life for a minute.

Before you start fretting about your children's disinterest in religion or how they practically have to be tied to the car to go to youth group or Mass, consider the priorities you're modeling.

— When was the last time your child saw you reading Scripture?

— Does your home conversation about religion extend beyond criticizing how people dress at Mass or complaining about some aspect of church teaching?

— When was the last time your child witnessed you being serious about your faith, living as though it is fundamental to every choice you make rather than just another section of your overcompartmentalized life, which includes working Monday through Friday, Junior League on Tuesday night, bowling on Thursday and a distracted hour sitting in church on Sunday morning?

No, faith formation shouldn't stop at confirmation for any of us. If you're 14 or if you're 40, it doesn't matter. God is worth getting to know more deeply at any age.

Seminarian recovers from bout with life-threatening bacteria

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Christopher Dunn, a 31-year-old seminarian, is about to become a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, but he wasn't sure he would see his ordination day. Several hours after entering a hospital April 23, doctors discovered he had contracted the "flesh-eating" strep bacteria that has taken the limbs and lives of others. The prognosis was so bleak that many thought the seminarian would die. But on May 18 he left the hospital with assurances he would fully recover, and he expected to join his five classmates when they are ordained May 29 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul.

Patriarch congratulates Barak, talks of peace hopes

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah sent a congratulatory message to Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ehud Barak and other newly elected parliament members, saying he hoped they would "answer the people's expectations for peace." "The hopes are many. Their realization needs wisdom and courage," Patriarch Sabbah said in his May 18 message.

Baltimore auxiliary under treatment for liver cancer

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop P. Francis Murphy of Baltimore began a new round of chemotherapy in May for cancer of the liver. Bishop Murphy, 66, had surgery in January to remove a cancerous tumor from his small intestine, but subsequent tests showed it had metastasized. In early May, he said, in consultation with his physicians he began "a new course of chemotherapy called Camptosar, which promises to be more effective in treating the progression of the cancer."

Virtue, values key part of education, justice tells CUA graduates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Instruction in morality must be an "indelible" part of a Catholic university, or the institution risks losing its core identity, U.S Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia told graduates at the 110th commencement of The Catholic University of America May 15. "Knowledge is one thing, but virtue is another," he said. "Today, moral formation is no longer an objective subject. It is virtually a forbidden topic (on college campuses). To have views of right and wrong or to be discriminating is the only sin left on campus. ... May it not happen here."

Rely on values in everyday life, FBI head tells Marymount grads

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Americans should apply a core set of values in their daily interactions, said FBI director Louis Freeh during his May 16 commencement address for Marymount University graduates. More than 700 students from the Arlington, Va., university and their families attended the 48th commencement, held at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington.

College group urges bishops to consider alternative norms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities has asked a bishops' committee to consider an ACCU-drafted alternative proposal for juridical norms governing U.S. Catholic higher education. The alternative proposal would restore in its entirety a 1996 document overwhelmingly adopted by the U.S. bishops but rejected by the Vatican as insufficient. It would attempt to meet Vatican concerns by adding a 14-point juridical framework to the 1996 text. The association submitted its proposal in late April to the U.S. bishops' committee developing U.S. norms to implement Pope John Paul II's 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic higher education, "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church").

Being pro-life means more than opposing abortions, says doctor

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — The founder of the U.S. Abortion Rights Action League said being pro-life is more than just opposing abortion. "Pro-life is a very broad term," said Dr. Bernard Nathanson, 71, addressing a crowd of more than 300 at Alberta Pro-Life's annual conference May 15. "There are life issues out there beyond the question of abortion and euthanasia," he said. "Abortion, euthanasia, violent crimes, pornography, they all stem from one element: the perversion of autonomy," Nathanson said. "Autonomy, freedom of choice ... it trumps everything."

CNS PHOTO COURTESY EL MUNDO

Archbishop Gonzalez of San Juan

Archbishop Roberto O. Gonzalez waves to well-wishers following his installation as archbishop of San Juan in Puerto Rico in early May. The archbishop, formerly of the Diocese of Corpus Christi in Texas, was recently elected president of Economic Committee of the Latin American bishops' council known as CELAM.

Pittsburgh priest to head national vocations office

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Edward J. Burns, Pittsburgh diocesan director of clergy personnel, has been named executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation.

He succeeds Father Timothy T. Reker, who will return in June to his home diocese, Winona, Minn., at the end of his three-year term as head of the secretariat.

Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced Father Burns' appointment May 17.

Father Burns, 41, was ordained a priest in 1983. He has served in the Pittsburgh Diocese as a parochial vicar, vocations director, vice rector and rector of St. Paul Seminary, director of spiritual formation at the seminary, and diocesan director of the office of the diaconate.

The Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation promotes vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and assists the U.S. bishops and seminaries on matters of seminary formation. It also collaborates with national organizations concerned with vocations and seminaries. ▼

MODULARCORP

Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

Redecorating your gardens? Need new ideas?
Landscape Designer available to help with hundreds of plants and shrubs! Come Visit!

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Suplemento de
The Catholic News & Herald

28 de mayo de 1999

Comuniquémonos

MINISTERIO HISPANO

Homenaje a la Virgen de Guadalupe en Reidsville

Por HECTOR ANDRADE

REIDSVILLE — La iglesia católica del Santo Niño, ubicada en la ciudad de Reidsville, Carolina del Norte, dedicó un homenaje especial en honor de la nueva imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe el pasado domingo 9 de mayo con la asistencia de más de 200 personas.

El evento comenzó a la una de la tarde con la bendición de la imagen por el padre John Putnam. Hubo una procesión de los feligreses, encabezada por los danzantes que representaban la cultura de los pueblos antiguos de México. Finalmente se celebró la Santa Misa.

El padre John señaló la importancia de la celebración porque le permitió al pueblo católico, principalmente el que tiene sus raíces en México, demostrar su devoción a María. El Padre John dijo: "María nos pide que sigamos a Jesús. Nuestra Señora nos pide que seamos fieles. Nuestra Señora nos pide vivir en el espíritu de Dios alejándonos del pecado. Debemos hacer lo que el Señor nos dice. El nos dice que hay que confiar en El, seguirlo y amarlo."

Aunque la devoción a la Virgen de Guadalupe no es del todo conocida por la comunidad americana, en Reidsville se ha iniciado un interés por parte de ella con la finalidad de conocer más de cerca la cultura latinoamericana y sus costumbres.

Al terminar la Misa se llevó a cabo una sencilla recepción en el Lufty Hall de la iglesia, para festejar a todas las mamás en su día. El grupo juvenil cantó las mañanitas y ofreció unos bailes típicos. Después los concurrentes compartieron una rica y sabrosa comida, amenizada con música de antaño que fue interpretada por un trío juvenil. ▼

FOTO POR HECTOR ANDRADE

La nueva imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe que fue bendecida por el Padre Putnam.

Nuevo Proyecto para la Comunidad Hispana

CHARLOTTE — Hace tres meses el gobierno federal suministró fondos para el desarrollo de un nuevo programa de salud para niños y adolescentes. Hasta este momento el número de casos médicos de niños de origen hispano no ha sido representativo o equivalente al número de familias en cada censo. Esto creó preocupación a la agencia coordinadora y por eso se otorgó un presupuesto adicional. La organización "Duke Endowment" hizo esta donación para así promover y fomentar el uso de este servicio en la comunidad latina.

El Programa Esperanza del Servicio Social Católico (CSS) se ha encargado de llevar a cabo este proyecto y ha añadido un nuevo miembro a su personal, la señorita Gina Esquivel. Ella se encargará de asistir a la comunidad latina en los condados de Mecklenburg, Cabarrus y Union. Gina, quien tiene un grado de bachillerato en Ciencias de Educación con énfasis en Psicología, ha impulsado trabajos comunitarios en la prevención del HIV-SIDA y el abuso de Drogas y Alcohol. Ella nos dice que la comunidad Hispano/latina no ha reaccionado a este programa por diferentes razones. Ella considera que la comunidad latina, con la variedad de culturas que existe en ella, es especial. En la misma existen muchos temores y estereotipos relacionados con los servicios gubernamentales; hay poco conocimiento del idioma inglés y muchas veces hay escasez de personal bilingüe en la mayoría de las agencias al servicio del público.

Este programa, "North Carolina Health Choice for Children", es un seguro de salud para niños que fueron denegados por "Medicaid" debido a que el ingreso anual de sus familias es alto, pero que al mismo tiempo, no es suficiente para cubrir los gastos de un seguro privado. Se asegurarán los niños desde su nacimiento hasta los 18 años de edad. El seguro cubre por períodos de un año e incluye dentista, terapia, vacunas y emergencias que requieran ir al hospital. Las familias deberán pagar una tarifa de afiliación de $50.00 por un hijo(a) y $100.00 por dos o más. Actualmente estas planillas se encuentran en el centro de salud de su localidad y en las agencias de servicios sociales, incluyendo el Programa Esperanza, (CSS).

Ahora Gina Esquivel se está poniendo en contacto con diferentes agencias, iglesias y organizaciones para darle publicidad a este proyecto; ella espera los mejores resultados de este esfuerzo tanto para las familias como para la comunidad. Si tienen preguntas acerca de este servicio o les gustaría ser voluntarios, llamen al teléfono (704) 370-3248 Programa Esperanza. ▼

Familia de soldado dice que la fe y la oración fueron factores

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los miembros de la familia de uno de los soldados que fueron mantenidos en cautiverio durante 32 días por el gobierno de Belgrado, dijeron que la fe, la oración y la unidad de la familia estuvieron presentes en la liberación segura de los tres soldados.

"Me sentí abrumado de gozo cuando supe que Andrew estaba siendo puesto en libertad", dijo Frank Jasso, tío del Sargento Andrew A. Ramírez, de 24 años, de Los Angeles.

"Me siento muy bien y muy feliz por eso. Fue una respuesta a nuestras oraciones", dijo él a "The Tidings", el periódico de la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles.

> La Sra. Rodríguez, que tiene tres hijos entre las edades de 19 y 30 años, dijo que ella y otros miembros de la familia buscaron el consuelo y el apoyo recíprocos mediante la unidad, la conversación y la oración.

Ramírez, el Sarento Christopher J. Stone, de 25 años de edad, de Smiths Creek, Michigan, y el alistado Steven M. Gonzáles, de 22 años de edad, de Huntsville, Texas, fueron entregados el 2 de mayo a la custodia del Rev. Jesse Jackson después de 32 días de cautiverio en Yugoeslavia, asolada por la guerra. Los soldados se reunieron con los miembros de sus familias en Landstuhl, Alemania, el 3 de mayo.

"Es un gran día para mí y para nosotros", dijo Vivian Ramírez a los reporteros frente a su casa poco después de recibir la noticia de la liberación inminente de los rehenes.

Olivia Rodríguez, tía de Andrew, reiteró el sentimiento de que la fe, la oración y la familia fueron los elementos subyacentes en la liberación de "Andresito" con seguridad.

"Estamos muy agradecidos y reconocidos", dijo ella a "The Tidings". "Las dos cosas que nuestra familia tuvo que recordar todo el tiempo fueron conservar la fe y tener esperanza; sin esas dos cosas, no se puede lograr nada".

La Sra. Rodríguez, que tiene tres hijos entre las edades de 19 y 30 años, dijo que ella y otros miembros de la familia buscaron el consuelo y el apoyo recíprocos mediante la unidad, la conversación y la oración.

Jasso, que actuó como portavoz de la familia Ramírez, asiste periódicamente a un grupo de oración en la Misión de San Gabriel. El dijo que el grupo ofreció continuamente rogativas por la liberación segura y oportuna de los soldados cautivos.

Según la Sra. Rodríguez, el apoyo de los bienquerientes alrededor del mundo fue una fuente de consuelo para Vivian Ramírez y el resto de la familia. Ella agregó que recibieron cartas y tarjetas de personas de tan lejos como Nueva Zelandia, Irlanda y Viet-Nam. ▼

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vincente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Amigos y amigas:

Tomo esta oportunidad para felicitarles durante esta época santa de la Pascua, del paso de Jesús y de todo cristiano de la muerte del pecado a la victoria de la vida. La Pascua es una temporada de alegría y paz. Les deseo y ruego a Dios que les conceda estos dones tan preciosos, de la paz interior y una profunda alegría en el Señor.

Como muchos ya saben me tocó vivir mi Cuaresma en el hospital con la cruz de la enfermedad. Ciertamente ha sido una experiencia de vida y muerte para mí. Ofrecía todos los días mis pequeños sufrimientos a Dios por ustedes, que el Señor realizara más profundamente en cada uno de ustedes el milagro de la conversión y de un mayor testimonio de él.

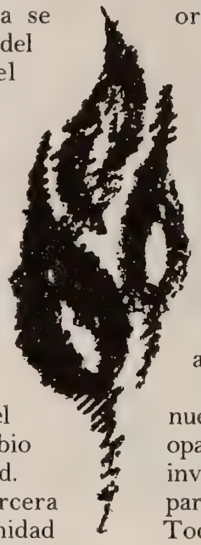
Muchos me han preguntado los detalles de mi enfermedad. Fui operado en Charlotte de emergencia por un ataque de apendicitis. Unos días después me sentía todavía muy mal. Entonces, fui al doctor en Greensboro quien me mandó inmediatamente al hospital. Parece que una vena estaba sangrando por dentro, causando una infección en todo el estómago. Me operaron de nuevo de emergencia para limpiar la infección Pasé un mes en el hospital y un par de semanas después recuperándome.

Lo importante es que ya me siento mucho mejor, más acá que allá y muy agradecido por todo el amor que el Señor me ha manifestado en esta experiencia, especialmente a través de las oraciones y preocupaciones de ustedes por mí. Que Dios les premie por tanta generosidad.

Me falta aún camino por correr. Por la naturaleza de la operación me dejaron abierto. En unos seis meses a un año, me operan nuevamente para quitar una hernia que se forma en la herida y para cerrarme.

Estoy nuevamente a la orden de ustedes en cualquier cosa en que les pueda servir. La Pascua no es solamente época de paz y alegría. Es también época de preparación para la fiesta de Pentecostés cuando el Señor comparte la fuerza de su propio Espíritu con nosotros, el Espíritu que impulsó a los apóstoles a predicar la Buena Nueva de Jesús a todos los confines de la tierra. Pido que el Señor nos conceda la abundancia de su Espíritu para que igual que los apóstoles podamos dar un testimonio de vida, de amor, de resurrección a todos los que nos rodean.

Pentecostés



El domingo 23 la Iglesia se regocijó al celebrar la venida del Espíritu Santo sobre el "Pequeño rebaño" de Jesús.

Después de la resurrección de Cristo y sus múltiples apariciones y convivencias con sus discípulos, éstos seguían confundidos e indecisos, sin saber cómo empezar la predicación del mensaje.

El Espíritu Santo que Cristo les había prometido, se hace realidad y viene a dar el aliento, el empuje y un cambio radical a la naciente comunidad.

El Espíritu Santo, la tercera Persona de la Santísima Trinidad transforma con sus dones a los apóstoles, haciéndolos entender su misión y todo lo que Cristo les había dicho.

Las lenguas de fuego, que se posaron en sus cabezas, los iluminaron de tal manera que los hicieron salir de su encierro, para lanzarse a la predicación de la Buena Nueva.

Aquellos galileos, en un tiempo tímidos y miedosos, ahora con todo valor predican al Cristo, su Maestro y declaran abiertamente la culpabilidad del pueblo elegido y sus jefes.

El Espíritu Santo que dio el poderoso impulso a la primera comunidad cristiana, ha seguido transmitiendo sus dones a la Iglesia a través de los Sacramentos.

Los Sacramentos son el camino ordinario de la presencia del Espíritu Santo entre nosotros.

El es quien equilibra nuestra vida cristiana, El quien nos ubica y nos relaciona con Cristo y el Padre.

Todo el dinamismo que existe en la Iglesia se le atribuye al Espíritu Santo porque a través de sus dones da vida a todo tipo de apostolado.

Si en algunas ocasiones nuestra vida cristiana nos parece opaca y sin sentido. es porque no invocamos al Espíritu Santo y no participamos en los Sacramentos. Todos necesitamos del Espíritu Santo, como si fuera el aire que respiramos, pero nos hemos acostumbrado a no darnos cuenta de su presencia.

Sin embargo este Espíritu Santo está en nosotros cuando estamos en gracia y sólo espera que nosotros lo invoquemos pidiéndole los dones que más necesitamos. Los dones del Espíritu Santo son: Don de Sabiduría, Don de Entendimiento Don de Ciencia, Don de Consejo, Don de Piedad, Don de Temor de Dios y Don de Fortaleza.

Reimpreso de "Unidos en la Oración" con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, 326 S. Park St.
(336) 629-0221
sábados 5:30 pm y domingos 1 pm
ASHEVILLE
St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St.
(828) 252-6042
todos los domingos 7 pm
BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas,
105 Hayde Rd.
(910) 428-3051
todos los domingos 11 am y 1:30 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
BOONE
St. Elizabeth
259 Pilgrim Way
(704) 264-8338 / 264-6347
cada otro domingo 6 pm
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Main St. & Summit
todos los domingos 4:30 pm
CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza
(704) 335-1281
todos los sábados 7 pm
domingos 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm y 7 pm
confesiones antes de las misas
CLEMMONS
Holy Family
4820 Kinnamon Rd.
(336) 766-8133
todos los domingos 4 pm
DOBSON
Sagrado Corazón, Rt. 601
(336) 632-8009
todos los sábados 6 pm
FOREST CITY
Immaculate Conception, 1024 W. Main St.
(828) 245-4017
todos los domingos 3 pm
GASTONIA
St. Michael, 708 St.Michael's Ln.
(704) 867 6212
3er. domingo del mes 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO
St. Mary, 812 Duke St.
(336) 272-8650
domingos Nov. a Mar. 6 pm
domingos Abr. a Oct. 7 pm
HAMLET
St. James
1018 West Hamlet Ave.
(910) 582-0207
todos los domingos 4 pm
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 208 7th. Ave. W.
(828)693-6901
todos los domingos 1 pm
HIGH POINT
Cristo Rey, 1505 East Kivett Dr.
(336) 884-0244
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
HUNTERSVILLE
St. Mark, (704)948-0231
1er. domingo del mes 6 pm en
Huntersville United Methodist Church
JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis, Main y Ivy
(336) 246-9151
2do.y 4to. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph, 108 St.Joseph St.
(704) 932-4607
todos los domingos, 12 pm
KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross, 616 S.Cherry St.
(336) 996-5109
todos los domingos 2 pm
LENOIR
San Francisco de Asís
328-B Woodsway Lane, N.W.
(704) 754-5281
todos los domingos 9 am
LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy, 148 St.Dorothy's Lane
(704) 735-5575
todos los domingos 12 pm
MARION
Our Lady of the Angels Mission
todos los domingos 1 pm
MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes, Deese y Franklin Streets
(704) 289-2773
todos los domingos 1:30 pm
MORGANTON
St. Charles Borromeo, 714 W. Union St.
(828) 437-3108
todos los domingos 5 pm
1er. y 3er. domingos 7 pm
MOUNT AIRY
Holy Angels, 1208 North Main St.
(336) 786-8147
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NEWTON
St. Joseph, 720 West 13th. St.
(828) 464-9207
todos los domingos 12:45 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
275 C.C. Wright School Rd.
(336) 838-5562
todos los domingo 6pm
REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Dr.
(336) 342-1448
todos los domingos 1 pm
SALISBURY
Sacred Heart, 128 N.Fulton St.
(704) 633-0591
todos los domingos 4 pm
SPARTA
St.Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd.
(336) 372-8846
1er. y 3er. domingo del mes 1:30 pm
STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr.
(704) 872-2579
1er. domingo del mes 1 pm
STONEVILLE
Para dirección llamar a la Parroquia
de San José en Eden (910) 623-2661
cada otro sábado 10 am
TAYLORSVILLE
Holy Trinity, 665 W. Main Ave.
(828) 632-8009
2do. y 4to. domingos 6 pm
THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
943 Ball Park Rd.
(336) 475-2732
todos los sábados 7 pm
todos los domingos 12:30 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St.
(336) 722-7001
todos los domingos 1 pm
WINSTON-SALEM
Saint Benedict the Moor
1625 East 12th Street
(336) 725-9200
todos los domingos 5:30 pm
YADKINVILLE
Christ the King, U.S. 601 y Hoots Rd.
(336) 463-5533
todos los domingos 12 pm

Efectuados exámenes del ADN para resolver asesinato de obispo

CIUDAD GUATEMALA (CNS) — En una nueva tentativa para resolver el asesinato del año pasado de Monseñor Juan Gerardi Conedera, que fue Obispo Auxiliar de Ciudad Guatemala, los fiscales dieron comienzo a exámenes del ADN (ácido desoxi-ribo-nucleico) el 4 de Mayo en 17 personas, incluyendo a 12 oficiales militares y un sacerdote diocesano.

Ronalth Ochaeta, director de la Oficina Arquidiocesana de los Derechos Humanos, dijo que éste es un precedente positivo para el sistema judicial de Guatemala. El habló a los reporteros que aguardaban frente al laboratorio del Procurador General en Ciudad Guatemala.

Las muestras serían analizadas en los Estados Unidos y se esperaban los resultados para fines de mayo.

El Padre Mario Orantes, que vivía en la misma casa que el obispo asesinado y que fue arrestado el año pasado por el asesinato pero después puesto en libertad, dijo a la prensa que él está seguro de su inocencia y que los resultados del examen del ADN lo probarán.

El Acusador Público Celvin Galindo, que está a cargo de las investigaciones desde principios de año, dijo que él solicitó los exámenes de las 17 personas que han sido vinculadas con el asesinato de Monseñor Gerardi, ocurrido el 26 de abril de 1998.

Se dijo que los investigadores querían cotejar las manchas de sangre encontradas en la escena del delito y en un "sweater" que el presunto asesino dejó olvidado.

Los 12 oficiales, incluyendo a un coronel, dos comandantes y varios otros de la guardia presidencial, dieron sangre durante los procedimientos que duraron todo un día, y que fueron observados por dos agentes de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) de los Estados Unidos.

También fueron examinados tres mendigos callejeros, que acostumbraban dormir fuera de la rectoría de la Parroquia de San Sebastián, donde Monseñor Gerardi fue golpeado hasta matarlo con un bloque de concreto.

Los funcionarios eclesiásticos han dicho reiteradamente que ellos creen que el asesinao del activista veterano de los derechos humanos, que tenía 75 años de edad y fue un crítico vehemente del ejército, fue un asesinato político.

Los nombres de muchos de los oficiales militares que fueron sometidos al examen del ADN aparecieron en un folleto anónimo que acusaba al ejército de estar involucrado en el asesinato, el cual fue entregado a la Oficina Arquidiocesana de los Derechos Humanos al principio de las investigaciones.

Los fucionarios eclesiásticos dijeron en privado que dudaban de cuánta nueva luz podrían arrojar los exámenes del ADN sobre el caso. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

El Patriarca Ortodoxo Rumano Teoctist y un grupo de niños dan la bienvenida al Papa Juan Pablo II en la Catedral Ortodoxa de Bucarest el 7 de mayo. Esta ha sido la primera visita de un pontífice católico a dicho país, que es predominantemente ortodoxo.

Papa rinde homenaje a ortodoxos rumanos y minoría católica

BUCAREST, Rumanía (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II llegó a Rumanía el 7 de mayo rindiendo homenaje a la Iglesia Ortodoxa mayoritaria y pidiendo justicia para la minoría católica.

"Confío en que mi visita contribuirá a sanar las heridas impuestas sobre las relaciones entre nuestras iglesias durante los 50 años últimos y a abrir una temporada de confianza y colaboración mutuas", dijo el Papa.

En su primera visita a un país predominantemente ortodoxo, el Papa recibió la bienvenida en el aeropuerto de Bucarest del Patriarca Ortodoxo Teoctist. Los dos se abrazaron tan pronto como el Papa salió del avión y nuevamente después que el Patriarca hizo sus observaciones de bienvenida.

El Patriarca de 84 años de edad dijo al Papa, de casi 79 años de edad, que aunque "el segundo milenio de la historia cristiana empezó con una herida dolorosa en la unidad de la Iglesia", el fin del milenio ha visto un compromiso verdadero para restablecer la unidad cristiana.

En un gesto inusitado de fraternidad, el Patriarca y el Papa estuvieron uno al lado del otro en el "papa-móvil", bendiciendo a la multitud que se alineó en las calles desde el aeropuerto hasta la catedral ortodoxa, la primera escala de la visita entre el 7 y el 9 de mayo. ▼

> "Confío en que mi visita contribuirá a sanar las heridas impuestas sobre las relaciones entre nuestras iglesias durante los 50 años últimos y a abrir una temporada de confianza y colaboración mutuas", dijo el Papa.

Secretario de Viviendas califica desamparo como asunto de pobreza

ARLINGTON, Virginia (CNS) — Andrew Cuomo, Secretario del Departamento Federal de Viviendas, dijo que el desamparo no es un asunto de vivienda, sino un asunto de pobreza y poder.

"Se trata menos de vivienda que de justicia en esta sociedad", dijo el secretario el 3 de mayo en un discurso principal en la Cumbre Nacional sobre el Desamparo, en Arlington, adyacente a Washington.

La reunión del 1ro. al 4 de mayo, auspiciada por la Coalición Nacional para los Desamparados, atrajo a varios cientos de partidarios, incluyendo a católicos, de todo el país.

Cuomo dijo que el desamparo es emblemático de una tendencia mucho mayor, "el consumo con el poder económico para unos pocos que se hallan en lo alto del espectro, con la exclusión de muchos". El dijo que hoy, en los Estados Unidos, hay "casi una realidad doble".

Cuomo agregó que 5,300,000 estadounidenses, "la mayor cantidad de la historia", necesitan vivienda costeable actualmente. Ellos son urbanos, suburbanos y rurales.

"Debido a que la economía es tan sólida, hizo subir los alquileres", dijo él. "Las personas que están en el extremo inferior, que dependen de ingresos fijos, no pueden pagar los alquileres más elevados".

El secretario dijo que muchos factores contribuyen al desamparo en los Estados Unidos: La violencia familiar muy extendida; la carencia de un sistema de salud mental para los muy pobres; dos sistemas de enseñanza, uno para los ricos y otro para los pobres; el racismo muy extendido; y un jornal mínimo fijado a un nivel tan bajo que algunas personas tienen que escoger entre pagar el alquiler y comer. ▼

Foto CNS de Reuters

Refugiados de Kosovo

Un miembro de la Fuerza Aérea de los Estados Unidos ayuda a una mujer refugiada de Kosovo a medida que ella baja del avión en la Base McGuire de la Fuerza Aérea en Nueva Jersey el 5 de mayo. El vuelo trajo a 453 refugiados desde Macedonia a los Estados Unidos.

Federación de sacerdotes instada a abrazar la diversidad cultural

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Cerca de 280 sacerdotes dirigieron retos de multi-culturalismo en la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos a la convención anual de la Federación Nacional de Consejos Sacerdotales (NFPC).

Las parroquias católicas de los Estados Unidos forman actualmente una "tapicería cada vez más complicada de personas procedentes de muchas culturas", dijo el orador principal, Padre Robert Schreiter, de la Orden de la Preciosa Sangre, director del Centro "Joseph Cardenal Bernardin" en la Unión Teológica Católica de Chicago.

El dijo que el multi-culturalismo en una parroquia no significa solamente reconocer o tolerar a las culturas de otras personas, sino edificar relaciones inter-culturales positivas y respetar las diferencias culturales — "llegar a valorar la diferencia por su propio derecho, la que agrega a la riqueza del mundo".

La convención de la NFPC para 1999 fue efectuada entre el 26 y el 29 de abril en San Antonio.

"Los Estados Unidos son ahora el país de habla hispana que está en quinto lugar en el mundo", dijo él. "Las ciudades polaca y griega que están en segundo lugar en el mundo están en Chicago. Long Beach, California, es la segunda ciudad camboyana mayor del mundo, y el Este de Los Angeles es la segunda ciudad salvadoreña mayor".

El dijo que la reflexión teológica sobre la cultura en su sentido moderno — "como forma de designar al modo de vida de un pueblo" — fue enfocada formalmente por la Iglesia por primera vez en el Segundo Concilio Vaticano, en su Constitución Pastoral sobre la Iglesia en el Mundo Moderno.

El agregó que el Vaticano II enseño también "el derecho al desarrollo de la cultura. La cultura llega a ser un vehículo importante para el desarrollo de la persona a todos los niveles, incluyendo el espiritual".

Los sacerdotes del NFPC asistentes a la asamblea, en número mayor de 280, reflejaban parte de la diversidad cultural de la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos, incluyendo a sacerdotes de las culturas mexicana, norteamericana aborigen, puertorriqueña, cubana, afro-americana, filipina y varias culturas europeo-americanas. ▼

Documento católico-anglicano propone primacía papal 'compartida'

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Un documento católico-anglicano propuso que ambas iglesias podrían aceptar una primacía papal universal "compartida", que ofrecería dirigencia profética, afirmaría la diversidad legítima de tradiciones y daría la bienvenida a la investigación teológica.

El documento describía a la primacía papal y otras formas de autoridad en la Iglesia como un don divino y decía que su aplicación debería ser modelada sobre el papel de servicio de Cristo. Dicha autoridad es ejercida a menudo por la jerarquía, pero debe ser abierta a la renovación y la influencia de los fieles laicos, decía el mismo.

> El documento describía a la primacía papal y otras formas de autoridad en la Iglesia como un don divino y decía que su aplicación debería ser modelada sobre el papel de servicio de Cristo.

El documento de 12,000 palabras, titulado "El Don de la Autoridad", fue presentado el 12 de mayo por los miembros católicos y anglicanos de la Segunda Comisión Internacional Anglicana-Católica Romana (ARCIC II en inglés). Sus autores dijeron que el texto era un paso importante sobre uno de los asntos más difíciles del diálogo entre católicos y anglicanos.

"Dentro del paisaje ecuménico, es justo decir que ninguna otra comunidad ha llegado tan lejos junto con los católicos romanos en el acuerdo común sobre la primacía del Obispo de Roma", dijo el Padre William Henn, capuchino, en un comentario publicado con el texto en el Vaticano.

El documento delineaba una relación dinámica entre la Escritura, la tradición y el ejercicio de la autoridad didáctica en la Iglesia. Lejos de ser visto únicamente como un "almacén de doctrina y decisiones eclesiásticas", la autoridad de la Iglesia debería estar abierta a nuevos discernimientos y nuevas formulaciones, continuaba diciendo.

Los fieles vienen obligados a recibir y aceptar la enseñanza autorizada de sus pastores, decía, pero el pueblo de Dios y las Iglesias locales también ayudan a discernir la verdad. Y a todos los niveles de la autoridad eclesiástica, "la crítica leal y las reformas se necesitan algunas veces", decía el documento.

En una preparación de cinco años, el trabajo principal del texto fue logrado por los miembros de ARCIC II reunidos fuera de Roma en septiembre último. El documento expresa el acuerdo de la comisión del diálogo y será revisado y debatido por funcionarios de ambas iglesias. ▼

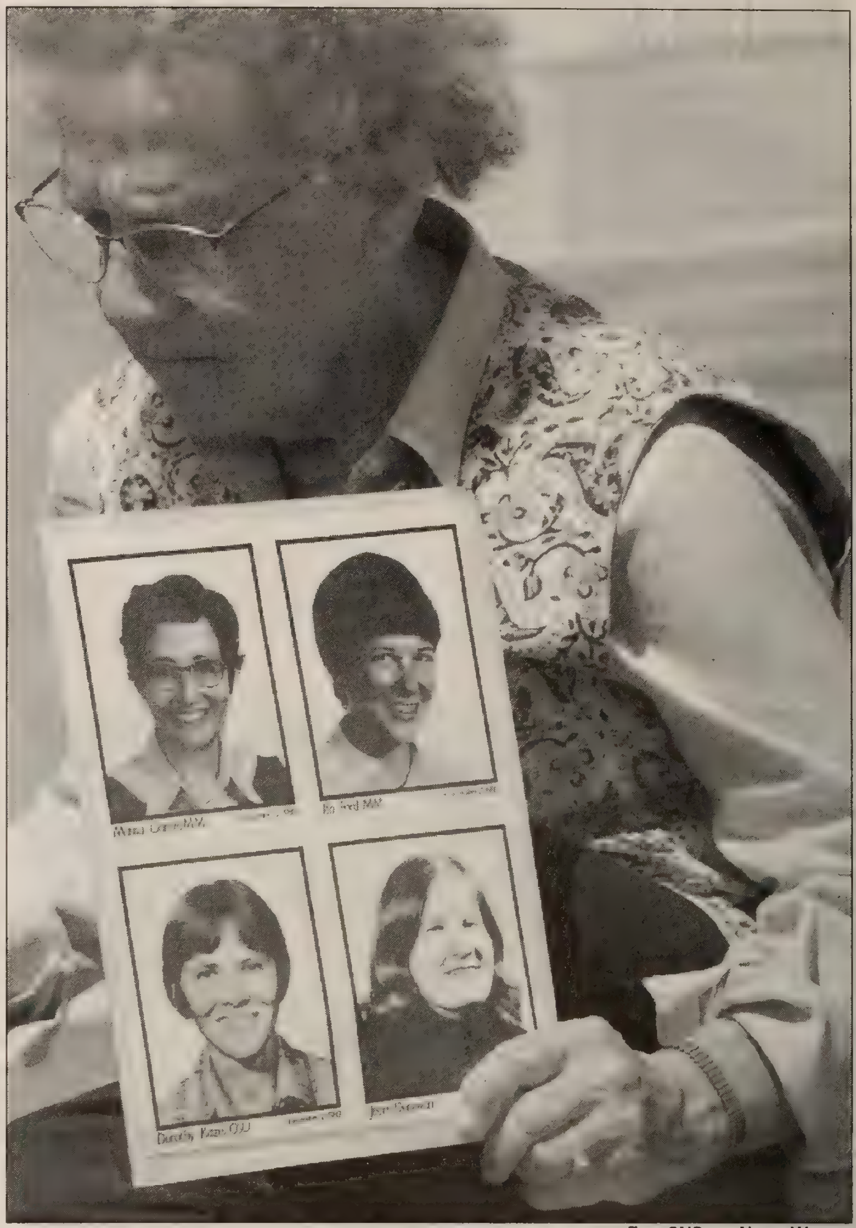


FOTO CNS POR NANCY WIECHEC

Hermana de Maryknoll

La Hermana de Maryknoll Helen Scheel, en una manifestación a principios de mayo en Washington, sostiene fotos de las cuatro religiosas asesinadas en El Salvador en 1980. Los familiares de las víctimas han presentado una demanda civil contra dos oficiales militares salvadoreños de alto rango involucrados en un encubrimiento de los asesinatos. Desde la parte izquierda superior, en la dirección de las manecillas del reloj, aparecen las Hermanas de Maryknoll Maura Clarke e Ita Ford, la trabajadora laica Jean Donovan y la Hermana Ursulina Dorothy Kazel.

La quinta parte de los nuevos sacerdotes de este año son inmigrantes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Más de la quinta parte de los seminaristas estadounidenses que serán ordenados sacerdotes en este año nacieron en otro país, según dice una encuesta nacional publicada en mayo.

La nueva clase de ordenación ayudará también a aumentar la mezcla racial y étnica del clero católico estadounidense. La cuarta parte de los que serán ordenados en este año son de origenes no blancos.

De los 418 seminaristas diocesanos y religiosos que se preparan para la ordenación en 1999 y que contestaron al cuestionario, el 78 por ciento dijo que nacieron en los Estados Unidos.

El cinco por ciento nació en Viet-Nam, el 3 por ciento en México, el 2 por ciento en Colombia y otro 2 por ciento en Europa Occidental.

La encuesta fue dirigida por el Padre Timothy T. Reker, director de la oficina nacional del comité de los obispos estadounidenses para las vocaciones, con la ayuda del sociólogo Dean Hoge, del "Life Cycle Institute" en la Universidad Católica de los Estados Unidos. ▼

Nota de la redacción: Durante los meses de junio, julio y agosto "The Catholic News and Herald" se publicará cada otra semana. A partir de la edición del 20 de agosto volverá a publicarse semanalmente. En vista de lo anterior, el próximo "Comuniquémonos" se publicará en el mes de septiembre.

Pope's Polish visit aimed at renewing spiritual roots

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II makes his longest visit to his Polish homeland in June, a trip aimed at renewing the spiritual roots of the nation as it prepares to face the challenges of a new millennium.

The June 5-17 pilgrimage will take the pope through numerous smaller towns and cities, to his boyhood home and his episcopal city, and into the chambers of political power in post-communist Poland. The itinerary includes 21 stops in 16 dioceses, many of which the pope has not visited during his seven previous trips back home.

The schedule is unusually heavy for the 79-year-old pontiff, who has shown good stamina in recent months despite suffering from a nervous disorder. Papal aides insist they are not worried about his health.

When Pope John Paul visits home, there is always a countrywide celebration in Poland. The pope is counting on that kind of national attention again, as he travels the country's byways to celebrate Mass, give talks to local residents, meet with educators, greet church leaders, and beatify or canonize more than 100 sons and daughters of the fatherland.

In visiting such out-of-the-way places as Elk, a manufacturing town near the eastern border, or Lichen, site of a new Marian shrine, the pope will let his compatriots know that their provincial religious traditions are important to him, and that a pastor — even a universal pastor — keeps an eye on all the members of his flock.

CNS file photo by Arturo Mari

Pope John Paul II greets youngsters at Holy Family Church in Zakopane, Poland, during his trip in June 1997. He will make his eighth and longest trip as pope to his homeland June 5-17.

While specific themes will change daily, one major papal concern will be what Polish bishops have called an increasingly "selective" attitude by Poles toward their faith. As the pope told Polish bishops last year, he is worried about the dangers of an "idolatry of liberty" in his homeland and wants to emphasize that the political and social changes of the last decade must be matched by a renewal of conscience and personal responsibility.

In Warsaw, the pope will give a speech to both houses of Parliament, his first to a national assembly, and meet with government leaders, including Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, a Lutheran. The pope is expected to speak about the proper relationship between religion and politics in the post-Communist era and offer moral advice on a number of sensitive issues, such as the weak enforcement of laws against abortion and pornography, rising crime among young people and an erosion of family ties.

In visiting such out-of-the-way places as Elk, a manufacturing town near the eastern border, or Lichen, site of a new Marian shrine, the pope will let his compatriots know that their provincial religious traditions are important to him, and that a pastor – even a universal pastor – keeps an eye on all the members of his flock.

The pope's trip is dedicated to the Beatitudes and has as its theme, "God is Love." Polish bishops have also called the visit a "vigil for the millennium," and the pontiff will no doubt outline his vision of the future of evangelization in Poland.

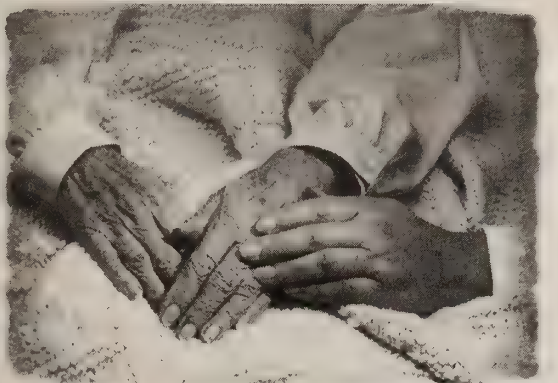
But several key events on the pope's schedule look back at darker chapters in recent Polish history, too. He will lead a prayer service at a Holocaust memorial at Umschlagplatz, a site from which Polish Jews were sent by Nazi occupation forces to the Treblinka death camp, and he will pray at another monument to Poles deported by the Russians to Siberia. At a Mass in Warsaw June 13, the pope will beatify 108 martyrs of World War II, and he will also pray at a memorial to World War I victims.

The pope will close a national church synod in Warsaw and preside over the close of ceremonies marking the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of Krakow, where he was archbishop before being elected pope.

In the nearby town of Stary Sacz, he will canonize Blessed Kunigunde, a 13th-century Polish-Hungarian princess who married a king of Poland, lived with him in continence and after his death withdrew to a convent she founded in Stary Sacz.

The last few days of the pope's visit will feature several highly personal events, including a meeting with residents in his hometown of Wadowice and a visit to the family grave in Krakow.

Papal trip planners have been careful in recent years not to overschedule the pope, but the 13-day program for Poland is packed with big and small events. It is his longest trip since 1988 and the fourth-longest of his pontificate. ▼



Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 37 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Book Review

New book surveys the legal history of church-state relations in the U.S.

REVIEWED BY PATRICIA A. MCGUIRE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In less than 150 pages, historian Edwin S. Gaustad accomplishes the monumental task of surveying the legal history of church-state relations in the United States, from 1619 to the present day. "Church and State in America" is part of the "Religion and American Life" series of the Oxford University Press.

Gaustad's slim volume throws a broad light on this most complex topic, covering everything from the Salem witch trials to the Congregational-Unitarian disputes to school prayer, snake handlers, Muslim headdress and the role of the Supreme Court.

Gaustad writes with a historian's objectivity, chronicling events and decisions without bias. This prospective makes "Church and State in America" a valuable teaching text for a range of students in secondary schools at advanced levels, and even adult education programs.

The text is highly inclusive of many religions, men and women, and persons of color. The photos and drawings illustrate a broad range of protagonists from Queen Elizabeth I to Archbishop John Hughes to Clarence Darrow to the Amish and Hasidic Jews.

Gaustad does not flinch from the consequences of religious extremism; one of the first photographs in the text is the most shocking: two black men hanging from a tree, lynched in the violence of racial and religious bigotry in the late 19th and early 20th century, linking Catholics, Jews, blacks and other "minority" persons in a life-and-death struggle for freedom against those forces that wanted to impose one form of religion and culture — Anglo-Saxon Protestantism.

But as Gaustad's history reveals, religious intolerance was not limited to outsiders: the early Puritans hanged one of their own, Mary Dyer, on the Boston Common in 1660 because she had become a Quaker. Her impassioned speech before her death reminds the reader of the reason for Thomas Jefferson's later strict insistence on the separation of church and state.

"Church and State in America"

By Edwin S. Gaustad
Oxford University Press
(New York, 1999)
157 pp., $22.00

"Gaustad writes with a historian's objectivity, chronicling events and decisions without bias."

Oddly, although Gaustad offers many fine sidebars and full-text excerpts from important historical documents, he does not set out the First Amendment clearly. He discusses the evolution of the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses, but a full presentation on the First Amendment would help.

Other themes become conflated in Gaustad's attempt to be verbally efficient. Discussion of religious tests for public office slides into conscientious objectors and quickly into Christmas creche cases, congressional chaplains and the tax exemption of religious property.

Gaustad's best chapters are on religion and schools. The chapter on private schools will interest Catholic readers concerned with the legal status of state aid to parochial schools. The book has no footnotes or citations beyond the names of the many cases cited, so the curious reader must go to the library for more.

As Gaustad notes in his short bibliography at the end, the Internet is also a good source for additional material including the full texts of the Supreme Court cases.

A book that goes from the 17th-century flogging of Baptists by Puritans to Cornell University's legal Web site is a valuable addition to the religious freedom bookshelf. ▼

McGuire is president of Trinity College in Washington. She writes and speaks on issues in Catholic education.

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT
(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Word to Life

May 30, Feast of the Holy Trinity. Cycle A Readings:
1) Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
Daniel 3:52-56
2) 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
3) John 3:16-18

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It was in the days before sonograms, natural childbirth and fathers being allowed into the delivery room. My husband Harold and I were in a military hospital where our first child was about to be born.

Labor had been really long and at times discouraging, but now the baby finally was being born. It was a boy, a healthy, beautiful eight-pounder, who briefly rested in my arms before being whisked away. I was cleaned up, covered with blankets, placed on a gurney and wheeled out into the hallway where my husband was waiting.

The scene is etched indelibly in my memory. I first glimpsed Harold's tall silhouette and then saw him not walk, but fly to my side. Our hands met and held, his face was close to mine and his eyes, filled with tears, joy and excitement, were like hot, glowing embers in his face. We didn't say much. There was no need. What we were feeling could not be put into words, and yet it was so simple and self-evident. We were filled with joy, gratitude, wonder and pride, and yet all those feelings were contained in an experience of transcendent love.

The love that we had shared as husband and wife for the past year was now expanded to include our firstborn son, and even those limits were now erased as we were caught up in something far greater. The experience was of the Wordless, the Holy, of Love-Beyond-All-Love. The moment passed, but is forever present in my heart and in God's eternal time.

It is transcendent moments like these, I think, that offer us a glimpse of the divine mystery we celebrate on this feast of the Holy Trinity.

One God, indivisible, yet three persons — how can we understand that? We can't, and our analogies with the shamrock, and our stylized pictures of persons and symbols help only a little, if at all. We grapple with the "how" of it, but are left baffled. Just occasionally and fleetingly we experience the "what" of the mystery, and that may be the nearest we ever come to a glimmer of understanding.

We humans are relational beings, and in this we are like our triune, relational God. In the peak moments of our deepest and best relationships we can experience the depth, immensity and dynamism of the three persons in the one loving Godhead. It is then we know that this is the Lord, and like Moses we bow our heads and worship. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 30 - June 5, 1999

Trinity Sunday, Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, John 3:16-18; **Monday**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Tuesday**, Tobit 2:9-1-4, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday**, Tobit 3:1-11, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday**, Tobit 6:11; 7:1, 9-14, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday**, Tobit 11:5-15, Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday**, Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20, Mark 12:38-44

Readings for the week of June 6 - 12, 1999

Sunday (The Body and Blood of Christ), Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58; **Monday**, 2 Corinthians 1:1-7, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday**, 2 Corinthians 1:1, 18-22, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday**, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, 2 Corinthians 3:15—4:1, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday**, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30; **Saturday**, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Luke 2:41-51

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

TV Review

A&E "Biography" highlights the life of Spencer Tracy

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A celebrated actor's personal life occupies much of "Spencer Tracy: Triumph and Turmoil," airing Wednesday, June 2, 8-9 p.m. EDT on the A&E cable channel as an episode of its "Biography" series.

Born in 1900 Milwaukee, the son of a hard-drinking Irish American, Spencer's combative nature got him kicked out of 15 grammar schools. After strongly considering the priesthood while attending the Jesuit Marquette Academy, he went into the Navy instead, discovered acting at Ripon College and moved to New York.

There his lifelong pattern of binge drinking and womanizing apparently took hold, but in 1923 he married, and the following year wife Louise gave birth to a congenitally deaf son, John. The marriage was strained by Tracy's guilt about the child's condition, as he suspected his own bouts of venereal disease was a contributing factor.

When movie director John Ford saw Tracy on Broadway in 1930's "The Last Mile," he hired the actor to star with Humphrey Bogart in "Up the River," which led to a studio contract with Fox and a busy 22 films in just four years, mostly portraying tough guys.

"Spencer Tracy: Triumph and Turmoil"

June 2, A&E

His understated acting style set him apart and was admired, but it belied his off-camera lifestyle of drunken brawls and tempestuous affairs with his leading ladies.

Loretta Young tells of having fallen in love with him at age 20, unaware he was married. She claims as they were both practicing Catholics they spent the next two years trying to extricate themselves from the affair. In those days the press did not reveal stars' peccadilloes and Mrs. Tracy went along with the image of a happy marriage to the end of his life.

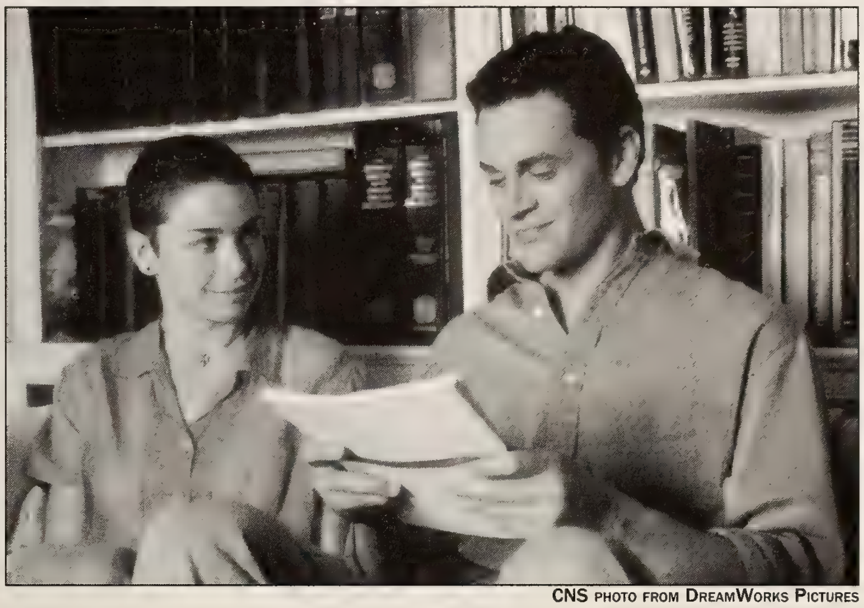
When MGM signed Tracy to a long-term contract his career really took off and he was awarded back-to-back Oscars for his roles in "Boys Town" and "Captains Courageous" in 1937 and '38. This was followed by the longtime personal and professional relationship with Katharine Hepburn, with whom he made nine movies.

The program presents Tracy as a flawed man, who despite accolades, fame and fortune, never was at ease with his choice of career, with how his personal desires conflicted with Catholic teachings, or his inability to be a faithful husband and role-model father.

It is a sad portrait of such a naturally talented man whose acting looked so natural, yet who apparently was uncomfortable in his own skin for much of his life. However, interviews with co-stars and friends such as Robert Wagner, Van Johnson, Jean Simmons and Dina Merrill reveal his generosity to up-and-coming actors.

The emphasis on his private unhappiness is given more attention than the memorable roles he played, and the program would have benefited from more clips demonstrating his considerable range as an actor. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from DreamWorks Pictures

"Love Letter"

Julianne Nicholson and Tom Everett Scott star in the romance "Love Letter." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Living Water
flows through a diocesan endowment.

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support
Every year, your "living water" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.

Ensure a Strong Future
Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.

Enact a Lasting Legacy
Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values: Your faith and the mission of the Church.

Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again.
— John 4:14

For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Please join us...
Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate

For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

Speak Spanish, and they come

By TOM MACCALLUM
Richmond County Daily Journal

RICHMOND COUNTY — Speak Spanish, and they will come.

The spirit moved St. James Catholic Church in that direction, and it worked.

It wasn't long after Father David Draim and Father Patrick Shelton arrived in Richmond county that they realized there was a large Catholic following in Richmond County not being reached by the church.

A month after they arrived in July 1998, a member of the St. James Parish mentioned that her neighbors, who spoke only Spanish, were looking for a priest willing to come to their house to bless statues as that would be meaningful to them.

"So we went up there," says Father David, "and they were really a nice family. Then we thought maybe we could be of some help to these people if they wanted religious services. It seemed like a good thing to do."

With the cooperation of the United Methodist Church in Ellerbe, they were able to hold the first Spanish Mass in November in Ellerbe.

About 70 people showed up. The family they had helped had spread the word around the area that the services would be held. During the Christmas season, they moved the weekly services to St. James.

They are still looking for a possible place to hold services in Ellerbe as transportation to Hamlet for many is a problem.

Most of those attending are of Mexican heritage although Spanish-speaking residents are also from other parts of South America, Puerto Rico and Cuba.

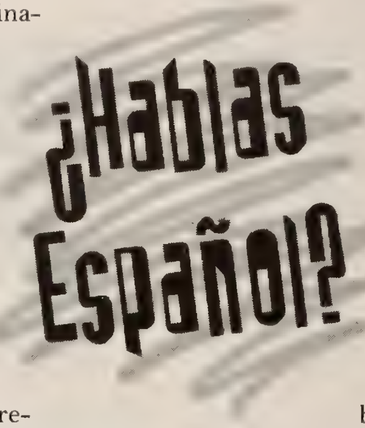
Having been Catholic before moving to Richmond County, they had stopped attending church because they were not aware of any such services in Spanish. Before now, there were none of the Catholic faith being held although other denominations were holding Spanish-speaking services in the county.

Those who knew attended such services in Biscoe, if they had transportation.

The lack of Catholic services posed another problem for families as their children were receiving no instruction in the faith. This meant they could receive no Communion.

Two Catholic nuns, Sister Theresine Gildea and Sister Maxine Tancraitor, of the Congregation of Divine Providence order, for the past two years had been working out of the St. James Mission in Wadesboro.

Former workers in Puerto Rico, they are both fluent in Spanish. They were eager, Father David says, to assist them with Hispanics in Richmond County.



Every Wednesday now they meet in a classroom at the United Methodist Church in Ellerbe to give religious instruction to these children, some 18 to 20 of them. In May they will take their first Communion.

"These are young children who would have been ready to take first Communion," Father David says, "but were not getting instruction and otherwise would not have been able to do so."

Sundays now are busy times for the priests at St. James. English Mass is held in Wadesboro at 9 a.m., then held again in English at 10:30 a.m. in Hamlet followed by Spanish at 1:30 p.m. in Hamlet and again in Spanish at 5 p.m. in Wadesboro.

Father David says he then stays overnight in Wadesboro on a rollaway bed in the hallway.

Wadesboro usually has five Spanish-speaking families with a lot of kids. However, during the migrant worker season that congregation swells to between 100 and 120, the capacity of the mission's sanctuary.

The first Mexican ceremony for a girl reaching the age of 15 was recently held at St. James. The first Mexican wedding will be held there Sunday, April 25.

The sisters have proven to be invaluable to the priests with such ceremonies as well as with other services. Father David reads Spanish well, but is not fluent in speaking or reading it.

That's where Olga Recio enters the picture. She is the church linguist. As a member of St. James, she volunteers to assist Father David in writing his sermons and checks his translatins for homilies and scripture readings.

He has to be careful. Spanish words for "marriage" and "tired" sound very similar. "I do get those mixed up," he says.

If people have something they really want to say, Father David says they will find a way. He can understand most Spanish if it is spoken slowly.

Recently a Mexican construction worker, his son and a friend were not paid on time and were concerned about having no shelter and food in the cold.

"He spoke no English," Father David said, when the man called. But he was able to gather that they needed help, so they were invited to the church where they were fed and given shelter.

Father David says the St. James Parish has been great with its outreach to such people. "And I'm really grateful for that."

During Holy Week observances, joint services were held on Holy Thursday with a bilingual service. "It

See SPEAK SPANISH, page 11

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Organist: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, N'orth Carolina is seeking a full-time organist to assist our music director. Applicants must be fully competent on organ and piano, able to lead congregation in singing, coach cantors, and function as music director for weddings and funerals. Send resume to Music Director, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. (336)274-6520. Fax (336)274-7326.

Consultant for Catechesis: The Diocese of Raleigh, located in the eastern half of North Carolina, is seeking an individual to join the Faith Development Department team to support parishes in their efforts to develop their faith communities. Primary responsibilities include implementation of the General Directory for Catechisis, particularly catechist formation; director formation, family catechesis, sacramental preparation. Some travel to parishes throughout diocese as well as flexible hours including some evenings and weekends expected. Must have master's degree in theology or equivalent; 3-5 years parish experience; diocesan level experience a plus, expertise in catechesis; skill in training trainers, designing and facilitating workshops. Must be computer literate in Windows 95 applications, Presentation Graphics, on-line technology. Being bilingual in Spanish, a plus. Send resume, along with a sample of a workshop for a training of catechists or catechetical leaders to Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2187.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following positions open beginning August 1999: Primary teachers; Assistant principal; Physical Education; and part time for Art, Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. All must have North Carolina certification. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Director of Music/Organist: St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. 750-family congregation. Four weekend masses and holy days; one adult choir; work with faith formation/children; 35-40 hours/week. Salary negotiable, commensurate with experience; additional fees for weddings and funerals; retirement benefits; continuing ed; 4 weeks vacation. Written contract. Two-manual Zimmer renovated in 1993. Position open 8/1/99. Contact Alan Houck at church address or (704)875-7440 days;(704)948-9536 evenings; (704)875-7473 fax; saraalan@sprynet.com.

Business Office Administrator: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for Business Office Administrator. Responsible for coordinating office activities, maintaining data base, handling electronic funds transfers. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in business or an associate's degree in business with two years' related experience. Applicants must also be proficient using PCs and have extensive experience with Microsoft Excel. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, PO Box 36776, Charlotte, NC 28236.

Administrative Assistant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an administrative assistant. Responsibilities include data entering of accounts receivable, processing payroll, and preparing related month-end and quarter-end reports. Applicants should have a minimum of two years' related experience. Applicants must be proficient using both 10-keys and PCs. EOE. Send resume and salary history to: Controller, PO Box 36776, Charlotte, NC 28236.

Kindergarten Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher to teach Kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. The teacher will be responsible for teaching all subjects including Religion. Please send resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Middle School Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher in the Middle School starting December 6, 1999 through June 2000. The teacher will be responsible for teaching Language Arts. Please send resume to: Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Assisted Living Caregivers: Homemakers and CNAs — enjoy rewarding work with flexible part-time schedules as a Kelly Assisted Living caregiver. If you have life skills and are caring and compassionate, please call us in Charlotte at (704)523-7884.

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and part-time needed, all shifts. Prefer experience in developmental disabilities. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic School, Rocky Mount, NC (grades PK-6th) seeks a Principal. Religious or lay person who is a strong leader and will work closely with the Pastor. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have state certification as a teacher, and a principal's license or its equivalent. Send resume to: Search Committee, 331 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

School Counselor/Youth Minister: A combined full-time position or two separate part-time positions are available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and School (1000 households; 260 students K-8). The candidate(s) will serve as part-time school counselor and as part-time Youth Minister for the parish in Total Youth Ministry for middle and high school youth. Applicant for the Youth Ministry position must be practicing Catholic. Experience in Youth Ministry and religious education is desirable. Applicants for the counseling position must have a Master's degree of Education in School Counseling. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC, 27262, or fax to (336)884-1849.

Organist: St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, NC. Salary negotiable. Please call Mary Lubic at (336)625-6528 for information.

Director of Religious Education: St. Leo the Great, a parish of 1600 households, in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a qualified person to administer the parish religious education program for 350 children grades pre-K-8th and family-based sacramental preparation. MA in religious education or theology is preferred; previous experience required; possess good organizational skills and ability to work with volunteers. Candidate may be sent to Fr. Jim Solari, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104 or Fax (336)724-7036; phone: (336)724-0561.

Faith Formation Director (Sunday School Coordinator): Master's or undergraduate degree in Theology or Religious Studies required. Teaching experience a plus. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Salary range $30-35K. Housing available. Projected start date July 1999. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick's Cathedral, Attn: Julie Dilick, Education Commission, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000 fully furnished or $20,000 unfurnished. Call (704)597-1545.

Knights of Columbus, from page 1

nual state convention, which included meetings, elections of state officers, an awards luncheon and a family banquet.

Robert Singer of Wilson was elected the new state deputy, and B.J. Taylor of Hope Mills was elected the new state warden. All other officers move up one slot every two years.

Charles B. Bowling Jr. of Charlotte was named the state's Knight of the Year at the family banquet. Recognized for a variety of activities with the Knights of Columbus, he also delivers lectures at schools and to civic organizations. Bowling has served as president of the new Columbus Club and was noted for his generous donations of blood to the Red Cross.

Bowling was recently named to the Knights' state board of directors, and is commandant of the Marine Corps League. He is also the navigator of the Fourth Degree of the Knights. He has been a Knight for seven years.

The organization bestowed its state Golden Knight of the Year award to Joe Rodri Sr. of Wilson, who helped his council raise 30 percent more money last year for the Knights' Operation LAMB, which provides funds for children with mental retardation. In addition, he assisted in raising $5,000 in church dinners to benefit a parish building fund.

The Golden Knight of the Year award is designated for members with more than 15 years of service.

Rodri, a Knight for over 29 years, also works with Special Olympics and families in need.

The state Family of the Year award went to John and Alice Clarkson and family of Hope Mills. Among their many contributions, the Clarksons are Eucharistic ministers, they work with families in need, and they assist in contributing financial aid to students. A Knight for 45 years, John Clarkson is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Fourth-degree honor guard members were among the 500 in attendance for the annual Knights of Columbus convention.

Carl Anderson, former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan and now supreme secretary of the Knights of Columbus, was the featured speaker at the family banquet.

Among his comments was praise to the Knights for their work in pro-life programs. "We are fighting a cultural war to combat abortions," he said. "Since 1990, abortions have dropped by 9 million in the United States."

Anderson reported that the Knights of Columbus organization is growing nationally at a rate of about 11,600 a year. In the past decade, Knights have raised $972 million for charity, and worked more than 421 million hours for a variety of causes. ▼

Contributing to this story was Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar.

In brief...

Bishop Howze of Biloxi speaks at Belmont Abbey College commencement

BELMONT — The Most Reverend Joseph Lawson Howze, D.D., Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss., delivered the homily May 15 during a Mass preceding commencement ceremonies at Belmont Abbey College.

One hundred ninety-one students, along with their families and friends, listened as Bishop Howze, the third African-American to be named a bishop, spoke on the significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. After explaining that the Spirit is the "life and breath" by which we live good Christian lives, he charged the graduates: "I encourage each of you. Report for duty now to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. May you be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as you report for duty."

Seminarian receives degrees

BALTIMORE — St. Mary's Seminary & University awarded two degrees to a seminarian from the Diocese of Charlotte. A Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and a Master of Divinity were bestowed on Joseph Long Dinh during the commencement ceremony on May 13, 1999. Rabbi Joel Zaiman, Senior Rabbi of Chizuk Amuno Congregation, gave the commencement address.

Founded in 1791 by the Society of St. Sulpice, a French community of priests dedicated to the formation of parish priests, St. Mary's Seminary & University is the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States.

Speaking Spanish, from page 10

went really well, some Spanish, some English, kind of moving back and forth throughout the service." he says.

"The St. James choir did a great job singing in both Spanish and English," Father David says. "I was really impressed."

And he was equally impressed when recently some 22 Honduran men were here planting trees for some eight weeks. On Christmas, they all got out of the back of large truck for services. Since they worked on Sundays, they asked if services could be held later on Saturday.

During their time here, Mass was held for them every Saturday at 7 p.m. "That was a wonderful thing for them," Father David says. "They were so grateful. They were the best singers I think I've heard in years. It was amazing these men could sing so wonderfully."

And the mission continues. The nuns are now working among the Spanish-speaking families to make them aware of family matters above and beyond the religious.

They are holding choir practice in Spanish and a music program is being developed. There is one young man with speakers and a guitar who provides music, and more musicians are being trained.

But Father David feels there are still more Spanish-speaking residents of Richmond County who would like to attend their Masses but are held back because of transportation.

Aside from that, Father David is pleased with the response to opening up the services of the Catholic Church to the Spanish-speaking citizens of the county. ▼

Tom MacCallum is a reporter for the Richmond County Daily Journal. His story is reprinted with permission.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

YES, IT WORKS!
The Catholic News & Herald's advertisers agree...
"In just the first week of my ad I received inquiries about garden statuary — even from potential customers 90 miles away!
— Michele Smith, owner
Colchester Place Gardens & Nursery
Tell over 100,000 readers about YOUR business...
For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Benedictine produces multitude of fruit tending apple orchard

By WALT OLHAVA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LISLE, Ill. (CNS) — Benedictine Brother Joseph Vesely's love of God grows daily in the two-and-a-half-acre apple orchard he tends at Benedictine Abbey in Lisle.

Since 1965, Brother Vesely, 78, has used the gardening talents he inherited from his farmer father to make a once-neglected orchard thrive.

"When I took over, I had to cut back the trees quite a bit," he told the Catholic Explorer, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese.

He uses natural techniques to produce fruit, rather than relying solely on fertilizers and popular chemicals.

"Since the first cutting back of trees, we have tried to keep the orchard as neat as possible. We try to be organic," said Brother Vesely as he prepared to mulch trees already full with pink and white buds. "We don't use caustic sprays. I use very benign sprays. I try to keep it cultured and clean — organic."

The tall, lanky horticulturist explained that it was important to put compost around the base of the trees. "If you can get the plants and trees to be vigorous enough, they can ward off a lot of the bugs and pests," he said.

Brother Vesely's plentiful orchard yields apples for any variety of recipes.

"Little by little, we've been adding things," he said. "We've been making our own apple juice, our own cider. This year I've made about 180 gallons of that. It's made by hand, we have a 16-inch press, we press it by hand. You just grind up the apples, wrap it in cloth, and press out the juice."

CNS PHOTO BY WALT OLHAVA, CATHOLIC EXPLORER

Brother Joseph Vesely, 78, looks over the blooms on an apple tree on the grounds of Benedictine Abbey in Lisle, Ill. The monk cares for the 2 1/2-acre orchard that supplies the abbey with fruit for snacking, juice and baked goods.

But the apples are used for other goodies. "We make apple sauce, cobblers, pies, apple slices, anything that uses apples," he said. "We have about two-and-one-half acres of orchard and about 20 varieties of apples, from early summer to fall to winter apples. I start picking some apples in August and finish off in the first part of October."

Brother Vesely stores 144 bushels of apples in a steel insulator and produces between 200 and 300 bushels of apples total each year.

He first got involved with orchard work by chance.

"I was assigned to it," he said. "I never went to school to learn anything about this. I read some books and picked up some magazines. I got associated with the North American Fruit Explorers, a group around Chicago. I was associated with them for quite a while. They got me more acquainted with orchard care."

Caring for the trees includes pruning them a lot, using a pruning pole, he said.

"I stress pruning trees a lot. It opens up the tree to let the air and sunshine in and it dries up the moisture," he explained. "Then you don't have so much bacteria and pests. I thin out the trees quite a bit. Then they can overcome a lot of the fungus or other pests."

Brother Vesely has been a monk for nearly 55 years. His decision to enter religious life was influenced by another kind of tree — his family tree.

"I had a very special history," he said, explaining that an uncle from Czechoslovakia entered the Benedictine monastery in Lisle in 1905, became a priest and was made a rector. Later, a cousin, Stanley, came to Lisle, became a Benedictine and was ordained in 1940.

"So I was influenced by both of them," added Brother Vesely, who wouldn't change anything about his life.

"Most people don't have those advantages I had to become a lay brother," he said talking about his relatives. "So that's the reason I came, and I was pleased with the life, the prayer life, and I stayed, and I am here today and I'll be here till the end."

He noted there is a cemetery at Lisle where about 120 monks are buried. "And that will be my final resting place, God willing," he added. ▼

Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry celebrates anniversary

ASHEVILLE — Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Asheville recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with a reception at the parish following the ministry's monthly healing Mass. Formed in 1994, Caring Hearts seeks to provide a Catholic presence to those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Its many activities include assisting with collecting and delivering food, sponsoring monthly healing Masses, participating in local fundraisers, assisting in planning World AIDS Day interfaith healing services, attending and conducting workshops at the National Catholic AIDS Ministry conference in Chicago, and forming buddy teams to serve to serve AIDS patients.

The reception included presentation of the Steve Hamel Service Award to Jane and Dave Campbell, longtime St. Joan of Arc parishioners and active Caring Hearts members. The award was established in memory of Steve Hamel, a founding Caring Hearts member and longtime hospice volunteer. The award recognizes those who have offered distinguished service to those with HIV/AIDS. ▼

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others
Need extra cash?
PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities
• No cash investment
Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S302 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

June 11, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 38

Inside

Cardinal Keeler criticizes embryo report
...Page 3

Bishop ordains six to transitional diaconate
...Pages 8-9

Local News

Graduates urged to live faith, do for others
...Page 13

Diocesan Support Appeal exceeds annual goal
...Page 3

Project designed to build community, ideas
... Page 16

Every Week

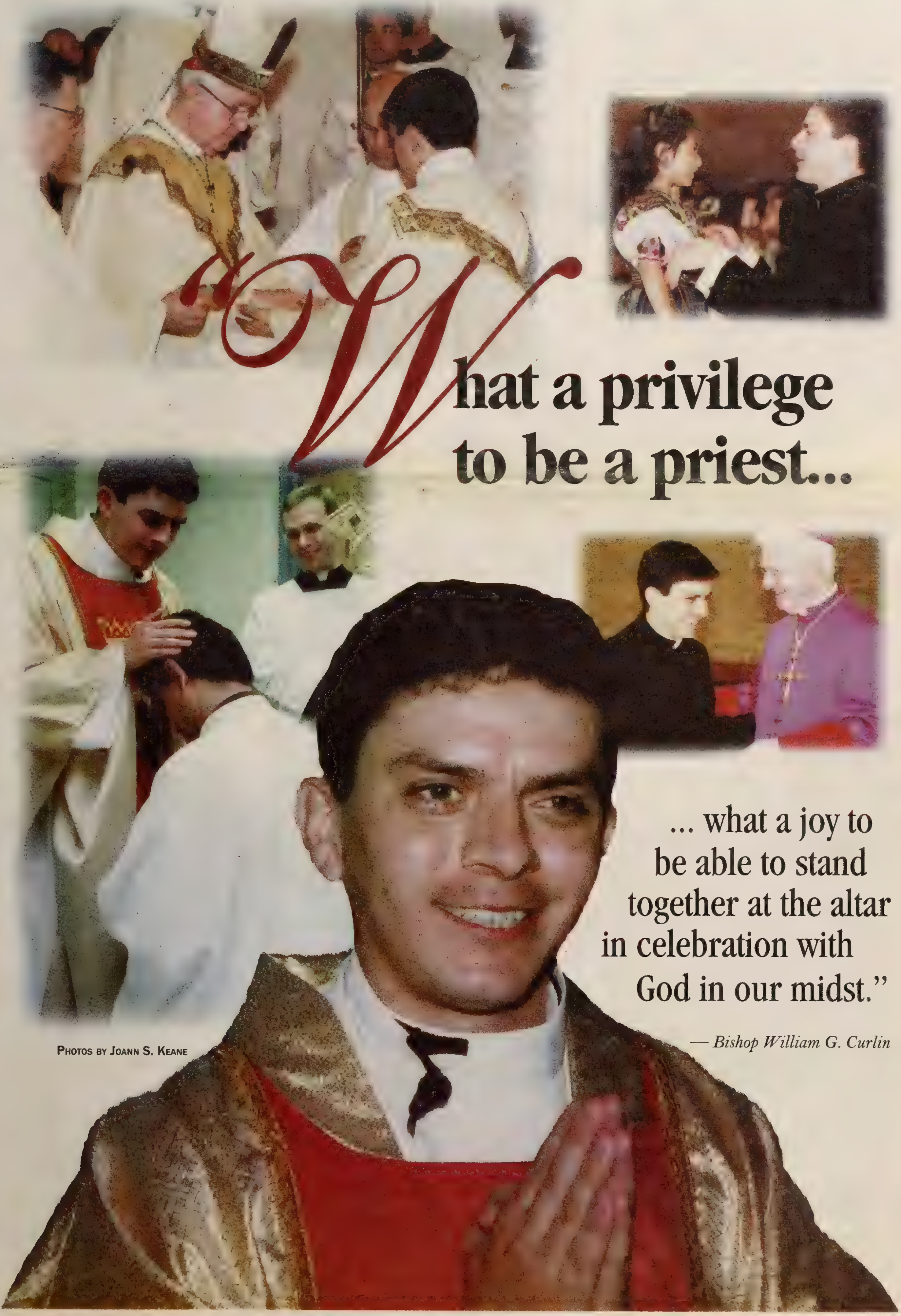
Editorials & Columns
...Pages 4-5

Readings
...Pages 10

Priest Ordination

Diocese of Charlotte celebrates its newest priest, Father Ricardo Sanchez

...Page 7



"What a privilege to be a priest...

... what a joy to be able to stand together at the altar in celebration with God in our midst."

— *Bishop William G. Curlin*

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Vatican encourages Buddhists, Christians to explore shared values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Buddhist and Christian beliefs do not mix, but Buddhism's rising popularity in Europe does offer opportunities to explore common values among the two faiths, the Vatican said. "The presence of Buddhism in Europe can become an important occasion to review elements of the Christian tradition such as mystic experience, the dimension of silence, respect toward creation (and) the life of charity and compassion," the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue said in a June 4 statement. The council issued a summary of its conclusions from a four-day conference of European Buddhist and Catholic leaders; among them were that "the face of Europe in the coming centuries certainly will be marked by the meeting between Christian tradition and the great religions and cultures of the Middle and Far East."

New Vatican rules for cloisters increase superiors' authority

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Updating rules for nuns living in cloistered convents, the Vatican has given mothers superior a little more authority in deciding who can enter or leave the enclosure. With the new rules, approved by Pope John Paul II in May, the superiors can decide if there are serious reasons for allowing a nun to leave a strict cloister for up to one week without having to seek authorization from the local bishop or male superior. The "Instruction on the Contemplative Life and on the Enclosure of Nuns" was released in early June by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life. The cloister, it said, "is intended to create a space of separation, solitude and silence where God can be sought more freely in a life not only for him and with him, but also in him alone." The document emphasized the need to preserve strict cloisters in an often busy, crowded and noisy world.

Cardinal urged to press for black bishop for Northeast

NEW YORK (CNS) — At a Harlem Catholic church, New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor was urged to use his influence with the pope to suggest an African-American bishop be appointed for the church in the Northeast. The cardinal said he "absolutely" had made efforts to find a black bishop during the 15 years he has been archbishop of New York. "There is no question that when the right evaluations come in from enough responsible people, our Holy Father will be perfectly happy to appoint someone," he said. Currently, there are 13 active African-American Catholic bishops in the United States.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rebels with kidnapped

Leftist rebel commanders of the National Liberation Army talk with Father Jorge Cadavid (center) and others kidnapped from a church in an affluent Colombian community May 30. At least 40 people were still being held by the rebels in a remote area of San Vicente, southwest of Cali.

Social teaching as key to faith as other teachings, says priest

CHICAGO (CNS) — The church's social teaching is as essential to Catholicism as its teachings on sacraments and Scripture and ought to be reflected that way in the Catholic media, Msgr. John J. Egan told Catholic journalists gathered in Chicago. Speaking at a May 27 luncheon during the annual national convention of the Catholic Press Association, Msgr. Egan, a Chicago priest and a longtime activist for community organizing, labor and other social justice interests, told the journalists they have an obligation to focus attention on the church's "best-kept secret."

New directory reports more than 62 million U.S. Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are now more than 62 million U.S. Catholics, according to the 1999 Official Catholic Directory. The 2,300-page directory, widely known in church circles as the "Kenedy directory" after its publisher's imprint, was released in late May. The number of Catholics in the United States and its possessions grew from 61,563,769 in 1998 to 62,018,436 in 1999, according to the 41-page statistical summary at the end of the directory. It is based on information supplied yearly by each diocese in the country.

Ordinations in Russia answer prayers, says U.S. official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The ordinations of three men trained in Russia — the first such public ceremony in more than 80 years — answered decades of prayer by U.S. Catholics, said a U.S. bishops' official. Meanwhile, a church official in Moscow said the significance of the event should not be exaggerated, since the Russian Catholic Church is "only just starting its restoration." In Washington, Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, "It's important for Catholics in the United States to realize that this celebration was, in many respects, an answer to decades and decades of prayer ... and due in great part to their generosity."

Vatican says visit to shrine can help pilgrims praise God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A visit to a Catholic shrine should help pilgrims praise God, change their lives and reach out to the poor and suffering, a new Vatican document said. Visiting a shrine "shows its fruits, particularly in charitable commitments, in actions for the promotion of human dignity, of justice and peace," said the document released May 25 at the Vatican. The document was written by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

U.N. nuncio says world must move toward total nuclear disarmament

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican nuncio to the United Nations told an interfaith symposium May 20 that the upcoming review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be used to move toward total nuclear disarmament. "While militarism of all kinds must be checked, the abolition of nuclear weapons is the prerequisite for peace in the 21st century," said Archbishop Renato R. Martino joining Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu representatives on a panel sponsored by the Religious Group of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

June 11, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 38
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 12 — 2:00 pm
Confirmation
St. Joan of Arc, Asheville
June 13
Homilist
Golden Jubilee of Priesthood
Washington, DC
June 15 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. John the Baptist, Tryon
June 16 — 6:30 pm
Bless Marian Shrine
7:00 pm Confirmation
Our Lady of the Angels, Marion
June 17 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Michael, Gastonia
June 18 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Joseph, Asheboro
June 19 — 4 pm
Confirmation
St. Margaret, Maggie Valley
June 20 — 9 am
Confirmation
St. Peter, Charlotte
June 21 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption, Charlotte
June 22 — 11 am
Jubilee Anniversary Mass
For priests serving the diocese
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
June 23 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Francis, Lenoir
June 24 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Mary, Sylva
June 25 — 6:30 pm
Confirmation
St. John, Tryon

Diocesan planner

June

17 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp, (336) 427-9717, or (336) 882-9717.

18 SYLVA — A support group for those who are widowed, separated, divorced, and with new or unresolved grief meets today at 7 p.m. in the St. Mary Church fellowship hall, 22 Bartlett St. Call Chuck or Mary Brogan, (828) 497-9452, for details.

24 ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass for anyone in need of spiritual, emotional or physical healing is today at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood St. The Mass is sponsored by the parish's Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry. Refreshments will follow the Mass. For more information, call (828)

Let your light shine

Diocesan Support Appeal credits stewardship as key to success

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — As the 1999 Diocesan Support Appeal winds down and the numbers are tallied, members of the Diocese of Charlotte have answered the call to let their light shine in a big way.

The family in faith — those counted within the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte — established a new standard in giving. To date, total pledges of $3,544,000 put the annual support appeal at 121 percent of its anticipated goal of $2,940,000.

Let your light shine!
DSA '99

"There are 60 parishes and missions that are over their goal in terms of pledges," said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development. "An additional 10 parishes are within 10 percent of their target." While the official DSA concluded on March 21, many parishes in resort areas of the mountains wait until mid-summer to conduct their Appeal Sunday, when summer residents return to the respite of Western North Carolina.

Parishes that exceed assigned goals receive rebates — after all payments are received — of all funds over their assessed target.

"This year we reached our goal in record time," said Rohrman. "The sense of stewardship has been heightened on parish levels. The way in which the appeal is presented at the parish level, and stewardship is promoted at the same time, has made a difference in the giving."

Part of the DSA is educating the masses about the 35 ministries supported by the appeal. "The ministries funded by the DSA provide a tremendous opportunity to be the light of Christ for someone else," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "Contributions to the appeal make you an instrument of God in helping to bring others from darkness to light."

As in years past, the annual appeal focused on Catholic Social Services, Multicultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and the Vocation program. This year, a 6.5 percent increase was added to the annual appeal, surpassed through generosity.

"We had 18,800 donors," said Rohrman. "That is about a two percent increase over last year, and represents 44 percent participation of the Diocese of Charlotte."

Stewardship is at the heart of the DSA, says Rohrman. "Through our stewardship, we are serving Jesus incognito — so to speak — and really and truly living the corporal works of mercy through stewardship to the Diocese of Charlotte." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Bishops' pro-life head criticizes upcoming embryo report

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, has written to members of Congress criticizing an upcoming federal report on embryonic stem-cell research as "gravely deficient."

"This administration's efforts to circumvent current law to fund destructive experiments without congressional authorization are hypocritical and morally incoherent," Cardinal Keeler said in the May 27 letter.

The report on stem-cell research to be issued by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, created by President Clinton, was due out in June. Cardinal Keeler was responding to news reports in May about a draft report of the commission.

The commission "makes three important concessions regarding destructive embryo research, then draws exactly the wrong conclusion from them," the cardinal said.

— "'As long as embryos are destroyed as part of the research enterprise,' says the commission, 'researchers using the embryonic stem cells — and those who fund them — will be complicit in the death of embryos.' But the commission then concludes that Congress should change the law so taxpayers will be forced to subsidize the killing of human embryos," Cardinal Keeler said.

Congress in 1995 passed a bill blocking all such funding after a 1994 report from the National Institutes of Health said certain kinds of research on human embryos warranted federal support. Congress has renewed the ban each year since.

— "The commission recognizes that millions of Americans see the human embryo as a human being with a right to life, and that disagreements on this question cannot be ignored or easily resolved," Cardinal Keeler said.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Cardinal William Keeler called a recent government analysis on stem-cell research "gravely deficient." The report calls for Congress to end a four-year ban on federal funding for destructive embryonic research.

"But it proceeds to argue that in a pluralistic society, these millions of Americas must suppress their consciences and support this destructive experimentation," he continued. "Just the opposite is true: In a pluralistic society, government must not force millions of taxpayers to subsidize what they know to be the unjust taking of innocent human life."

— While the commission says that research posing moral problems should not be considered unless "necessary" to cure life-endangering disease, the cardinal said, "the commission does not draw the sensible conclusion from its own premise: that startling new advances in adult stem cells

See KEELER, page 12

252-3151.

27 BREVARD — St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today and each fourth Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in the new office wing on 6th Avenue West. Call (828) 884-4246 for details. Visitors and inquirers are welcome.

CHARLOTTE — The Christian community Ultreya meets today to share experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1741, for more information.

July

2 HIGH POINT — A Mass in Latin is celebrated today and each first Friday at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett St. Recitation of the rosary is at 6:30 p.m. Benediction and adoration follow the Mass. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

HOT SPRINGS — "Radical Love in the Parables of Jesus" is a retreat for women focusing on a fresh call to openness and enthusiasm to the call of the Gospel, today through July 4 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For details, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743; (828) 622-7366; http://www.geocities.com/~jesuit_housenc

3 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are today at the Belmont Abbey Basilica. Mass is at 9:30 a.m., followed by recitation of the rosary and the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:15. For details, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

9 HICKORY — A Marriage Encounter weekend is today through July 11 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacy Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

11 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrates a charismatic Mass today at 3 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck meal follows the Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

16 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — Free tours of the historic St. Lawrence Basilica, 97 Haywood St., follow each weekend Mass. For details and Mass schedule, call (828) 252-6042.

CHARLOTTE — "Shining Stars Adult Day Respite" is a private not-for-profit providing care for men and women experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Meetings are each Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on the campus of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Cost is $35, which includes lunch and activities. For more information or to apply, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — Classes for people wishing to learn English as a second language are each Monday and Thursday from 6:30-8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. There is no fee, and materials are provided. Participants may register on site. For details, call Pat Godoy at (704) 535-0433 (Spanish), or Marlee Battaglia (English) at (704) 597-1331.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, in Poland, welcomes Kosovo cease-fire agreement

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

SIEDLCE, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has welcomed the definitive cease-fire agreement in Kosovo and now hopes the hundreds of thousands of refugees can return home safely before winter, his spokesman said.

"The Holy Father has asked to be kept informed continually on the situation, because winter is not so far away and those people need to be resettled under secure conditions," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said June 10.

"The two priorities now are the return of the refugees and reconstruction in the area," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope was in the middle of a 13-day trip to Poland when NATO and Serbian officials nailed down the final details in a military agreement that foresees the end of the NATO bombing campaign, the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo and the entry of a multinational peacekeeping force.

Navarro-Valls expressed the Vatican's satisfaction that "the peace process has finally yielded positive results" and its thanks to all parties that helped pave the way to the agreement.

He said Europe has a special role to play in the consolidation of peace and rebuilding in the Balkans.

"Now is the time for Europe to take its responsibility in the reconstruction and in the democratic, social and economic life of the region," he said.

Navarro-Valls said the pope had been briefed daily on the Kosovo situation during his visit to his homeland, and that the pontiff had prayed several times for peace in the region.

From the start of the escalation of the conflict in late March, the pope had been a vocal critic of what he called "murderous" bombardments and the brutal ethnic cleansing practices carried out by Serb forces in Kosovo.

Vatican, Lutheran World Federation to sign document on justification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Almost a year after the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation first announced they had come to an agreement on the doctrine of justification, a formal signing of the document appears near. Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and the Rev. Dr. Ismael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, are scheduled to announce acceptance of the document at a June 11 press conference in Geneva. In a brief May 27 advisory about the June press conference, the Vatican said Cardinal Cassidy and Rev. Noko would announce "the positive conclusion of the process of examination" of the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification."

Strategic Planning

DON HENDRICKS
Guest Columnist

The Facilities Committee

In the March 19th issue of this publication, the Very Rev. Mauricio West introduced the subject of the 20-year plan which is being formulated at Bishop William G. Curlin's request to deal with our diocese's anticipated growth.

One of the areas of interest in that plan is the orderly development of facilities which will be necessary to support the programs required to meet the diverse needs of our Catholic community. To address that task, the Facilities Committee has been meeting regularly. We start each meeting with the celebration of the Eucharist and pray for divine guidance that we may properly meet our responsibility.

Part of the mission statement of the Diocese of Charlotte is "to grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship and witness." We praise God, worship and give witness to our faith in many ways. We join together socially; we care for the sick, elderly and disadvantaged; we come together as a church community to learn about our faith and to celebrate the liturgy.

Now we could and at times do much of this in the great outdoors. However, we people of Western North Carolina have grown accustomed to conducting most of these activites inside the past years, and are anticipated to expand even further in the years ahead.

Any of you who have — and most in our diocese have — gone through a building program know that it is not a painless experience! Occasionally, inter-parish dissension occurs and hopes and dreams are not always realized. One of the goals of our committee is to develop a process that will help alleviate some of the frustration in the building process.

To accomplish this first goal, we are using as a framework the several procedures currently in place throughout the various diocesan offices. When finished, we expect to present a process which will be helpful to anyone who recognizes a need for a new facility. The program will define a coordinated approach so that all diocesan entities will be aware of and have input into the final recommendation to the bishop.

Another goal of our committee is to identify how many and what types of facilities will be required during the 20-year planning period. To do this, we are studying community growth patterns, planned highway construction and other population demographics. This work will be helpful for estimating the financial and human resources which will be required to build and administer these facilities.

We are also reviewing the procedures by which diocesan administrators inventory and dispose of diocesan property.

We have much to do, but we have an able and dedicated committee and with God's grace, we will accomplish our objectives.

Don Hendricks is chairman of the Facilities Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Please send your letters to Joann S. Keane, Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org. Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity and style.

The tragedy at Columbine

To the Editor:

The terrible tragedy at Columbine High School caused the media, especially TV, to have a feeding frenzy, like a bunch of jackals feeding off a fresh kill. The networks sent their prominent commentators and these sought out the sorrowing survivors for endless painful interviews, as if they had been instructed: "Get a survivor and if you can get them to sob or cry on camera, there is a bonus in it for you!"

Everyone completely ignored the real reasons why there is violence in the high schools.

If you examine the tragedy of Columbine, you find numerous other incidents of high school violence scattered around the country. They all have on thing in common: They are public high schools where God has been eliminated from the curricula! If you take children of high school age, teens and preteens, and eliminate God, you relieve them of moral responsibility for their actions. Teen-agers are especially vulnerable to new ideas, and if some of those ideas are bad, they do not have enough experience to reject them.

If you take teen-agers at their most vulnerable years, eliminate God and moral responsibility from their education, and give them access to how to commit wholesale violence, you should expect the worst!

John J. Fitzgibbon, Swannanoa

To the editor:

Mr. Peter Droege should check out the facts ("Churches fill in wake of school shooting," April 23). In the first sentence he states the Littleton massacre was the deadliest in U.S. history. Please check the Friday, April 23 Charlotte Observer, page 10A. It states that there were 45 killed in the bombing of the Bath Consolidated School in 1927.

I have pictures of this showing me in front of the debris.

Mary A. Heilman, Charlotte

Opposing the School of the Americas

To the Editor:

Catholic voices need to be heard concerning the School of the Americas, whose graduates have participated in killing and torturing nuns and priests. I was glad to see the fine letter from Rev. Mr. Arthur and Rosemary Kingsley of Arden, who spoke on this subject ("Letters to the Editor," May 7).

We have attended the two Boone meetings opposing the SOA, and we were surprised at how few people attending were Catholics. Other people are willing to speak out for us; we should speak for ourselves, also.

What is needed is contacting our U.S. representatives and senators to tell them we want to have funding for this school discontinued. We elect them and they vote on issues like this, as our representatives.

Thank you to the Kingsleys and to you for printing their letter.

Mary F. Owen, Boone

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Daddy, you're wonderful!

The joy that comes with having a truly good father is something that sons and daughters celebrate. And some stories that remind us of a father's importance last to inspire new generations. One of my favorite anecdotes comes from Jim Gilken's little book entitled "The Heart of a Father."

He recalls a true incident. One afternoon an extremely popular opera was scheduled for a matinee at the Metropolitan Opera House. A world tenor was scheduled to sing and every seat was sold.

But just before the curtain rose, an announcement was made: The famous tenor has fallen ill. His role would be sung by a scarcely known substitute. A moan of annoyance erupted from the audience.

The performance began. The substitute tenor made his entrance and sang his first aria. Usually that particular solo is followed by a tumult of applause. This time the spectators sat silent. Then something surprising happened. A small boy, seated in a box near the stage, stood up and, in a childish voice audible to all, he exclaimed, "Daddy, I think you're wonderful!" The child's love and loyalty for his dad affected everyone. The entire audience started clapping furiously, cheering and wiping away tears.

I have always found in that story a simple expression of the way Jesus Christ Himself spoke of our relationship with God. Over and over again in the Gospels, Jesus used the image of an earthly father in order to give us our best human glimpse of His Heavenly Father and ours.

When Jesus taught the disciples to address God as "Father" in the Lord's Prayer, they were no doubt startled. The word Jesus used for Father — "Abba" — was precisely the same highly personal form used by that opera singer's young son: "Daddy." Jewish writings use the words "Abba" and "Imma" as intimate, everyday titles in the way that we use "Daddy" and "Mommy." Jesus used the word "Abba" in his instruction about prayer, teaching His followers to use the trusting, familiar manner of little children speaking to Daddy: "When you pray, say Abba."

To the disciples, addressing God as "Abba" was a radical departure. It opened a whole new way of thinking about God and communicating with Him. God actually wanted them — and us — to recognize him as a loving father, a dad.

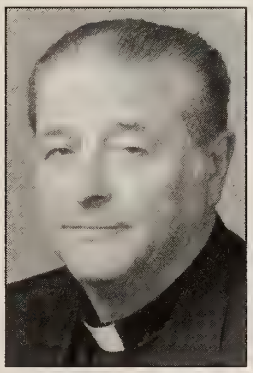
Writer Henry Taylor tells about an experience that clarified this truth for him. When he was a little boy his dad took him to the bottom of a coal mine — in a barrel. "The engineman threw a lever. We started to drop. Father held me tight in his arms. I felt him in the darkness as the barrel shot down in the darkness, banging hard against the wet, black walls, I could hardly catch my breath. When we came to a stop ... father lifted me out of the barrel. ... I clung to my father's hand as he led the way along the tunnel. Someone asked me if I was afraid and I said, 'Well, I'd be awfully scared except my daddy is with me.'

"I remember my father looking at me with a wonderful smile and saying, 'Then you will never be scared, son, because a greater father than I will always be with you.'"

Father's Day is a good time to remember the lessons and joys of having — and being — a good father.

And should you ever wonder who among us does God's will, I tell you it is the one who has learned to call Him "Abba," proudly, trustingly and lovingly.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Discarding old sacramentals

Q. How does one properly discard old religious pictures, rosaries, statues, scapulars and so on? I and some of my friends have accumulated a lot over the years. One priest told us simply to tear them up or burn them, but that doesn't sound very respectful. Can you help?

A. Unless you own a warehouse, there is a limit to how many blessed candles, prayer books, rosaries, statues and other items one can accumulate. The advice the priest gave you is basically correct.

To understand that, it helps to know a bit about what we Catholics understand a blessing to be. The official "Catholic Book of Blessings," which offers blessing rites for everything from churches and birthdays to animals and highways, is the best place to look. (The numbers following refer to that book.)

In the Bible and in Christian tradition, it is always, of course, God who "bestows his blessing by communicating or declaring his own goodness." Whoever blesses others in God's name is invoking God's help upon people, or on material things (rosaries, food, Advent wreathes and so on) which people will use in their daily lives, prayer and worship (6, 7, 1440).

In other words, the significance of such blessings focuses on people and people's use of blessed items to help them live holy lives. The items themselves have their spiritual importance only in being able to be used for that purpose.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1669) reminds us, every baptized person, as a member of the Christian community, is called to be a "blessing" and to bless. Thus, whether the blessings are given by laypersons or clergy (most blessing rites are reserved for ordained ministers), therefore, the ones who preside should "keep in mind that they represent the church in celebration" (No. 17).

While they deserve proper respect for what they contribute to our faith life, the sacramentals we're talking about are not changed by being blessed, in the sense that they are permanently set aside for prayer or worship.

In technical theological language, they receive an invocative blessing, invoking God's goodness, not a constitutive one, by which a church or chalice, for example, is permanently "constituted" for public worship.

All this comes down to saying that when blessed articles no longer have a use, it is fitting to break or tear or burn them so they lose their identity as a scapular or image, for example.

Their purpose is to help increase faith and assist our spirit of prayer and devotion. When they have served that purpose, and have worn out or are to be replaced, there is no irreverence in appropriately disposing of them.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651 or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

Pearls of wisdom for the Class of '99

Well, it's happened again. All the high school graduations in America happen this month, and once again nobody asked me to be their speaker. So here it is, the talk I would have given at your school if I'd been invited.

Graduates of the Class of '99, here are three pieces of advice I wish somebody had given me. One is about money, one about friendship and the third is about your spiritual life.

About money. Right now, you think the people making a ton of dough will be the doctors and the lawyers. Wrong. Your country has way more lawyers than it needs — most young attorneys coming out of law schools these days are scratching hard for a decent living.

By the way, the same is true for architects and psychologists — all as common as house cats and darned near unemployable the day they graduate. The doctors don't have it that bad — yet — but things are getting worse for them.

If you want to make heavy change from the word "go," think engineering. The country is importing tens of thousands of engineers every year — because we can't train enough. It's a high-tech future, and engineering is the motor that drives the machine.

On to friendship. Right now, sitting here in the auditorium, you're surrounded by most of the best friends you'll ever have. Within 10 years, you won't have a clue where more than a few of them are.

I graduated with 643 classmates, and today I know where exactly one of them lives — because I ran into him accidentally at a party a few years ago.

Look around you. You and the other young men and women here today have shared so much. Don't let all those memories slip away.

Today, make a list of 10 or 15 friends you really want to keep. Get their phone numbers and home addresses. They may move a lot, but their folks might stay put. Even if you can't find your old friend Larry, his mom will know his address.

Take that list to the office supply store and have it laminated. A piece of paper won't last 30 years, and you'll want this one at least that long.

Each year, make contact with every person on that list. Maybe it's just a holiday card or short phone call. But maintaining even that slim thread of friendship means you can find those old friends when it really matters. I can't even start to tell you how important that will be.

Finally, the church. For a lot of kids, confirmation is basically graduation out of the church.

Most colleges have a Catholic community of some sort. If you get to go to college, do yourself a favor by giving the campus church a try.

— Don't go to make your mom happy.

— Don't go to avoid feeling guilty.

— Go for the most intelligent and vibrant preaching you'd probably ever hear. Go to find friends who share love and laughter, pain and fear, all in the context of Christ's church. Go, because there's no more exciting time to be religious than right after high school.

And now, it's on to the graduation parties. Stay sober. Drive safely. Call your folks if you're going to be late. Remember, life is longer than you think, and you don't have to do everything in the next six weeks.

THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
THE CHANCERY

June 11, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ:

In this third and final year of millennium preparation, our Holy Father asks us to reflect on our calling to be a people of forgiveness and justice on a journey to the Father. The familiar words of Micah offer direction on our journey: Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God (Mi. 6:8).

As citizens of the wealthiest country in the world, how do we do justice and show kindness to our brothers and sisters throughout the world? Pope John Paul II encourages us to join him in works of justice and kindness through the 1999 Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence). Our contributions enable the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer emergency assistance to those who suffer as a result of war, oppression and natural disasters.

In the biblical observances of the jubilee year, doing justice was a central theme. Debts were forgiven, lands were restored to their original owners and slaves were freed (Lev. 25:10). In this year which brings us to the threshold of the Jubilee Year 2000, we ask that you make a special effort to give generously to those in our world for whom justice is still a dream. The collection will be taken in our diocese on June 26-27.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

Indian priest is co-winner of $100,000 prize for development

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — A Norwegian group has chosen Indian Redemptorist Father Thomas Kocherry as a co-winner of this year's $100,000 International Environment and Development Prize, also known as the Sophie Prize. The 57-year-old priest, who works among India's unorganized fishworkers, shares the 1999 Sophie Foundation award with Herman Daly, a U.S.-based economics professor. "The true recognition is not for me, but for the poor people in India's coastal and tribal areas," Father Kocherry told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Dominican sisters describe sufferings of Iraqi people

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — Her English was broken, but the Iraqi Dominican sister was animated in describing with hand gestures and vocal sounds the effects of bombs still being dropped on her country. "As she described it, she became angrier and angrier," recalled Dominican Sister Arlene Flaherty, who listened to her Iraqi counterpart's story during a trip to that country. Sister Flaherty, from the Bronx, and eight other Dominicans from different U.S. congregations went to Iraq to take medicine despite a U.N. embargo and U.S. restrictions on travel there.

Underground bishop installed in government-approved church

HONG KONG (CNS) — A bishop secretly ordained in 1991 has been installed in the government-recognized open church in China's Henan province, where most Catholic leaders belong to the underground church. UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported June 1 that Bishop Nicolas Shi Jingxian of Shangqiu read a statement pronouncing affiliation with the government-approved church during his installation May 13 at the cathedral in Shangqiu.

Robert Hoyt wins CPA's 1999 St. Francis de Sales Award

CHICAGO (CNS) — Robert G. Hoyt, active in the Catholic press for more than 50 years, won the Catholic Press Association's St. Francis de Sales Award May 28. The "Frannie" award, named for the patron saint of journalists, was announced in Chicago during the CPA's annual convention. The winner is selected by mail-in ballot of CPA members. Candidates are nominated for their "outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism." It is the CPA's highest honor. Hoyt, who has been senior writer at the Catholic lay journal Commonweal for the last 11 years, began his career in 1946 in Denver at the Register chain of diocesan newspapers.

Catholic student is model for Hallmark quinceanera card

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — When photographers at Hallmark Cards decided they needed a model for their proposed quinceanera card, they chose Leticia Sotelo, a sophomore at Bishop Ward High School and member of St. Joseph-St. Benedict Parish in Kansas City. Leticia, 16, with no previous modeling experience, was selected from among a large group of high-school-age Hispanic girls from Catholic parishes in the Kansas City metro area. Leticia celebrated her own quinceanera, a special coming of age ceremony when girls reach their 15th birthday, in April 1998.

Career Sales Opportunity Available in *Greater* Winston-Salem area! Call today.

K OF C

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

Or write: 535 Stinson Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

RE/MAX®
Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320
Charlotte, NC 28277

Buying? Selling? Relocating?

- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
"Your Realtor for Life."

(704) 543-6680
(800) 726-1231
relocarolina@mindspring.com

Carolina
Drivers wanted.

#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!

Carolina
Catholic
Book Shoppe

(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K

Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Lifelong desire to serve

Newly ordained brings years of commitment to priesthood

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Photo by Joann S. Keane

CHARLOTTE — On the vigil of Corpus Christi, Ricardo Sanchez fulfilled a lifelong calling to the priesthood. On the weekend set aside to solemnly commemorate the Holy Eucharist, Bishop William G. Curlin encouraged the newest priest for the Diocese of Charlotte to be a man of the Eucharist. "The Eucharist is the heart of the priesthood," said Bishop Curlin.

Man of the people

As Ricardo Sanchez embraced the sacrament of holy orders, he received the Holy Spirit as conferred by the bishop in the laying of hands. In turn, Father Sanchez shared this grace with hundreds whose lives have been touched by the 31-year-old priest.

For his first Mass with his adopted parish home in Tryon, members of St. John the Baptist joined with a contingency from St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton — where Sanchez spent formative time — with a post-Mass celebration of behemoth proportions.

It was nothing less than a labor of love. Feeding the masses would take a coordinated effort to bring enough food to the table for the anticipated 600. St. John parishioner Patti Otto jumped in about eight months ago with the experience of a seasoned event planner. "What you see here is just a part of a whole lot of people giving something back to someone so really special," said Otto. The parish had several fund-raising events in preparation for a celebration for the much-loved priest who spent his last year as a transitional deacon with the families in the foothills.

Man of conviction

A native of San José, Costa Rica, Sanchez knew from the time he was very young that a vocation stirred deep within. He professed as a member of the Congregacion de Misioneros de San José, where he served prior to his decision to become a diocesan priest. With the bulk of his theological studies in tow as he entered the Diocese of Charlotte, one year at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., rounded out his priestly formation. Bishop Curlin assigned Rev. Mr. Sanchez to a pastoral year following his April 1998 ordination to the transitional diaconate.

Father Gregory Littleton had just assumed the role of administrator of St. John the Baptist in Tryon when Bishop Curlin inquired about Father Littleton's openness to a transitional deacon. "Without hesitation, I said absolutely yes," said Father Littleton. Over the course of the next 11 months, he would become mentor, while himself learning from his charge. "Once Ricardo came, I knew he was a man of prayer and had a very sincere heart. Two of his most special gifts have come not only to touch my heart, but also to touch that of parishioners: his preaching and more importantly, his care for the sick." Those two qualities had deep impact on Father Littleton. "He taught me to get back to basics, to remember not to be afraid of preaching the good news, and not to be afraid to reach out and embrace the sick and dying."

A native of San José, Costa Rica, Father Ricardo Sanchez knew from the time he was very young that a vocation stirred deep within.

Man of the cloth

On June 5, Ricardo Sanchez committed his life in service to God. Bishop Curlin challenged him to be a saintly priest, a holy priest, a priest for the people. "I thank God that you are here," said the bishop. "I beg of you, never lower those ideals you feel in your soul right now. I believe you bring your heart today to the priesthood. Don't let anybody tamper with that heart."

Man for all the faithful

Bernadine Monroe and her husband drove from Tryon to Charlotte for the ordination of Ricardo Sanchez. Monroe called it a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence to be at St. Patrick Cathedral, "and feel all this presence with him, and to be able to kick off the rest of his life." The words of Bishop Curlin resonated deep. Not only did the bishop's words to the newly ordained move her, but also his message, "to be able to go on and know what we should be doing and how we should be living our life."

Man of prayer

Bishop Curlin paraphrased the words of Pope Paul VI: "We live like we pray, and we should not blame God for our mistakes and weaknesses. We must be men of prayer."

Man of Eucharist

"You are ordained to celebrate the Eucharist," said Bishop Curlin. "The Eucharist is the heart of your priesthood; without Eucharist, we are nothing." He pleaded with Sanchez to be a priest with a sensitive heart for God's suffering people. "As your bishop, I charge you to preach God's love and God's mercy."

Man of God

"What a privilege to be a priest," said Bishop Curlin. "What a joy to be able to stand at the altar in celebration with God in our midst."

Make Jesus Christ the heart of your life, said the bishop. "Carve it on your priestly heart. If you live that life, I promise you, my brother, you will be one of the happiest priests on God's earth. Be a saint. Nothing less does the church ask of you." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Express Press Ltd. FREE ESTIMATES! 704.845.1731
Competitive Pricing! FAX 845.1733
• BUSINESS/PERSONAL LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES • BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS •
• INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS • NEWSLETTERS • TICKETS • PROGRAMS •
• TAB DIVIDERS • ON-SITE TYPESETTING • MULTI-PART CARBONLESS FORMS •
& MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
A VETERAN & WOMAN OWNED Family Business
Serving the Charlotte & Matthews Communities since 1988
9301 Monroe Rd., Suite A, Charlotte, NC 28270
(Look for our sign Greylyn Business Park) Member St. John Neumann

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Six ordained to *transitional diaconate*

Bishop reflects on gifts of ministry

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

The faith journeys of six men have taken them another step closer to priestly service to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

David Brzoska, Christopher Gober, Matthew Kauth, Shawn O'Neal, Luis Osorio and Frank Seabo Jr. were recently ordained to the transitional diaconate, one of the final major steps in the process toward the priesthood.

With Joseph Long Dinh ordained to the transitional diaconate last year, the Diocese of Charlotte could have seven new priests in 2000. Rev. Mr. Dinh was featured in The Catholic News & Herald's Dec. 18, 1998, issue.

Seminarians at the Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Rev. Messrs. Gober, Kauth and Seabo were ordained April 17 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Rev. Messrs. Brzoska and Osorio were ordained April 19 at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., their place of study.

Rev. Mr. O'Neal, who attends St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., was ordained April 24 at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the three ordination liturgies.

A bit of biography

A native of Norristown, Pa., Rev. Mr. Brzoska first considered priesthood at age 12. He earned a degree in biochemistry from Penn State University, and has worked for a German-based company in Newton. One of four children, the 36-year-old Rev. Mr. Brzoska enjoys golf, softball, Bible study and reading.

Rev. Mr. Gober was born in Kewanee, Ill., in the Diocese of Peoria. He attended Illinois Central College in Peoria and St. Mary's College in Winona, Ill., before earning a degree in philosophy from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He is one of three children. Rev. Mr. Gober, 25, first considered a vocation as a college freshman.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Rev. Mr. Kauth, 25, also grew up in the Diocese of Peoria, attending Illinois Central and St. Mary's colleges in Illinois. He received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He says it was during his childhood that he first thought of some day becoming a priest. He is the oldest of three children.

The older of two children, Rev. Mr. O'Neal was born in New Orleans. He spent his college years at Appalachian State University in Boone, where he earned a degree in history, and at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where he pursued a master's in education before realizing he had a different calling, that of the priesthood. Rev. Mr. O'Neal, 29, has spent a pastoral year at St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville.

Rev. Mr. Osorio, 41, was born in Colombia, South America, where he studied economics at Libre of Perira University. He is one of seven children. His past professional experience includes newspaper, government and factory work. Fluent in Spanish, Rev. Mr. Osorio has volunteered in Hispanic ministry in the Statesville area during a time when he seriously began considering the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Seabo is a native of Vineland, N.J. He is one of three children. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Drexel University in Philadelphia, and has been involved in a variety of business-related work experience. Rev. Mr. Seabo, 41, enjoys teaching business administration as well as CCD. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and served as a Grand Knight in the Raleigh area.

A spiritual shepherd reflects

"We thank God that He has granted us the blessing of having seven deacons who, with His help, will become priests during the holy year, the great millennium," Bishop Curlin said recently. "I attribute this gift to the prayers that generous people constantly offer for this holy purpose."

Bishop Curlin said the ministry of the transitional deacon moves those who enter it into an even truer sense of their calling.

"The diaconate is not, and can never be, considered a trial period for seminarians," the bishop said. "Rather, it is the church's recognition that these men have been called to the priesthood. For the year prior to their priestly ordination, they are given an opportunity to deepen their priestly calling by serving Christ as deacons of the church."

That parish-based ministry includes preaching; assisting priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; officiating at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and administering the blessings that accompany certain rites of the church.

The Diocese of Charlotte's vocations office ended this academic year with 23 seminarians, including the seven deacons. Bishop Curlin said now is an exciting time for vocations in western North Carolina.

"His ministry is so essential," the bishop said of Father Eric Houseknecht, diocesan vocations director. "He zealously promotes vocations, and continues to help many discern whether God is calling them to a priestly life."

Bishop Curlin said his prayers are with the deacons as they continue in their journeys with parish assignments and final studies during the upcoming months.

"I'm confident that they will experience in their personal life a sense of that grace which accompanies the laying on of hands," he said. "They must recognize from the experience they will have this summer that their life has dramatically changed — that they are considered by the church as part of the holy orders which consist of the bishops, priests and deacons."

"Their very diaconal ministry cannot help but reinforce an awareness of the sacredness of their calling," Bishop Curlin said, "and that will better prepare them for their future ministry in priestly service to their brothers and sisters." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Join us

in celebrating the following anniversaries at the Jubilee Mass to be celebrated by the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, DD, at Saint Patrick Cathedral on Tuesday, June 22, 1999, at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Most Reverend Michael J. Begley, DD
65th Anniversary

Reverend John Bradley
55th Anniversary

Reverend Raymond Geyer, OSB
Reverend Matthew McSorley, OSB
Reverend Charles Reese
50th Anniversary

Reverend Francis Connolly
Reverend Gabriel Meehan
40th Anniversary

Reverend Monsignor John McSweeney
Reverend Richard Hokanson
Reverend George Sullivan, OFMConv.
Reverend Paul Wilderotter
25th Anniversary

Most Reverend William G. Curlin, DD
5th Anniversary as Bishop of Charlotte

David Brzoska kneels before Bishop William G. Curlin during Brzoska's transitional diaconate liturgy on April 19.

Photo courtesy of St. Vincent Seminary

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Fourth-degree Knights flank Bishop William G. Curlin and Rev. Mr. Shawn O'Neal as they process out of St. John Neumann Church April 24.

Photo courtesy of St. Vincent Seminary

Luis Osorio promises obedience to Bishop William G. Curlin during the rite of ordination to the transitional diaconate April 19.

Photo by Leslie E. Kossoff

Rev. Messrs. Matthew Kauth and Christopher Gober assist at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist April 17 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Photo by Leslie E. Kossoff

Rev. Mr. Frank Seabo, left, is invested with the signs of office of the transitional deacon, the stole and dalmatic.

Summer parish assignments for transitional deacons:

Reverend Mr. David Brzoska
Our Lady of Consolation Church
2301 Statesville Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28206

Reverend Mr. Joseph Long Dinh
St. Gabriel Church
3016 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

Reverend Mr. Christopher Gober
Saint Barnabas Church
109 Crescent Hill Drive
Arden, NC 28704

Reverend Mr. Matthew Kauth
St. Charles Borromeo Church
714 West Union Street
Morganton, NC 28655

Reverend Mr. Shawn O'Neal
St. Gabriel Church
3016 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

Reverend Mr. Luis Osorio
Christ the King Church
1505 East Kivett Drive
High Point, NC 27260

Reverend Mr. Frank Seabo
St. Patrick Cathedral
1621 Dilworth Road, East
Charlotte, NC 28203

Book Review

Father Henri Nouwen emerges as complex soul in "Wounded Prophet"

REVIEWED BY JAMES C. O'NEILL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Wounded Prophet"
A Portrait of Henri J.M. Nouwen
By Michael Ford
Doubleday, (New York, 1999) 223 pp., $23.95

Although he died in 1996, Father Henri Nouwen remains among the most popular writers on spirituality in the United States and abroad. While 30 years of writing, lecturing, teaching and counseling won international fame for this frail Dutch priest, it failed for the most part to bring him that inner peace he helped so many others find.

The author of this book rightly calls it a "portrait," since it is not a full-scale biography, does not analyze his literary style nor examine his theology systematically. What Michael Ford, a BBC producer, has done is talk to his friends, colleagues and family, and delve into his voluminous writings to produce an admiring word portrait of a remarkable priest and lonely man.

Father Nouwen emerges as a complex, conflicted soul whose search for intimacy with God was frequently derailed by his success. He is revealed as a man tormented by homosexual longings and as a prayerful priest who steadfastly kept his vow of celibacy. In the end he chose to turn his back on his worldly success to work in a community of severely handicapped men and women, most of whom had never heard of him.

Born in 1932, Father Nouwen came from a well-to-do, pious Catholic family. As a child he liked to dress in miniature vestments and play at celebrating Mass. He was ordained a priest in 1957 and began graduate work in psychology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen. Somehow he persuaded the prestigious Menninger Institute in Topeka, Kan., to accept him for a program of studies in religion and psychiatry for two years.

Father Nouwen next joined the psychology department of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he was very happy except for the competitive spirit of football. Then it was back to Holland for more theology. He had decided that instead of bringing the insights of psychology to theology, what he wanted to do was shine the light of Christian theology on the study and practice of psychology.

In subsequent years he became a tenured professor of pastoral theology at Yale Divinity School and a guest professor and lecturer at Harvard's divinity school. He published an amazing, growing number of books on spirituality, grace and prayer. He was in wide demand as a preacher and speaker by the more liberal Catholic circles and by a broad spectrum of Protestant churches and other religious and secular groups.

Despite, or even because of, this success Father Nouwen frequently suffered from depression and emotional and physical exhaustion. He moved into the Trappist monastery at Genesee, N.Y., seeking the healing of meditation and solitude. At another time he tried being a missionary, living and working in Bolivia and Peru. He proved to be neither monk nor missionary, but new books arose from these experiences.

After Harvard, he moved to a French community of handicapped persons outside of Paris known as L'Arche. Later he went Canada to be pastor of L'Arche in Ontario, where he strove until his death at the age of 64 to be a servant rather than a savant of Christian service.

In what might be considered irony by some, seven more of his books have been published since the year of his death. As presented by the author, Father Nouwen seems the embodiment of St. Augustine's famous prayer: "Oh Lord, I am restless until I rest in Thee."

He is definitely worth reading about. ▼

O'Neill is a former newsman and publicist.

Word to Life

June 13, Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:
1) Exodus 19:2-6a
Psalm 100:2-3, 5
2) Romans 5:6-11
3) Matthew 9:36-10:8

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation," reads the Scripture from Exodus for this week. From God's voice to our ears. It's quite a promise. And it came to Moses to convey to this people that God had called out of Egypt, Israel, literally the "God-ruled." But it came with conditions attached. It required them to listen to the voice of God, to attend to it carefully and to keep His covenant.

The Scripture from Matthew contains Jesus' calling together of the disciples to send them out for ministry. It begins with these words of Jesus: "The harvest is good but laborers are scarce. Beg the harvest master to send out laborers to gather his harvest." A kingdom of priests, laborers for a plentiful harvest. Powerful images that still move men and women to listen, obey, and serve with love and dedication.

So what happens when Jesus' followers obey them? Are there rewards as well as requirements?

Recently, one of our own here in our diocese was ordained a priest. The celebration was joyous and attended by large numbers of his family and friends, and those who had already benefited from his ministry.

I had the privilege of working with all of the photos our photographer had taken of the ordination and Father Steve's first Mass, and of the two receptions following each event. There was a special look of admiration and joy on the faces in picture after picture after picture.

Many commented on how special the ordination and surrounding events were, as this compassionate and wise individual received the ministry for which God had prepared him. I have the evidence in these pictures that it was more than just a feeling.

Joy and the multiplication of brothers and sisters are promised rewards for those who heed the call to go out to gather in the harvest. Looks to me like the payoff starts pretty early in the process.

Questions:

Has God called you to serve Him in a particular ministry or to offer particular gifts in the service of his love? Have you asked him to use you to serve others, to build up his kingdom?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 13 - 19, 1999

Sunday, Exodus 19:2-6, Romans 5:6-11, Matthew 9:36-10:8; **Monday**, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday**, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6,, 16-18; **Thursday**, 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday**, 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday**, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Matthew 6:24-34

Readings for the week of June 20 - 26, 1999

Sunday, Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33; **Monday**, Genesis 12:1-9, Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday**, Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday**, Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Luke 1:5-17; **Thursday**, Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66; **Friday**, Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22, Matthew 8:1-4; **Saturday**, Genesis 18:1-15, Matthew 8:5-17

[MODULARCORP]
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Hundreds of Russian pilgrims attend papal Mass in Poland

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

> **"All of us are dreaming of the day when the Holy Father can come to Russia and can put his foot in Red Square."**
>
> *— Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz*

ELBLAG, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has not been able to travel to Russia, so when he led a devotional prayer service in northern Poland, Russian Catholics came to him.

Stopping in Elblag June 6, just 30 miles from the Russian border, the pope offered a special greeting to some 700 pilgrims from the Russian district of Kaliningrad.

The apostolic administrator of European Russia, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, brought the group to Elblag and told reporters that Russian Catholics were hoping that the pope would soon be able to visit their country.

"All of us are dreaming of the day when the Holy Father can come to Russia and can put his foot in Red Square," the archbishop said. Catholics in Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg also want the pope to come, he said.

"We are waiting and we are praying, especially after the Holy Father's trip to Romania, which was the first time a pope traveled to a country of Orthodox majority. I think this was one of the greatest ecumenical events of the 20th century," he said.

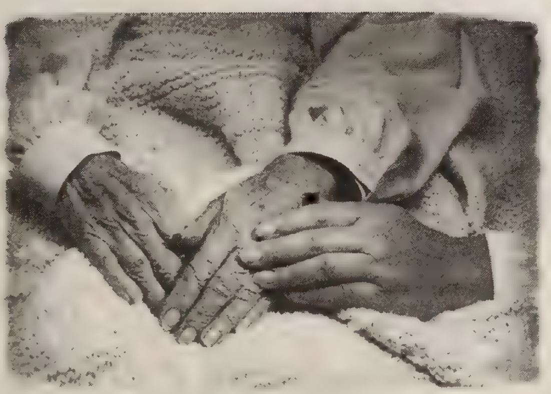
Until now, the Russian Orthodox Church has said the time is not right for a papal visit. Archbishop Kondrusiewicz said it was still too early to speak of a possible date for a Moscow trip, but he did say that ecumenical relations with the Orthodox were improving.

The archbishop also related that during a recent visit by a Vatican official to St. Petersburg, civic leaders mentioned several times that they would like the pope to come to help celebrate the 300th anniversary of the city's foundation.

Those celebrations are not scheduled to begin until the year 2003, however.

Separate groups of Russian Catholics from Moscow and St. Petersburg were to attend a papal Mass later in the week in the northern Polish city of Elk. ▼

Look for coverage of the entire papal trip to Poland in the next issue of The Catholic News & Herald, June 25.



Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program
UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others
Need extra cash?
PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities
- **No cash investment**

Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

Make a Difference in North Carolina's Future!

The "Chastity Revolution" is spreading across our country, and Family Honor is emerging as a leader in it. Family Honor is a South Carolina-based organization created to help strengthen family life by teaching effective parent-child communication, especially centering on chastity and God's awesome gift of fertility.

For over 10 years, Family Honor has taught individuals how to present the chastity message. We have developed several different parent-child programs, created an outstanding college-credit teacher training course, and have churches and parents clamoring for our programs.

What we don't have are enough presenters!

That's where YOU come in. We're looking for good people in North Carolina who share our passion for family-building and promoting the chastity message, and who might be interested in taking our unique college credit course, *The Principles of Teaching Family-Centered Chastity Education.*

Some of the course topics include:
*communication skills that support healthy family life
*the adolescent personality
*fertility appreciation as a gift from God . . . and MUCH more!

Whether you're a man or woman, a single adult or an experienced parent, we need you! We can teach you to be a chastity presenter, even if you've never taught anything in your life. Call today for more information: **803-929-0858.**

Family Honor INC.

- CALL TODAY -
Next Class
Begins in July!

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality

Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Keeler, from page 3

and other means for regenerating human tissue should be explored first to see if embryonic stem-cell research is 'unnecessary.'"

"This research is allied with a noble cause," the draft report stated, "and any taint that might attach from the source of the stem cells diminishes in proportion to the potential good which the research may yield."

Researchers see the stem cells, once cultivated, as having the possibility to halt or reverse Parkinson's disease and diabetes, and even provide new heart muscle cells for heart attack victims.

The draft report stated, "Conservatives who accept that killing a fetus is permissible where it is necessary to save the life of the mother should agree with liberals that it is also permissible to destroy embryos where it is necessary to save people."

Cardinal Keeler called that argument "a chilling analogy."

"Thus human beings come to be seen merely as disposable cells or organs in the body politic, to be sacrificed when killing them may serve the whole organism," he added. "The commission's resort to such an argument only underscores how radical its proposal really is."

According to the draft report, the only embryos used under federally funded research would come from those created through in vitro fertilization after the couple who sanctioned their creation stopped trying to get pregnant and had independently abandoned the embryos. Compensation, if any, would be limited.

In this way, the draft report said, parents would be "morally responsible" for the embryos' demise, and not the federal government.

A May 24 statement from the American Life League noted that 70 House members have signed a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala demanding that a ruling allowing federal funding for stem-cell research be overturned.

"Congress must not cave in to theories which are based on the old adage, 'the end justifies the means,'" league president Judie Brown said. ▼

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsor . . . and I invite you to join me. CFCA is a dedicated organization working on behalf of the poor at Catholic missions worldwide."

Most Reverend James P. Keleher
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas – Sponsors José Muños of Honduras

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*

Many children in the developing world live in poverty with little hope for the future. Can you help a poor child? Become a sponsor today!

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international ***Catholic sponsorship program,*** can show you the affordable way to sponsor a child.

Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that ***your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.***

Your sponsorship helps provide a poor child with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most.

You receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But ***most important,*** you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ **$20** ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ _______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ______________ Exp. Date ________
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ _______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.

Name ______________________
(please print)
Address ______________________
City/State/Zip ______________________
Phone (_____) ______________________

CNH6/99

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

420 FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Graduates urged to live faith, do for others

Diocese of Charlotte's high schools host commencements

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

During graduation ceremonies for the Diocese of Charlotte's two Catholic high schools, seniors were urged to live their faith and to serve as examples of Christ-like action.

In baccalaureate Masses, speaking addresses and award announcements for Charlotte Catholic and Bishop McGuinness Memorial high schools the week of May 30, diocesan and school leaders commended the graduates for their past dedication and appealed to them to continue that devotion.

Preparing for his baccalaureate Mass homilies, Bishop William G. Curlin turned to parents for advice on what to discuss.

"If there was one common denominator [in what they suggested], it was this: Hold fast to your faith in this world, and never be afraid to proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior," said Bishop Curlin at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte June 3.

It was in the south Charlotte church that Bishop Curlin presided at the Mass and graduation ceremony for Charlotte Catholic High School.

Bishop Curlin told Charlotte Catholic High's 179 graduates that while the world is filled with challenges, the faith that has grown during their school years is the key to true success — despite the odds.

"Your diploma certifies that you have fulfilled certain requirements in an academic field," he said. "But the greatest thing to know when you come to receive your diploma is that you can say, ' ... I have learned the value of Christ's presence in my life.'"

Assisted by Charlotte Catholic Principal Mercy Sister Paulette Williams and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. Michael Skube, Bishop Curlin individually recognized the graduates during the Mass.

Earlier in the week, Charlotte Catholic High honored its graduates at an awards and recognition program. The school announced $2.32 million in scholarships, an all-time high.

Class valedictorian Bobby Tran addressed the seniors that evening with a lighthearted, lyric-laden message. "These past four years have been filled with laughter, tears, happiness, sadness, clarity and confusion," said Tran. "When it was necessary, we could all come together as a class and get through anything, 'like a bridge over troubled waters.'"

"We have all had to sacrifice something in order to reach out and achieve," he added. "However, we have developed by our sacrifices."

Also at the awards program, class salutatorian Beth Hanson offered a heartfelt goodbye to the diocesan school. She recalled her first high-school days as a "frightened freshman," but grew to find rewarding times at Charlotte Catholic.

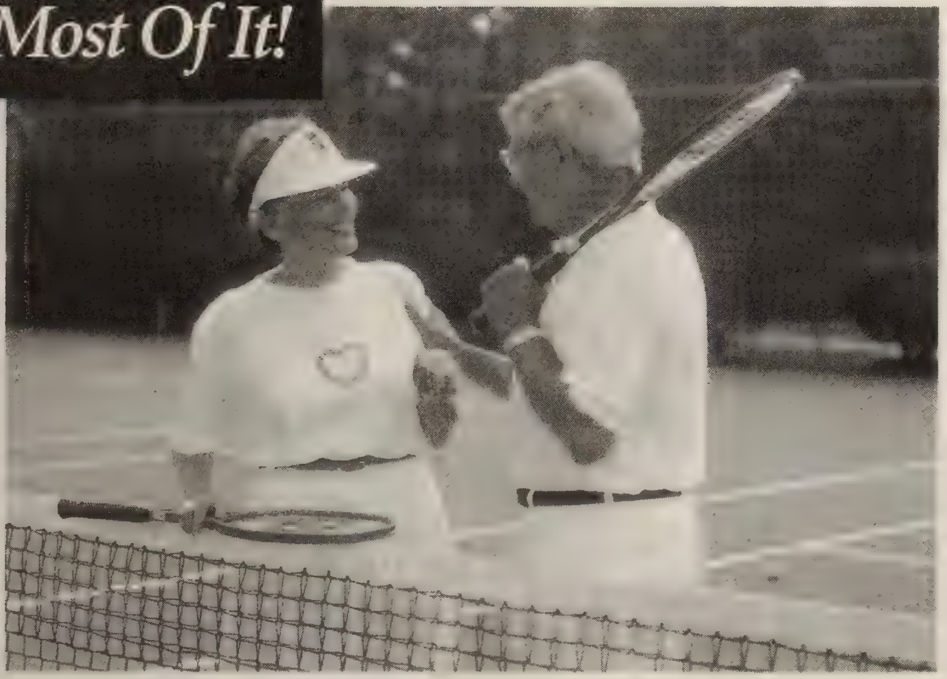
"Today and tomorrow are the last times our class will ever sit together in one room," she said. "So look around you. Look at the faces you have known for at least the past two years, and

See COMMENCEMENTS, page 15

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop William G. Curlin congratulates one of the 179 graduating seniors from Charlotte Catholic High School.

It's Your Life.
Make The Most Of It!



Perhaps you've heard about Belle Meade Retirement Resort, currently under development near the beautiful villages of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. When completed in 1999, it will be the premier full-service Life Care community in the Southeast.

Proposed Belle Meade Clubhouse

Learn more about Belle Meade's casually elegant lifestyle, attractive amenities, secured environment and extensive health care services including the resort's unique Life Care Plan. Simply call 800-343-7463 and ask to speak with Marketing Counselors Beth Corning or Myra Couch. They'll give you all the details.

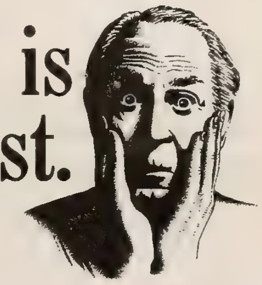
BELLE MEADE
Retirement Resort
Member: Catholic Health East

95 Aviemore Drive • Pinehurst, NC 28374
800-343-7463 • 910-215-4535

Sponsor: St. Joseph of the Pines, Inc. - Pinehurst • Architectural services: Thompson, Hancock, Witte & Associates, Inc. - Atlanta • Feasibility consultation: KPMG Peat Marwick - St. Petersburg • Construction consultation: The Holcomb Group - Roanoke • General contractor: Rodgers/Hardin - Charlotte/Atlanta • Financial services: First Savings Bank of Moore County - Southern Pines & Wachovia Bank, NA - Southern Pines • Marketing consultation: Premark, Inc. - High Point • Senior Managing Underwriter: Merrill Lynch & Co. - New York • Certified member: Association of Retirement Resorts International

OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

This is a Test.



	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: **Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.**

For a free information packet, call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving.
(704) 370-3320

With faith and hard work, scholar-athlete keeps winning

By MARY COYNE WESSLING
Catholic News Service

GREENSBORO, N.C. (CNS) — Graduate student Ryan Rezzelle, who was a winning football player in high school and at the University of Maryland, says his Catholic faith has always helped him to "remain focused on doing well and working hard."

And doing well is something Rezzelle seems to have down pat, based on his membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, the Alpha Phi Sigma criminal justice honor society and the Golden Key honor society.

At Maryland, he was on the athletic director's honor roll for three years and received the President's Cup Academic Achievement Award and the George C. Cook Memorial Award for the senior with the highest grade point average.

And this spring he added a special recognition from the Atlantic Coast Conference, which honored him and 15 other scholar-athletes in Greensboro.

Rezzelle said it meant a great deal to him to be recognized for his academics as well as his athletics.

Each scholar-athlete received postgraduate scholarships. Rezzelle, who graduated from the University of Maryland last December, will use his winnings toward his current studies in forensic science at George Washington University in Washington.

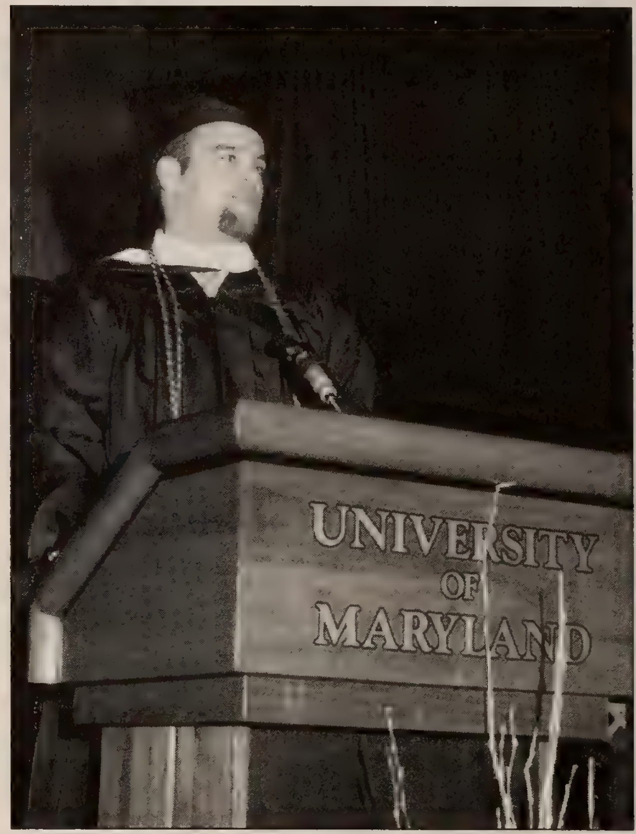
"The ACC has provided a very valuable resource," Rezzelle told Catholic News Service. "It's enabled me to go to GWU and pursue an education and put myself in a good position for a successful life and career."

Looking back at his Maryland football days, Rezzelle joked that his team respected him more for his brains than his brawn.

"My grade point average brought the whole team's GPA up," he said.

A native of Erie, Pa., Rezzelle began his football career in eighth grade and continued through high school where he earned a football scholarship to Maryland as a defensive tackle. His talents in football were easily matched by his talents in the classroom.

"I was always a good student," said Rezzelle. "I was motivated to do well for my parents who were always very supportive." He said his parents never showed whether they were upset by his performance on the field or in the classroom, but he could tell if they were disappointed.



University of Maryland football player Ryan Rezzelle, shown at his college graduation, says his Catholic faith has always helped him to "remain focused on doing well and working hard." Rezzelle was honored by the Atlantic Coast Conference as one of 15 scholar athletes.

CNS photo courtesy of Linda Rezzelle

"I wanted to do well for my parents first and myself second," he added.

Rezzelle was an altar boy from third grade through eighth and said he was part of the "most wanted crew" — the group of boys who served at most of the big Masses — holidays, funerals, weddings.

"I really enjoyed it," he said. "It brought me closer to my faith."

His faith also served him well during some rough times his first year in college. He did well academically his first semester but said the "college

See REZZELLE, next page

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Technology Services Coordinator: The Diocese of Savannah is seeking a Technology Services Coordinator. Applicant should have the experience and technical know-how to help create a communications system to link parishes, schools, and social service institutions in the diocese which encompasses South Georgia. Communications skills a must. Five years' experience required. Experience with radio/TV technology a plus. Please request application form and send resume and salary expectations to: Office Communications, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196 or by e-mail to Diosav@msn.com

Accounting Manager: The Diocese of Savannah has an immediate opening for a Diocesan Accounting Manager. Individual will be responsible for all accounting activity including cash receipts and disbursements, general ledger, journal entries, and all financial reporting and analysis. This position is a member of the Finance Council. Individual will also provide support to parishes for accounting matters. Candidates should have a BS in Business Administration with a major in Accounting, 3 to 5 years of professional experience, preferable in the not-for-profit or fund accounting field. Managerial experience is a plus. Good communications and an understanding of parish life are necessary. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Send resume with references to: Diocese of Savannah, Mr. John Benware, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401 or fax: (912)238-2335.

Pastoral Services Director: Professional, ministerial supervision and facilitation of worship and service in parish life. Motivated and creative person needed to serve a growing, active faith community of 700 families north of Raleigh. Master's degree in Theology or Pastoral Administration and a minimum of 3 years' experience preferred. Responsibilities include RCIA, liturgy committee, social concerns, health care, parish hospitality, and effective participation in team ministry. Availability for pastoral counsel and crisis intervention important. Active, Confirmed Catholic supportive of our Church's history and tradition a must. Full-time position. Salary and benefits. Send resume with salary requirements and professional references to: Search Committee, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 520 W. Holding Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith Formation): Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Charlotte area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3244. Inquiries: (704)370-3244. Deadline: July 15, 1999.

Diocesan Youth/Young Adult Program Coordinator: Practicing Catholic, BA in theology or related field, three years Campus Ministry, Youth/Young Adult Ministry experience, retreat development experience, 1 year service Diocesan Youth Council, computer skills, teaching and workshop presentation experience, organizational/communication skills, ability to take initiative, assume leadership and work effectively as team member. Salary $27,000. Send resume and cover letter to Campus/Youth Ministry, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003 by July 1st.

House Cleaners: $12/hour. 9 hours a week: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday daytimes. Charlotte area. Call Maid in Heaven: (704)643-5545.

Organist: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, North Carolina is seeking a full-time organist to assist our music director. Applicants must be fully competent on organ and piano, able to lead congregation in singing, coach cantors, and function as music director for weddings and funerals. Send resume to Music Director, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. (336)274-6520. Fax (336)274-7326.

Consultant for Catechesis: The Diocese of Raleigh, located in the eastern half of North Carolina, is seeking an individual to join the Faith Development Department team to support parishes in their efforts to develop their faith communities. Primary responsibilities include implementation of the General Directory for Catechesis, particularly catechist formation; director formation, family catechesis, sacramental preparation. Some travel to parishes throughout diocese as well as flexible hours including some evenings and weekends expected. Must have master's degree in theology or equivalent; 3-5 years parish experience; diocesan level experience a plus, expertise in catechesis; skill in training trainers, designing and facilitating workshops. Must be computer literate in Windows 95 applications, Presentation Graphics, on-line technology. Being bilingual in Spanish, a plus. Send resume, along with a sample of a workshop for a training of catechists or catechetical leaders to Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-2187.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following positions open beginning August 1999: Primary teachers; Assistant principal; Physical Education; and part time for Art, Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. All must have North Carolina certification. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Director of Music/Organist: St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. 750-family congregation. Four weekend masses and holy days; one adult choir; work with faith formation/children; 35-40 hours/week. Salary negotiable, commensurate with experience; additional fees for weddings and funerals; retirement benefits; continuing ed; 4 weeks vacation. Written contract. Two-manual Zimmer renovated in 1993. Position open 8/1/99. Contact Alan Houck at church address or (704)875-7440 days;(704)948-9536 evenings; (704)875-7473 fax; saraalan@sprynet.com.

Kindergarten Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher to teach Kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. The teacher will be responsible for teaching all subjects including Religion. Please send resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Middle School Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher in the Middle School starting December 6, 1999 through June 2000. The teacher will be responsible for teaching Language Arts. Please send resume to: Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Assisted Living Caregivers: Homemakers and CNAs - enjoy rewarding work with flexible part-time schedules as a Kelly Assisted Living caregiver. If you have life skills and are caring and compassionate, please call us in Charlotte at (704)523-7884.

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and part-time needed, all shifts. Prefer experience in developmental disabilities. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound. Year round position. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

Organist: St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, NC. Salary negotiable. Please call Mary Lubic at (336)625-6528 for information.

Director of Religious Education: St. Leo the Great, a parish of 1600 households, in Winston-Salem, NC, is seeking a qualified person to administer the parish religious education program for 350 children grades pre-K-8th and family-based sacramental preparation. MA in religious education or theology is preferred; previous experience required; possess good organizational skills and ability to work with volunteers. Candidate may be sent to Fr. Jim Solari, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104 or Fax (336)724-7036; phone: (336)724-0561.

Garden Center Sales Associate: Love plants? Love people? Part-time positions available. Flexible hours. Colchester Place Gardens and Nursery. Call (704)341-2200.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000 fully furnished or $20,000 unfurnished. Call (704)597-1545.

Beach Home for Sale: Ocean Isle Beach. 4 Bedrooms, plus sleep loft (or, den/5th bedroom). 3 1/2 baths. Furnished with style. Gated community - west end. Walk to beach. Pool. Tennis. Year-round enjoyment; fireplace; ample room to entertain. Lou Hayes Realty, agent Bill R. $294,500. (888)-398-7086. (Seller is St. Matthew parishioner.)

Rezzelle, from page 14

lifestyle gràbbed hold of me" and his studies took a downward turn for two semesters.

"I started praying more and looking more to God for help," he said. "I began to turn things around and asked God to help me be a better person."

After that, Rezzelle made a commitment to put academics before athletics. He also recommitted himself to keeping his faith strong.

"I see my faith helping me be a better person," he said. "It has helped me realize that my achievements have brought a lot of happiness to my Mom and Dad and others. When I make others happy, I'm happy."

Just as his faith has helped him, so has playing sports and studying hard. He said football taught him to be humble because he went from regional and state honors in high school football to college football where it was much harder to be a success.

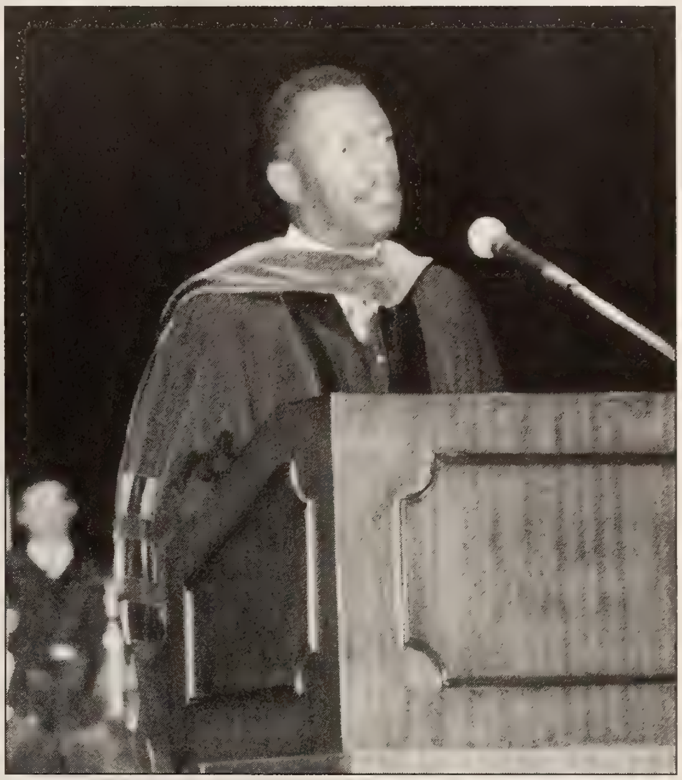
Even his amount of playing time was far less than what he'd had in high school, which taught him to deal with adversity and develop more patience. It also gave him the opportunity to focus on his academic and personal life.

"I took something that was potentially negative and made it a positive experience," he said.

Today he is pursuing another love — criminal justice. He hopes his master's degree in forensic science will help him achieve his goal to become a special agent of the FBI. He's tackling his work with the same enthusiasm he brought to the football field.

"I love the program I'm in now," he said. "Every course has something interesting in it. I'm really excited about my career plans." ▼

Commencements, from page 13



Ben Ruffin, chair of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, addresses the 70-member graduating class of Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

remember the good things."

Bishop Curlin presided over Bishop McGuinness High School's baccalaureate Mass June 2 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Commencement exercises for Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School's 70 graduates took place at the Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem June 4. Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, offered words of prayer and welcome.

"Dear graduates, we celebrate you most importantly," Father West said. "As we look at you, your future looks so bright. We encourage you now to go forth into that future and claim all that awaits you."

In his address to students, class salutatorian Jeffrey David Harless likened the Bishop McGuinness graduating class to a track team, formed by talented individuals who create a dynamic group.

"We stand before you today as graduates, victors having completed high school and the education it seeks to instill," said Harless. "In a few moments, we'll be crossing the finish line and receiving our diplomas. ...

"While we have come to the end of this particular race, we sit in eager anticipation on the threshold of a new event in our lives — albeit one we never practiced before."

Thanking all who made the graduates' successes possible, valedictorian Christopher John Huebner made special note of those closest to him in his school journey.

"The biggest thank you that we all have is to our parents and families," he said. "We would not be where we are today without their help. Our parents are the ones who taught us the values that we have, as well as a sense of work ethic and support."

Huebner said prayer, respect and living an honorable life are among the important points he has learned in life — and as a student of the Winston-Salem school.

"When we leave here tonight, we can say that Bishop McGuinness has stood us on our feet, it's touched our hearts, and it's turned us around," he said.

Ben Ruffin, chair of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, gave the commencement address.

"It's special ... , even in the face of some of the adverse things that are happening in our country today, to see young people marching in with their robes on, graduating from high school and moving on to another part of their lives," said Ruffin.

"As you complete high school and as you move to the next realm, I would challenge you tonight to move your boat out in the deep waters," he said, alluding to a poem by Langston Hughes. "Don't do simple things. Do big things. Do things that will impact on this society."

Ruffin, whose board position keeps him in touch with the 16 campuses that compose the state university system, challenged the graduates to invest their time, talent and treasure in the future.

Father West, Dr. Skube, Bishop McGuinness Principal George Repass, and Vice Principal Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor conferred diplomas to the graduates.

Bishop McGuinness High School, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, was awarded $1.65 million in scholarships to be offered to 1999's graduating class. Almost two dozen students were also recognized with special school awards. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office

35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office

621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office

Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Project designed to build community, ideas

"If we had land,
we could garden,
if we had seeds."

— From a May 14 planning meeting at St. Aloyisius Parish in Hickory for Catholic community farming projects.

Sukeo, Pormee and Chalae Saesee work the soil in the Lahu Catholic community garden in Newton. Volunteers from St. Joseph parish helped plow and till to prepare the ground.

Photo by Stephen Uzzell

By STEPHEN UZZELL

NEWTON — The soil turned over in fresh, brownish-orange layers behind a single-blade plow. Eager robins hopped into the exposed area to glean worms and grubs. Men swung their hoes and shovels to break up some of the moist clods.

A new garden was being born in Catawba County on Saturday, May 29. The half acre on 20th Street in Newton is to be more than a single family garden. It is to be the collective garden for the Lahu (Laotian) Catholic community of the Hickory area.

"This land is good. It's going to grow good crops. I can tell by the grass and the soil," spoke elder gardener Sukeo Saesee through another community interpreter.

The Newton garden is a pilot project of the Charlotte Diocese that will develop in the Catholic Worker tradition. Local people will be empowered to achieve self-help and dignity through community-building efforts. Hopefully, other seed projects will follow as land becomes available for use in Hickory, Morganton and Charlotte.

"All of this has just unfolded so quickly," said Colleen McDermott, director of campus ministry for the Charlotte Diocese. "I have been amazed at the growing interest that has developed."

McDermott has recently helped to initiate an interest within the diocese to explore community helping and building ideas. The Catholic Worker model has been a focus during early planning and discussion sessions. A gathering of volunteers and members of the Lahu Catholic community met with McDermott May 14 at St. Aloysius Parish in Hickory to explore potential interest for programs such as the one now beginning in Newton.

"There are not 1,000 Lahu families in the United States. And Hickory is one of the largest communities of Lahu in the country with 26 families, and growing," said Fr. Bill Tanguay.

Community friend and advocate Fr. Bill Tanguay was present to give support and an official blessing in a relaxed ceremony. He gathered family members and friends together to pray for the success of the garden. Then he led the gathering of 25 people to the four corners of the meadow to ask for God's fertile blessings upon the land.

Gardens are common in the residential area. There is a country feel along the street. Older homes sit on large acre lots. A rooster crowed almost nonstop nearby. The group gathered beneath a peach tree beside the garden. All hats were removed and heads were bowed as Father Tanguay led the Lahu families and volunteers in the Our Father and Hail Mary.

"A couple of years ago I allowed a farmer to cultivate this area," said St. Aloysius parishioner Meg Smith. "It was not being used anymore, so I'm glad I can offer it for the Lahu to have a place to garden."

Smith is a registered nurse who serves home healthcare patients. She has also informed the Asian parishioners about a family health clinic that is available on Saturdays at nearby St. Joseph Parish in Newton.

After the plowing, the earth will be dragged and smoothed out. Families will then measure out sections to plant and cultivate. Community members discussed and decided how to water with hoses, where to store tools and what to plant. Cabbage, beans, cucumbers, corn and tomatoes are planned.

"We plan to plant a few peppers. But it's a bit late in the season for them," said Peter Saesee, official Outreach worker and translator for the Lahu Catholic community.

"I enjoy working in the garden. I like the onions, cucumbers and peppers," said Maemee Saesee as she cared for her infant daughter, Gradia. "The young children will also help."

Peter Saesee lifted a cement block into position nearby where women and children rested beneath the peach tree. Upon it he leveled up a two-foot statue of St. Francis of Assisi to face the garden. Family members stepped back to see his arrangement. It met with their approval as a finishing touch for the day. ▼

Stephen Uzzell is a free-lance writer living in Charlotte.

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Remember Confirmation,
Father's Day,
and Graduation Gifts.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri. 9am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:

Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

SUMMER BIBLE INSTITUTE
Sunday, August 1 — Friday, August 6
"Wisdom Tradition in the Old Testament"
Camilla Burns, SND

"The Proclamation of the Risen Christ: The Book of Revelation"
Daniel Harrington, S.J.

For more information write:
Summer Bible Institute
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Tuition: $110 Room & Board: $200

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

*************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S305 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

June 25, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 39

Inside

Writer joins staff of The Catholic News & Herald ...Page 3

New priest assignments ...Page 3

Slowing the fast track: Cardinals propose bishops stay put ...Page 7

Local News

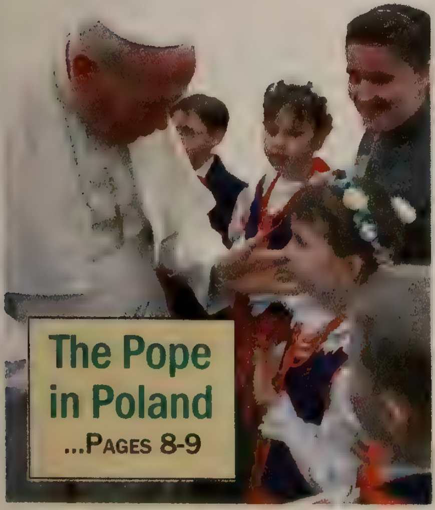
Church welcomes new members through RCIA ...Pages 12-13

State honors CSS Hand to Hand program ...Page 16

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11



The Pope in Poland ...Pages 8-9

CSS lends services, essential spirit to international adoption program

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

WEAVERVILLE — Children and adults played volleyball or strolled on the green grass around the weathered barn or fished in a nearby pond. Parents shepherded gurgling toddlers eager to explore on legs new to walking.

Not a family reunion but a reunion of families.

Some 250 people had come to the Claxton Farm, near Weaverville, from such places as Atlanta, Ga.; Mobile, Ala.; Alexandria, Va.; Indianapolis, In., Greensboro, Charlotte and Asheville, N.C.; to enjoy a picnic grounded in a shared experience — the parents were Americans, the children were natives of Russia and China.

The International Adoption Program, sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Charlotte Diocese, and administered out of CSS's Western Regional Office in Asheville, had made the miracles possible. Parents had achieved "the dream of a lifetime," as Robert Boggs wrote in a letter to the CSS office in Charlotte.

Boggs and his wife, Denise, who live in Alexandria, are typical of the parents who avail themselves of the International Adoption Program. They had found their best route to adoption by going to another country.

The Boggs started with a private nonprofit agency in Washington, D.C., but things didn't work out.

"We contacted Catholic Social Services in North Carolina (Asheville) based on an excellent article written in my wife's company's newspaper by a very satisfied couple who had adopted a little boy from Russia," Boggs wrote.

They worked with Carol Meyerriecks, the International Adoption coordinator in the Asheville CSS office, to complete the necessary paperwork and home study. In December, the IAP offered them the chance to adopt twin girls who had been born the previous August. They immediately accepted, and in April traveled to Moscow to see the children.

Their first visit with Anna and Irina was emotional. "We were just crying," Boggs said at the picnic. "We couldn't believe how great they looked."

Meeting their new parents for the first time was also an eye-opener, of sorts, for the babies, who had been kept in separate cribs so hospital personnel could tell them apart. "We put them facing each other on the couch, and their eyes lit up, and they reached for each other; that was a neat moment," Boggs said at the picnic.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

A dandelion intrigues Grace Kohrs, now 19 months old. She came home from Russia Dec. 23 with her new parents, Kathy (holding her) and Richard Kohrs of Hickory, N.C.

Anna and Irina, renamed Glenna Roberta and Natalie Alyene in honor of their new American grandmothers, were kicking and cooing in their portable playpen and smiling at all the admiring looks from parents whose own stories were similar to the Boggs'.

Over by the pond, Aaron Kohrs, 5, was fishing while his mother, Kathy, watched over Russian-born 19-month-old Grace, blowing the seeds off dandelions nearby. Kathy and her husband, Richard, had adopted Aaron, born in this country, through CSS in Charlotte.

"I trust CSS," Kathy said. "It must be wonderful to know you're a part of getting all these children homes."

Marlene and Jim Sidon of Atlanta also adopted two children through the IAP. Nikolai is now 2 1/2; his new sister, Emma, is 18 months old.

"We knew we wanted two children," Marlene said. "Our first contact with Lois Miller (the International Adoption coordinator in Atlanta) and Carol Meyerriecks — we felt so comfortable with them we never considered going anywhere else."

Jim said his greatest joy has been, "Just seeing the changes in the children. It's such a blessing having the two of them. We're so fortunate."

Clara Brunk also feels fortunate. Principal of a school in Mobile, Ala., she had wanted to parent her own youngsters.

"I had always wanted children, but never found the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with," she said.

Through IAP she is the mother of Vasily Dawson Eugene, now 11, and Vladimer Ethan Ross, now 6, whom she adopted last summer. Clara said

See ADOPTION PICNIC, page 15

Women ask for greater recognition in Catholic charitable work

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Women delegates to the general assembly of Caritas Internationalis asked that Catholic charities involve more women in decision making and focus more programs on improving the lot of the world's women. In soup kitchens and refugee camps, orphanages and health clinics, women form the majority of Catholic charities employees and volunteers, the women delegates said. Yet, when it comes to the structures which govern and coordinate Catholic aid programs, women "are almost invisible at the national, regional and international levels," said a report to the June 14-19 general assembly at the Vatican.

Money needed most in Kosovo reconstruction

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than manpower or material goods, money is what is most immediately needed to rebuild war-torn Kosovo and the surrounding region, Catholic humanitarian aid leaders said. NATO troops were entering Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, enforcing the withdrawal of Serb soldiers and paving the way for refugees' return, when the Balkans-based coordinators for Caritas Internationalis met at the Vatican in mid-June to assess the situation. "The Kosovars are prepared to reconstruct everything themselves," Father Segundo Tejado, who runs Caritas Albania, said in a June 15 interview. "Before the fighting started, they already had a parallel system of self-government, hospitals and basic infrastructure independent of the Serbs, and all run by Kosovars."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Ethnic Albanians in Prizren

Ethnic Albanians watch a convoy of Serb civilians and policemen leave the city of Prizren in Kosovo June 14. The Catholic bishop of Prizren made a plea for improved understanding among the people of the city, while Serbs exited in large numbers as NATO troops moved into the area.

University joins projects fighting worker exploitation overseas

NEW YORK (CNS) — St. John's University, criticized for its affiliation with the Nike company, has announced participation in two projects to fight exploitation of factory workers in poor countries by multinational companies. Vincentian Father James Maher, chairman of a Corporate Code of Conduct Task Force at the New York university, said in a telephone interview June 15 that affiliation with the Fair Labor Association began earlier in the month. He said the association, which includes more than 70 U.S. colleges as well as Nike and other manufacturing companies, emerged from discussions initiated by the White House after the publicity over child labor being used in Honduran factories to produce items for the line of entertainer Kathie Lee Gifford. Father Maher said that on July 1 St. John's would also become part of Global Alliance for Workers and Communities.

Church team in Sierra Leone delivers food behind rebel lines

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — About 9,000 people trapped behind rebel lines in Sierra Leone received a food shipment delivered by the nation's interreligious council. About 400 bags of rice were distributed to towns and villages 30 to 50 miles from the capital, Freetown, said Father Theophilius Momoh, an executive member of the interreligious council. "We will go farther than that in the future," Father Momoh said. It was the first such delivery since late May, when the cease-fire between West African troops backing the government and Revolutionary United Front rebels took effect.

Court takes case over tax funds for parochial school computers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court this fall will consider whether it violates the Constitution for parochial schools to receive computers purchased with federal and state funds. The court announced June 14 it would hear the appeal of a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that said it is unconstitutional for religious schools to receive educational materials — other than textbooks — that have been bought with tax funds. In a ruling last August, the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit said previous U.S. Supreme Court decisions allowing religious schools to use publicly funded textbooks do not extend to permitting other sorts of tax-supported instructional materials, such as computers or library books. In a separate case, the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court upheld the constitutionality of the same program.

Catholic leaders support right to live in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (CNS) — Catholic leaders supported the right of mainland Chinese born to Hong Kong parents to live in Hong Kong, despite the government's bid to limit their numbers. Local Catholics should not harden their hearts, but show kindness and share with the mainlanders who are entitled to the right to live in the Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong Cardinal John Baptist Wu Cheng-chung said in a pastoral letter issued June 6. The letter was signed May 31, just two weeks after the Chinese government sought interpretation of the Basic Law, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's miniconstitution, from the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress.

Caribbean bishops' president calls Trinidad hangings 'vicious'

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (CNS) — The president of the Caribbean bishops' conference called the early June executions in Trinidad "vicious acts" that would not satisfy the need for justice. "What have they accomplished?" Archbishop Edgerton Clarke of Kingston, Jamaica, asked after the June 4, 5 and 7 hangings. "It's one act of violence against another act of violence. It seems to me more an act of revenge, and I don't think that's what justice is all about. There must be other ways." Nine convicted men were executed by hanging for murdering an entire family in central Trinidad five years ago.

Bishops tell world leaders debt relief is justice, not charity

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Debt relief for poor nations "is not a question of charity but of justice," said an international symposium of Catholic bishops on the eve of the Group of Eight economic summit in Cologne. Nations have an "urgent need to break the chains of unpayable foreign debts," said 16 cardinals, archbishops and bishops, representing some of the world's richest and poorest nations, at the end of the day-long symposium June 13.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
June 25, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 39
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237. *The Catholic News & Herald* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and photographs.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 27 — 10:30 am
Confirmation
St. James
Hamlet

June 27 — 4:30 pm
Knights of Malta Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

June 28 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Holy Cross
Kernersville

June 29
Seminarian Conference
7 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

July 2 — 7:30 am
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 10
Eagle Scout presentation and Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School
Charlotte

July 11 — 4 pm
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 12 - 15
Provincial Meeting
Bishops of the Carolinas and Georgia

Diocesan planner

Perpetual adoration

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at Belmont Abbey in the adoration chapel, located by the monastery in the small red building (second door). Parking is by the water tower. Adorers are always needed and welcome. For further information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is hosted at St. Gabriel Church. Adorers are always needed and welcome. For details, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Theresa Farley at (336) 273-1507.

June

27 CHARLOTTE — The Christian community Ultreya meets today to share

Writer joins staff of The Catholic News & Herald

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic News & Herald welcomed the latest addition to its editorial staff June 15. Alesha M. Price has joined the newspaper team as staff writer, a position involving writing feature and news stories on people and events throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

Alesha M. Price

Price is a native of Thibodaux, La., a town of 30,000 people located an hour southwest of New Orleans. She attended Catholic elementary and high school and was a parishioner of St. Genevieve Church in Thibodaux. A lifelong enthusiast of reading and writing, she earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Dillard University in New Orleans in May 1996. Following graduate work at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mi., she earned a master's degree in English Literature from the school in May 1998.

At Dillard and Michigan State, she honed her craft in research, writing and editing assignments. Her writing was published in the schools' newspapers as well.

Upon returning to Thibodaux after graduate school, Price wrote a variety of pieces for the local Chamber of Commerce's magazine, and taught English and dance in a local high school.

She said substitute teaching in junior and senior high school classrooms earlier this year proved to be a valuable experience as she entered the professional world. "If you can teach high school kids, you can do just about anything," she said with smile. "They tell what you are doing wrong, how it should be done. It was rewarding, and I'm glad I did it."

After searching for new opportunities in writing, she heard about the opening in The Catholic News & Herald staff and was immediately interested. "I had been searching for jobs for the past year, and I saw the advertisement," she said. "I thought of this as a sign from God. I thought, 'I'm Catholic and I'm a writer, and I can synthesize the two.'"

Price said the staff writer position will be a positive learning experience as she contributes to the publication's growth. "I want to become even closer to my faith, and this is a good way to explore different parts of Catholicism," she said.

"We're pleased to include Alesha as a member of The Catholic News & Herald team," said Joann S. Keane, editor. "Her writing will surely complement our paper as we strive to bring the Good News to the 46 Western counties of North Carolina."

Price is eager to learn more about the diocese now that she's a Charlotte resident. "In order for me to become better acquainted, I would like to find a church parish, do more community involvement, volunteerism — and I would also like to have fun." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

experiences, prayer and plans for apostolic action today at 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Call Don or Cheryl Bohlen, (704) 542-1741, for more information.

July

2 HOT SPRINGS — "Radical Love in the Parables of Jesus" is a retreat for women focusing on a fresh call to openness and enthusiasm to the call of the Gospel, today through July 4 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For details, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743; (828) 622-7366; http://www.geocities.com/~jesuit_housenc

3 BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are today at the Belmont Abbey Basilica. Mass is at 9:30 a.m., followed by recitation of the rosary and the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:15. For details, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

9 HICKORY — A Marriage Encounter weekend is today through July 11 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Michael or Stacy Holcomb at (704) 844-8181. For reservations, call Tom or Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

11 GREENSBORO — SPLUNGE (Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing, Growth-filled Experiences), a week of fun and challenging activities teaching teens 15 and up something about themselves and others, is today through July 16 in Greensboro. The host parish is Our Lady of Grace Church. Cost is $160. For details, call the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry at (704) 370-3243.

16 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621, or (800) 470-2230.

THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral assignments, effective July 7, 1999.

Priests:	**From:**	**To:**
Rev. John Allen	*Parochial Vicar St. Gabriel, Charlotte*	**Administrator,** St. Michael, Gastonia
Rev. Roger Arnsparger	*Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky*	**Administrator,** St. Barnabas, Arden
Rev. James Byer	*In-residence St. Phillip, Statesville*	**Pastor,** Holy Spirit, Denver
Rev. Dean Cesa	*Parochial Vicar, St. Leo, Winston-Salem*	**Parochial Vicar,** St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
Rev. Alexei Choquet	*Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle*	**Ukranian Catholic Diocese,** Stamford, Connecticut
Rev. James Devereux, S.J.	*Pastor, St. Peter, Charlotte*	**Spiritual Director,** Introductory Seminary, Raleigh
Rev. Jude Duffy, OFM Cap	*Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte*	**Pastor,** Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte
Rev. Lawrence Heiney	*Pastor, St. Michael, Gastonia*	**One-month sabbatical,** at his request
Rev. Raymond Hourihan *(Effective Sept. 1)*	*Pastor, St. John, Waynesville*	**Retirement,** at his request
Rev. Eric Houseknecht	*Administrator, Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte*	**Full-time Director of Vocations,** Three-month sabbatical
Rev. Peter Jugis	*Administrator, Holy Spirit, Denver*	**Full-time Judicial Vicar,** In-residence, St. Mark, Huntersville
Rev. Joseph Kelleher	*Administrator, St. Dorothy, Lincolnton*	**Retirement,** at his request
Rev. Thomas Kessler	*Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania*	**Administrator,** St. Dorothy, Lincolnton
Rev. Michael Kottar	*Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey*	**Parochial Vicar,** St. Matthew, Charlotte
Rev. Mark Lawlor	*Administrator, Our Lady of The Americas, Biscoe*	**Administrator,** St. Francis, Jefferson
Rev. Matthew Leonard	*Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte*	**Parochial Vicar,** St. Gabriel, Charlotte
Rev. James McAndrews, S.J. *(Effective Sept. 1)*	*Associate pastor, Springfield, Mass.*	**Administrator,** St. Therese, Mooresville
Rev. Eugene McCreesh, S.J.	*Parochial Vicar, St. Peter, Charlotte*	**Administrator,** St. Peter, Charlotte
Rev. Dennis McGowan, OSA *(Effective Sept. 1)*	*Holy Rosary Church, Lawrence, Mass.*	**Pastor,** St. John, Waynesville
Msgr. John J. McSweeney	*Rector, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville*	**Pastor,** St. Matthew, Charlotte
Rev. Fidel Melo	*Parochial Vicar, Holy Family, Clemmons*	**Administrator,** Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe
Rev. Gordon Pillon	*Administrator, St. Joseph, Newton*	**Returning to home diocese** of Peoria, Ill.
Rev. Ricardo Sanchez	*Newly ordained*	**Parochial Vicar,** Holy Family, Clemmons
Rev. John Schneider	*Pastor, St. Barnabas, Arden*	**One-year sabbatical,** at his request
Rev. Cecil Tice	*Sabbatical*	**Rector,** Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
Rev. Wilbur Thomas	*Administrator, St. Francis, Jefferson*	**Full-time Vicar for Priests,** In-residence, St. Eugene, Asheville
Rev. Edmund Walker, OFM Cap	*Pastor, St. Matthew, Charlotte*	**Reassignment** by his religious community
Rev. Robert Weisenbaugh, S.J. *(Effective Sept. 1)*	*Pastor, St. Therese, Mooresville*	**Reassignment** by his religious community
Rev. Ray Williams	*Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte*	**Parochial Vicar,** St. Leo, Winston-Salem
Rev. Robert Yurgel, OFM Cap	*Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte*	**Parochial Vicar,** Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope tells assembly change of heart needed for reconciliation

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Reconciliation between peoples in conflict can only be realized through social restructuring and individual changes of heart, Pope John Paul II said.

In a message to the Catholic aid agency Caritas Internationalis, the pope said reconciliation "requires a conversion of hearts and also changes, sometimes radical, within society."

Pope John Paul addressed the final session of the agency's June 14-19 general assembly. Heads of Caritas national member organizations in 156 countries had gathered at the Vatican to discuss humanitarian response to world events; the meeting's main theme was reconciliation.

The pope said "social and international justice" and "the practice of the virtues which promote the ability to live together ... with the aim of building unity" would lead to "a new society and a better world."

"In a world which knows so many divisions and heartbreaks, between persons and between human communities, I fervently hope that all the disciples of Christ are able to discern all the better the signs of hope," Pope John Paul wrote. "May they be the artisans of peace and reconciliation, so that humanity becomes ever more one world of fraternity and solidarity where everyone, recognized in his dignity as a child of the same Father, may live a peaceable life and develop the gifts that he has received."

The pontiff praised Caritas Internationalis for its efforts to promote reconciliation through education and grass-roots community work.

He noted that the agency has always shown "particular concern for those who live in ever more trying situations of poverty, especially refugees and displaced persons." He cited as examples recent campaigns to stave off hunger in North Korea and to aid those affected by conflicts in Africa and in the Balkans.

Pope John Paul also pointed out that after he had called for the reduction or removal the world's poorest countries' external debt, Caritas Internationalis responded with a campaign for debt relief.

That campaign produced a message from the general assembly which a representative took to the June 18-20 summit of leaders of the world's seven leading industrial powers plus Russia, known collectively as the G-8, in Cologne, Germany.

The message said in part, "We consider repaying debts to the rich while children starve a scandal before God."

In its June 18 final statement, the Caritas general assembly said its 350 delegates had "deepened and renewed their commitment to the hard work of reconciliation and to developing ways of promoting a better world in which justice, peace and truth prevail."

Caritas laid out a four-year plan of action to last until the agency's next general assembly. Its main aim, the statement said, was to "integrate the efforts of Caritas people from all over the world in their continued striving for internal unity beyond all existing national or ethnic differences."

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Can you see the face of the poor?

Traveling rural roads in nearly any state visitors frequently overlook the invisible poor. They notice satellite dishes next to trailers and newer-than-jalopy cars parked nearby. Life in rural America appears like life in Anywhere, U.S.A.

Popular images of poverty jump from the pages of magazines, where old ideas about poverty cloud the subtle expressions of rural poverty today. The shack on the back road has become a mobile home that rusts and fully depreciates in 20 years. The satellite dish, bought on time, may no longer function. Today rural poverty wears a subtle face etched with the lines of personal struggle and the wrinkles of an economic system indifferent to the needs of the poor. The face of rural poverty becomes more visible by uncovering the hurts and injustices through a few profiles.

Donna choked back tears as she told how her six-year marriage ended in divorce the year before. A hideous knife scar nearly the length of her left forearm testified to the life of violence she knew as marriage. Unable to focus her life, Donna moved between friends wearing thin her welcome as the months passed. The seductive urge of suicide stalked her when friends at her third residence finally asked her to leave. Penniless and depressed, Donna found herself homeless in a small town.

Homelessness frequently evokes urban images of men sleeping in doorways or pushing shopping carts down the street. Rural homelessness evades radar like a stealth fighter. It becomes hidden by overcrowding a relative's home when hard luck hits. Families frequently sleep in campgrounds or in their cars while in transit looking for work. At least 20 percent of the homeless school-aged children are not in school, because they move too frequently or lack proper clothing or have unmet health needs or have emotional problems or need to care for a sibling. Women and children swell the ranks of the rural homeless when violence, divorce, or economics disrupt their lives.

Andy and Norma worked the flee markets selling crafted items they made in their small woodworking shop. Having no credit, they went to a rent-to-own business to buy their major purchases. For $70 a month they took home a nineteen inch TV and a VCR. After a number of months the rent-to-own designated them as preferred customers and invited them to purchase an additional appliance. Norma chose a washer. Soon the financial burden began to strain their budget. They finally returned all the merchandise with only three payments left, and lost their entire investment.

People without credit have few economic options. Unable to get a bank loan they frequent check cashing outlets and rent-to-own businesses that charge usurious interest rates. They must buy every major purchase on time. The slippery slope of debt easily allows them to fall behind on rent and utilities.

The rural poor still lack the healthcare denied 43 million Americans and suffer disproportionately from diabetes because of poor diet. They work for low or minimum wages and get trapped in part-time or temporary employment. They live pay check committed and pray nothing breaks down. When they walk through town, their discounted clothing covers their insecurities and worries. And, nobody notices them.

Glenmary Father John Rausch teaches at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Are media violence and teen crime linked?

The Columbine High School shootings are becoming known as the wake-up call to the problem of violence among our youth. People continuously talk about the Littleton, Colo., school killings, laying blame on parental blindness, meanness in schools, lack of spiritual teaching, the easy availability of guns and the media's fixation on violence.

In mid-May, President Clinton, in California to attend a Hollywood dinner, urged the film industry to rethink the way it portrays killing. He was on thin ice here because some in the entertainment business were concerned that Hollywood would become the scapegoat for the escalation of violence in America.

Yet, the president was right to speak out about the effect media violence can have on young people. He cited only a few of the many studies that show how a continual diet of violence desensitizes youth and can lead to aggressive behavior in the adolescent and teen years.

One doesn't have to be brilliant to figure out that being immersed in violent images and action at a young age can play havoc in a young mind. And kids are immersed in violence. The president cited the latest figures that the "average American child will see 40,000 dramatized murders by the time he or she reaches age 18."

I first became conscious of how effective media violence can be about 20 years ago when I interviewed Robert Liebert, a psychologist who was researching this subject. He told me about a boy who had put crushed glass in the family dinner after getting the idea from a TV show. He described how a small girl had been doused in gasoline and burned by a gang, simply to re-enact a television scene.

Liebert emphasized that "a higher exposure to television violence is associated with greater approval of violence and a greater willingness to use it in real life." And that was more than 20 years ago!

Since then, we have seen much worse evidence of the connection between media violence and actual crime. In December 1997, when a 14-year-old went on a shooting spree in a Paducah, Ky., school, he told investigators he had seen school shooting done before in a scene from the movie called "The Basktball Diaries." A character in that film dreams of breaking down a school door and randomly shooting five classmates while other students cheer.

Classmates of Eric Harris, one of the shooters in Littleton, told investigators that their classmate was obsessed with the computer game "Doom." In that game the youth pushing the buttons battles powerful demons. He shoots to win, not to conquer evil, but for the bigger prize — to be able to go to even greater violence.

It is reported that some 15 million copies of "Doom" are in homes, where youngsters can control the 3-D gun and see "the gruesome images of shattered bodies, bleeding clumps of flying flesh and disembowelments," wrote Colorado reporter Deborah Frazier.

After the Columbine massacre, Denver Catholic Archbishop Charles Chaput was reported to say, "Common sense tells us that the violence of our music, our video games, our films and our television has to go somewhere, and it goes straight into the hearts of our children, to bear fruit in ways we cannot imagine, until something like Littleton happens."

Let us all protest the excessive violence that invades our homes through the media. Let us love our children enough to protect them from the brainwashing that tells them the way to solve problems and be powerful is to blast and destroy others.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"You can keep your fork!"

If you've read my columns before, you know how much I love to share a good story. Well, here is one that really takes the cake! It was told to me over dinner a while back by my friend Father Miles O'Brien Riley, a communications specialist in San Francisco. I would be surprised if you don't pass it along the next time you share a meal with family or friends.

There was a woman, Jenny Flanagan, who had been diagnosed with cancer and had been given three months to live. She asked her pastor to come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what she wanted to wear. "Oh, yes, there is one more thing," she said, "and this is very important. I want to be laid out in my casket with a fork in my right hand."

"A fork?" the pastor asked, not quite knowing what to say. The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and functions where food was involved, my favorite part was when whoever was clearing away the dishes of the main course would lean over and say 'you can keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew something better was coming."

"Dessert wasn't going to be Jell-O or some watery pudding. It was going to be something substantial — like cake or pie. So I just want people to see me there in the casket and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?!' Then I want you to tell them, 'Jenny always knew that something better was coming once God called her from this life.'"

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would ever see her. But he also knew that she had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She knew something better was coming.

Sure enough, at the wake people walked by the woman's casket, saw the pretty dress she was wearing, her favorite bible, and the fork placed upright in her hand. Over and over the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During the eulogy, he told the congregation about his conversation with Jenny shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and what it symbolized to her.

"I tell you, my friends," confessed the pastor, "I just cannot stop thinking about that fork, and I'll bet you won't be able to stop thinking about it either." And he was right. If you have a vivid imagination, it is an image not easily erased from your memory.

For me, Jenny's fork makes clear what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the bread of life." It is not enough to regard this as simply a beautiful and poetical phrase. Bread sustains life. It is that without which life cannot go on. Jesus is the essential of all life, and the hunger of our souls is fulfilled when we know Christ and through Him know the Father. The restless soul is at peace; the hungry heart is satisfied.

So the next time you reach for your fork, let it remind you that there is something better coming. And give thanks to our Father, who offers us so much more than mere human existence. Through His Son, the Father offers us not just a fuller life here, but an eternal life still to come.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of the Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The relationship between God's love and our freedom

Q. I cannot understand why it is said that Jesus loves us no matter what we do, that we cannot do anything to "earn" this love and our salvation because it is a gift from God.

Why then should people not do what they want, even if it is considered wrong in the eyes of society? What difference does it make if they are to be loved and saved through God's grace?

A. We need first to acknowledge that it is quite understandable that you don't understand this relationship between God's love and our freedom. We're dealing with a mystery as big as God.

As the first letter of John puts it, God is love, so we will never wrap our minds around this mystery of his love any more than we ever will comprehend the Trinity. It's a subject we must always approach reverently and with much humble acceptance of our limitations.

That said, we are reminded constantly by Scripture and by Jesus himself, from the Sermon on the Mount to the resurrection, that everything material and spiritual in our lives is lavished on us by an extravagant Creator. Everything is a grace, a gift.

This also is one of St. Paul's favorite themes. God raised Jesus to new life and glory, he wrote, that God might show the immeasurable riches of his kindness to us who are with and in his Son.

Your salvation, Paul insists, "is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast" (Eph 2:6-9).

Even our very first desire to do good and to share his love is God's gift, not a result of our initiative. Again, as the Letter of John says, "We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19).

So no one, it seems, can deny that part of the mystery. Our acceptance of God, however, and of his life and gifts is up to us. It is a heavy responsibility, and obligation, of a return of love.

As Jesus put it, what you have received as a gift, now give as a gift (Mt 10:8). Live up to what you have and who you are. That is the message behind everything he requires, especially his great commandment of love of God and neighbor.

To mature in such a vocation, which is the vocation of all Christians, takes enormous and persevering awareness, openness, fidelity and generosity, and most of all, total trust in that love the Father has for us in Jesus.

We don't just "do whatever we want" because we have been called to respond to love, which, if we are serious about it, is much more demanding than we usually want to admit.

Perhaps no one has said all this more perfectly than St. Therese of Lisieux shortly before her death. In the last full sentence of her life story she wrote, "Even though I had on my conscience all the sins that can be committed, I would go, my heart broken with sorrow, and throw myself into Jesus' arms, for I know how much he loves the prodigal child who returns to him."

That combination of love, fidelity and trust, all of which are God's gifts to us, is what he asks in return. Why and how it all works is the mystery.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
CNS COLUMNISTS

Overcoming ambivalence to racial and cultural diversity

In 1977 we moved from Chicago's South Side to a suburban community southwest of the city. At that time there were few families of color and very few African Americans living there. In our nine years there we had many challenges and opportunities because of our minority status.

People were generally polite. No one expressed to us in any way that we were unwanted. No crosses were burned on our lawn. No pipe bombs or hateful defacing did our first home ever endure. It would be presumptuous to surmise that the few who were unfriendly had racist motives. But somehow, in our first few years, we felt out of place.

Though there was a Catholic church in the community, our Sunday worship was at a South Side parish in Chicago. Even as the African American population grew in the area, we had to travel to Chicago or Joliet to shop for hair-care products or go to a barber or beautician. The nearby grocer didn't carry certain foods we were accustomed to, either.

Eventually, stores were stocking products with black people in mind. In time our trips to the city were just for Sunday worship and visits to family and friends.

Recently we saw a commercial on late night TV promoting a housing development in that area. Prominent in the commercial were the faces of families of color. Obviously they were marketing to those interested in living in a racially and culturally diverse community.

What changed? Businesses and community institutions and organizations began to value the people of color there. That value had to do with the economic power that these black families brought with them. It made economic sense to make families of color to feel at home. Our sense is that this phenomenon helped to heighten the value of diversity within the community.

Though we found a strong sense of belonging among our neighbors and in the community, the local parish seemed most ambivalent about our presence. Such ambivalence to racial and cultural diversity persists in parishes across the country.

The new Black Middle-Class is exercising its option to live anywhere it can afford. Unfortunately, many white Catholic parishes in these sprawling affluent communities are clueless about reaching out to them as they arrive. Offices of Black Catholic Ministries have been established in many dioceses. Too often their interests do not include evangelization in white parishes.

Perhaps we the Church in America can follow the lead of marketeers and ad agencies. Though it is not the economic power of families of color that is foremost, the richness of cultures and the histories that have shaped them give deeper and broader concreteness to the Gospel. In the context of the People of God, those stories and cultures are the inheritance of everyone. And as in business, it will help to heighten the value of diversity within the community. Welcoming people of color and their gifts in white parishes just makes good sense.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

British Cardinal Hume dies of cancer at age 76

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster, England, died the evening of June 17 in a London hospital where he was in the final stages of inoperable abdominal cancer. A church spokesman said the 76-year-old Benedictine, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, had just been anointed when he died peacefully and without pain. In a joint statement, the auxiliary bishops of Westminster said, "For 23 years he has been a rock of strength for this diocese. We shall miss his calm and reassuring presence. We shall miss his inspiring leadership."

Legion of Mary founder ordinary but great, postulator says

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — An ordinary man who accomplished extraordinary things. That's what Dominican Father Bede McGregor said first attracted him to Frank Duff. "It's the normality of the man that attracts me. I love all the saints, but some of them are so other-worldly. ... He's a contemporary." Father McGregor was visiting St. Louis at the invitation of a regional branch of the Legion of Mary. He has been asked by the archbishop of Dublin, Ireland, to prepare a case for the canonization of Duff, a Dublin layman who founded the Legion of Mary in 1921 at age 32. Today the Legion has more than 10 million active and auxiliary members worldwide. And Father McGregor considers Duff to be "the greatest export that Ireland's ever given."

Nuns formally petition for Mother Teresa's sainthood inquiry

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity formally petitioned the Calcutta Archdiocese to begin an investigation into Mother Teresa's heroic virtues, the first step to becoming a saint. A petition dated June 11 asks Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta to initiate an inquiry into the life, heroic virtues and reputation of holiness of Mother Teresa, foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, who died in Calcutta in September 1997. Missionaries of Charity Sister Lynn, whom the congregation has chosen as vice postulator for the cause, handed the petition to the archbishop June 10, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Earthquake damage in Mexico

An elderly woman prays in an earthquake damaged church in the town of Acatlan in the state of Puebla in Mexico June 16. The quake shook southern Mexico with the most damage in Puebla.

Catholic author J.F. Powers, 81, dies in Minnesota

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. (CNS) — J.F. Powers, a prominent Catholic writer in the 1950s and '60s whose first novel — "Morte d'Urban" — won the National Book Award in 1963, was found dead June 14 at his home in Collegeville. He was 81 and died of natural causes. Powers was Regents' Professor of English and writer-in-residence at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville from 1975 to his retirement in 1993. He also taught part time at St. John's in 1948.

Texas Gov. Bush signs parental notification law for minors

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — Pro-life advocates hailed Texas Gov. George W. Bush's signing into law a bill that will require a minor girl's parents be notified if she is contemplating an abortion. "This is one of the most emotional issues we've had in the legislative process, in my experience," said Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops. "It is also the most significant pro-life legislation passed in Texas since Roe vs. Wade," he added, referring to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Auxiliary Bishop DiMarzio of Newark to head Camden Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Newark, N.J., has been named bishop of Camden, N.J., by Pope John Paul II. Bishop DiMarzio was installed in October 1996 as auxiliary bishop for Newark, his hometown. He will succeed Bishop James A. McHugh, who was installed as coadjutor for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in February and had served as Camden's apostolic administrator until a successor was named. The appointment was announced June 8 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Green Bay bishop to join church team meeting German chancellor

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Bishop Robert J. Banks of Green Bay was to travel to Germany as part of an international team of bishops hoping to convince the world's major industrial nations to reduce the foreign debt of the world's poorest countries. While in Germany, Bishop Banks and more than a dozen other bishops will meet for 90 minutes with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, followed by a meeting with members of the German parliament. At the meeting with Schroeder, the bishops will discuss the international debt situation and their proposals for eliminating the burden of debt on the world's most vulnerable people.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

ModularCorp
Specialists in ***Custom Modular Buildings*** *to meet your growing and changing needs*
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

refugee, hispanic & immigration services domestic & international adoption
counseling material assistance pregnancy support
Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-3260	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577
Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370-3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Slowing the fast track:

Cardinals propose bishops stay put

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two Vatican cardinals, voicing concern over episcopal "career climbing," have proposed that bishops remain in the original diocese to which they are named, with rare exceptions.

The policy would help remove expectations of promotion to more important dioceses and would return to an earlier church model, in which the bishop is seen as "wedded" to his flock, said Cardinals Vincenzo Fagiolo and Bernardin Gantin.

The unusual recommendation provoked discussion in Rome, where next year's Synod of Bishops will focus on the bishop's role and office in the church.

Cardinal Fagiolo, retired head of the canon law council at the Vatican, floated the idea in an article published in April by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. He recalled episodes in which a bishop's appointment to a small diocese would prompt comments like, "They're only sending him there for a few years, then he'll get a better post."

It bothered him and others, he wrote, that the greatness of the bishop's ministry was being measured by the size of his diocese."The dignity of the episcopacy lies in a gift that excludes any idea of promotion or transfer, which should be made rare if not eliminated. The bishop is not a functionary ... who passes through on his way to a more prestigious position," he said.

In a May interview with the Italian magazine 30 Giorni (30 Days), Cardinal Gantin picked up the baton, saying it would help discourage careerism among bishops if church law were modified to ban transfers and promotions except under strict circumstances.

Cardinal Gantin, who retired after heading the Congregation for Bishops from 1984-98, said that when a bishop is named, the diocese receives a father figure and a pastor.

"And a father is one forever. So a bishop, once nominated for a determined see, as a rule should remain there forever," he said.

Cardinal Gantin said that for young church communities that see an expansion in the number of dioceses, transfers of bishops can make sense. But for much of the world today, the dioceses are set, and transfers merely risk creating disorder and confusion, he said.

Even in missionary territories, where a certain movement of bishops is legitimate, "transfers ought to be to dioceses that are more uncomfortable and difficult, not to dioceses that are convenient and prestigious," he said.

But what may seem like a modest proposal — expecting bishops to stay put — would drastically alter the current practice of naming bishops.

A look at Pope John Paul II's appointments in 1997, for example, shows that he transferred as many bishops as he created, almost always to larger dioceses. Four new archbishops were named in the United States, all of them moving "up" from smaller dioceses.

Throughout the world that year the pope also named more than 40 auxiliary bishops, a position that for many is the first step in episcopal ministry.

In Italy, the transfers can resemble a game of musical chairs. Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi was named archbishop of Palermo after five earlier postings, and more than 25 other Italian bishops are in their third diocese.

When a bishop is transferred, he receives a bull of appointment that dissolves his bond with the existing diocese.

Re-assignment is technically considered an exception at the Vatican, but no one bats an eye when it happens.

"Exceptions have always been made to this rule. The question today is whether the exception — and the expectation of advancement — is becoming the rule," said one Vatican official.

Cardinal Gantin said that when he was at the helm of the bishops' congregation, he was shocked that some bishops openly requested promotion after a few years in a diocese. He said that at bishops' ordinations, he would occasionally hear toasts offered for the prelate's future career advancement.

Father Philip Goyret, a scholar in Rome who has written extensively on the bishop's ministry, said the ideal has always been to choose a bishop from among the local clergy who will remain in the diocese until retirement. But it may be a bit romantic to insist on such a rule in the modern church, he said.

For one thing, the nature of the universal church today, featuring frequent contacts with other bishops and the Vatican, makes it clear that the bishop's "spousal" relationship is less with a particular diocese than with the church of Christ, Father Goyret said.

For another thing, the pastoral demands of a large archdiocese may require someone with experience, who is not "starting from zero," he said. This is especially true for sees that have special cultural or civil significance, like national capitals, he said.

Father Goyret also noted that an especially long list of dioceses on a bishop's curriculum vitae is not necessarily a sign of careerism; it might mean just the opposite.

"It depends on whether the bishop experiences his promotion as a chance to offer more service to the church, or as an opportunity to move up," he said. ▼

Dick Miller receives Mother Teresa Memorial Award

GREENSBORO — The Knights of Columbus recently honored Richard (Dick) Miller of Saint Benedict's Catholic Church in Greensboro the 1st annual Mother Teresa Memorial Award. State Deputy John Harrison and Monsignor Joseph S. Showfety of Saint Benedict's presented the award to Dick Miller at Sunday Mass. During the presentation, State Deputy Harrison stated that "one of Mother Teresa's favorite mottoes was 'Do Small Things With Great Love.' This motto challenges each of us to serve our church, community, families, and our Lord with the same love and humility of Mother Teresa. Since her death, the Knights of Columbus have sought to find a way to remember the life of Mother Teresa.

The Knights of Columbus approved the development of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award to be presented to two North Carolina residents (one per diocese) who best exemplify this motto in their lives. Approval for the institution of this award was received from Sister Nirmala M.C., Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity. In her letter she accepted, "with gratitude, our request 'as a token of love for our dearest Mother.'"

Early in the year, parish priests and Catholic Social Services agencies were asked to submit nominations for this award. Many nominations were received. The appeal was made specifically to the priests as a way for them to help recognize a dedicated member in their parish. Dick received a plaque and a check for $500 to be presented on his behalf to a favorite charity. Dick asked that his contribution be made to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a program of which he has been president for 27 years. ▼

K of C
Career Sales Opportunity Available in
Greater Winston-Salem area! Call today.
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Or write: 535 Stinson Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen — Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Pope says democratic Poland must be anchored in moral truths

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Honing his spiritual and political message during a 13-day visit to his Polish homeland, Pope John Paul II hailed the country's new democratic era but said it must be anchored in moral truths to succeed.

"Today as never before the nation needs the light of the Gospel and the strength that comes from it," he said. "Freedom demands constant reference to the truth."

The pope's heavy schedule June 9-13 was highlighted by an unprecedented speech to the Polish Parliament and the beatification of 108 World War II martyrs at a Mass in downtown Warsaw.

He also helicoptered to four cities in eastern Poland, preaching ecumenism to Catholics and Orthodox faithful, sexual purity to young people and environmental protection to industry leaders.

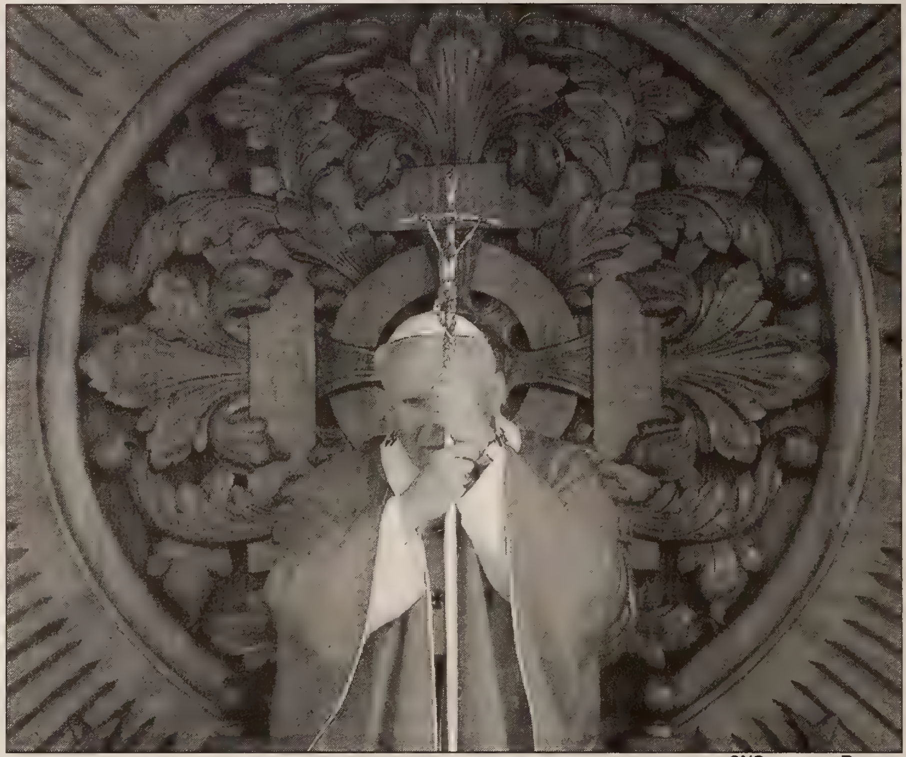
The pope emphasized that the church's saints, martyrs and traditions of past centuries must find a place in the "new" Poland of economic and political freedom.

"With immense sensitivity, we must stop and listen to this voice from the past, in order to carry our faith and love for the church and country into the year 2000 and hand them on to future generations," he said.

The 79-year-old pontiff fell at his residence and needed three stitches to close a cut on his head June 12, but it barely slowed him down. He got a hero's welcome wherever he went, drawing crowds of more than 300,000 people at most events.

For the pope, perhaps the most satisfying moment came June 11 when the broad spectrum of Polish political leaders — including ex-communists — joined in a long standing ovation in Parliament.

"What has happened to us!" said a delighted pope as he clapped along with the others, celebrating 10 years of political freedom after the fall of communism.



CNS photo by Reuters

Pope John Paul II holds tight his crosier during the first Mass of his 13-day trip to his homeland June 5. The Mass was in the seaside village of Sopot.

In a speech followed attentively by lawmakers in the hall and by the nation on TV, the pope praised the victory of democracy and said the moral lesson of the Solidarity movement must not be forgotten.

"As we rejoice together at the positive changes taking place in Poland before our eyes, we cannot fail to recognize as well that in a free society there must also be values which guarantee the supreme good of man in his totality. Every economic change must help to build a world that is more human and more just," he said.

He added that Europe's new-found economic unity must have a spiritual dimension, warning of "new divisions and new conflicts" on the continent. Aides said Kosovo was constantly on the pope's mind during his visit.

Later June 11, he offered bishops and church leaders a simple blueprint for evangelization in Poland's changing society: Preach and practice the beatitudes. He said the church needs to emphasize its ethical and social teachings — using the universal catechism as a guide — to provide firm moral direction on family, social and right-to-life issues.

Closing a national synod that he convened in 1991, he said the church must better reach people in their daily lives, especially the young.

At a Mass attended by half a million Warsaw residents June 13, the pope beatified 108 martyrs of World War II and said they were examples of "total self-giving." The group included bishops, clergy and lay people, some killed in Nazi death camps, some who died because they defended Jews and one woman who gave up her life in exchange for a daughter-in-law who was expecting a child.

The pope used the Mass as an occasion to give thanks for restored freedoms under democracy. He remembered a Mass he celebrated in the same square in 1979, when he called upon the Holy Spirit to "renew the face" of communist Poland. He said the changes of the last 20 years had answered that prayer.

In several events, the pope evoked the memory of the country's wars and drew lessons from wartime heroism and suffering.

On June 11, the pope prayed at a monument at Umschlagplatz in central Warsaw, where in 1942-43 more than 300,000 Polish Jews were packed into railway cars and sent to the Nazi gas chambers of Birkenau. He prayed that the Jewish people receive "love and appreciation from those who don't yet understand the magnitude of their suffering."

Then he went to a separate site

See PAPAL TRIP, page 9

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- Debt Consolidation
- Lower Monthly Payments
- Cash Out

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

The Catholic News & Herald

Can you answer "YES" to any of these questions?

1. *Do you have a house or car to sell?*
2. *Do you want to rent/sell vacation property?*
3. *Do you need a good renter for a condo?*
4. *Are you looking for qualified employees?*

With OVER 104,000 READERS,
The Catholic News & Herald classified ads WORK for YOU!

For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Touring Augustowsky Canal

Pope John Paul II tours the Augustowsky Canal by boat June 8 in northeast Poland. During his 13-day trip to his homeland, the 79-year-old pontiff visited the woods and lakes where he used to go kayaking as a young priest.

CNS PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Visiting the village of Leszczewo

Pope John Paul II greets the Milewska family, farmers in the village of Leszczewo in northeast Poland, June 9. The pope dropped in on them unexpectedly while resting from public appearances during a 13-day trip to his homeland.

Papal Trip, from page 8

that commemorates the several hundred thousand Poles who were deported by Soviet forces between 1939-41. Many died in brutal labor camps in Siberia and elsewhere.

Earlier, at a papal encounter with the Polish Ecumenical Council, Poland's Chief Rabbi Menachem Joskowicz thanked the church for helping to remove some 300 crosses from the perimeter of the former Auschwitz death camp after a 10-month dispute. Then he asked the pope to ensure the removal of the last cross, which is 30 feet tall and was once used at a papal Mass.

The rabbi's comments drew criticism from other Jewish leaders, and a Vatican spokesman said the "papal cross" would probably remain, reflecting the desire of most Polish Catholics.

On June 13, the pope stopped at a cemetery outside Warsaw and prayed for victims of the 1920 Battle of Warsaw, which the pope termed a great victory in Poland's struggle for sovereignty. In the battle, known as the "Miracle on the Vistula," an outnumbered Polish army turned back a Soviet advance. The pope was greeted by a few elderly survivors from the campaign, who kissed his ring and wept.

In other events June 9-13:

— Traveling June 10 to Siedlce and Drohiczyn in eastern Poland, a region troubled by centuries of Catholic-Orthodox tensions, the pope urged Christian communities to put aside differences on the eve of the third millennium.

"We must admit the faults committed and pardon each other in turn," he said.

His strong call for Christian unity June 10 was coupled with acclaim for a small group of 19th-century Catholic martyrs killed when they refused to hand over their church to the Orthodox. He said they were models for the "new evangelization" needed in modern times.

The following day, he visited the Church of St. Basil in Warsaw and told Basilian Fathers to continue their evangelizing work in Eastern Europe. He specifically mentioned Ukraine, where Orthodox leaders have been unhappy with the church's higher profile in recent years.

— The pope traveled to Sandomierz in southeastern Poland June 12 and, from a white altar symbolizing purity, warned young people to resist a popular erosion of sexual values.

"Today the culture of death sets before you, among other things, so-called 'free love.' In this sort of disfigurement of love we reach the profanation of one of the most cherished and sacred values, for promiscuity is neither love nor freedom," he said.

More than 300,000 people attended the papal Mass in sweltering heat.

— In the trade center of Zamosc the same day, the pope marveled at the beauty of the Polish countryside with its woods, lakes, rivers and fields. Even the song of the birds sounds "so very familiar, so Polish," he said.

He said respect for creation demands protection of the environment, especially against overdevelopment by industry. But ecology must start with respect for human life, he said.

"Is it really possible to oppose the destruction of the environment while allowing, in the name of comfort and convenience, the slaughter of the unborn and the procured death of the elderly and the infirm?" he asked. ▼

In brief...

Pope beatifies 108 Polish martyrs; recalls first homecoming

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified more than 100 Polish Catholics who died in World War II and recalled the changes that have occurred in Poland in the last 20 years. In his homily at the June 13 beatification Mass in Warsaw's Pilsudski Square, Pope John Paul said that in 1979 at the site, he had asked God "that his power might be poured into the hearts of men and women, and hope stirred in them." The events that followed should be seen as God's "response to our cry," he said to a crowd of more than 500,000 people.

Pope says Poland must not ignore post-communist poor

ELK, Poland (CNS) — In a corner of Poland largely untouched by the country's recent economic revival, Pope John Paul II warned that his homeland must not turn its back on the new poor of the post-communist era. "Let us not harden our hearts when we hear the cry of the poor," the pope said during a Mass June 8 in the northeastern city of Elk, a small regional hub that has fallen upon hard times in recent years. "Let us strive to act and to live in such a way that in our country no one will be without a roof over their head or bread on the table; that no one will feel alone, left without anyone to care for them," he said. The pontiff was welcomed by about 200,000 people in Elk, a city surrounded by woods, lakes and farms near the Lithuanian border.

Pope takes day off — sort of — to visit old stomping grounds

WIGRY, Poland (CNS) — In the middle of a busy trip to his Polish homeland, Pope John Paul II took a day off — sort of — to visit the woods and lakes where he used to go kayaking as a young priest. The day was planned as a brief retreat from a grueling schedule of public events. But as usual in Poland, it was difficult to keep the pope from the people for very long. The pope arrived at a secluded former monastery in Wigry June 8 and took a boat ride on the local lake. The next morning he was driven to a nearby village, where he dropped in unexpectedly on a farming family to talk about the recent economic problems that have beset farmers in the region.

Pope departs Poland after series of unplanned visits

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Pope John Paul II ended his longest pilgrimage to Poland after drawing crowds of hundreds of thousands at a series of unplanned, last-minute events. The pope began the last day in his homeland June 17 with a private Mass in Krakow's historic Wawel Cathedral, after which he spent about 20 minutes in silent prayer. In a brief address, he recalled that his priest's training had begun in an "underground seminary" during the city's wartime German occupation, and later during "gradual normalization under communist rule."

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church
HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Book Review

New books' stories enhance historical study of religious order

Reviewed by PEGGY WEBER
Catholic News Service

Superiors of religious communities today may think they have a challenging life as they face difficulties with economics and vocations. However, their life looks a little easier compared to that of Mother Febronie Fontbonne, a superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1837.

She got off a boat on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River after visiting her sister in Missouri but missed the path through the woods to the convent. When she did not return, a search by the villagers ensued.

"Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life"
By Carol K. Coburn and Martha Smith.
The University of North Carolina Press (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1999).
327 pp., $49.95 cloth,
$19.95 paper.

Her order's archives state that "exhausted with hunger and fatigue, she took shelter in the hole of an old tree recommending herself to God." She survived to live in her log cabin convent and continue the ministry of her community.

It is a story like this that makes "Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life" by Carol K. Coburn and Martha Smith so fascinating.

The authors offer many interesting anecdotes about the earlier days of a religious community. Certainly, there are several fascinating stories in this book, including one describing sisters who, upon learning the name of their new superior, "screamed and threw themselves on the floor."

These stories enhance a serious historical study of a particular religious order from 1836-1920.

The authors, both professors at Avila College in Kansas City, Mo., write that, "although historically almost invisible, American sisters were some of the best educated and most publicly active women of their time."

And they state that "the expansion of American Catholic culture and identity and its subsequent influence in American society could not have occurred without the activities and labors of these women. The proliferation of schools, hospitals and orphanages boggles the mind."

The authors note that these nuns were some of the first female CEOs in the country and headed up impressive institutions.

In the preface, they call the book an unlikely collaboration. "A fifth-generation German Lutheran, American historian began a professional collaboration with a fourth-generation Irish Catholic, European historian who has spent her entire adult life in a religious community."

They state that although their backgrounds were different, their goals were the same.

"We intended to place Catholic sisters within the mainstream of American history and women's history and show the sisters' lives and activities to be as complex, varied and interesting as the lives of their Protestant and secular peers."

The book is a well-done historical study. It has many primary sources and provides an interesting and honest look at early religious life in America.

However, it truly is the history of one religious order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The authors state that this order is representative of many others. It probably is. But the book is really a historical study of one group and not all religious communities.

Still, this history shows the struggles and growing pains of religious communities. It shows class difficulties, gender bias and anti-Catholic prejudice in American society. It is a great historical perspective on religious life and puts today's discussion of vocations and religious life in a new light. ▼

Weber is a reporter and columnist for The Catholic Observer, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., and author of "Weaving a Family."

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Word to Life

June 27, Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:
1) 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19
2) Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
3.) Matthew 10:37-42

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

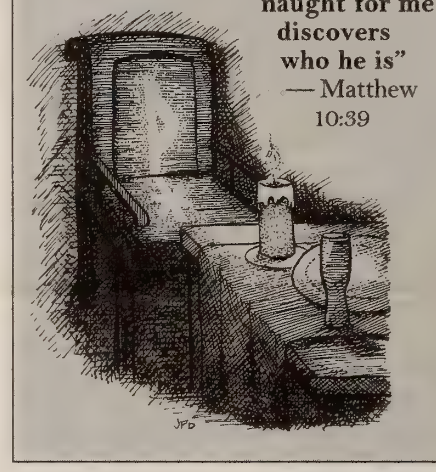
Elaborately carved wood and forged iron; ragged scraps of fabric blowing in the wind; expansive bronze gates; narrow slits in crumbling stucco — the entry to every village home opened onto hearts full of yearning. Here was a blind man longing to see the colors of the flowers and the faces of his friends. There was a bed-bound woman aching for health and the strength to hold her babies. Behind this door a family of foreigners pined for home; behind that one a servant girl thirsted for freedom and adventure.

Through their streets walked Elisha, a prophet whose closeness to God gave him the power to fulfill their longings. They never saw that power because they did not make a place for him in their homes. Only the childless woman with the welcoming heart did that. She was the one who recognized in the wanderer the holiness that comes from being close to God. She was the one who went out of her way, out of herself, to look beyond the travel-stained clothes and the windblown hair to see hunger in need of food, fatigue in search of rest.

She brought him to her table to eat. She fashioned a place in her home for him to stay so that when he was near he did not pass by but stopped and rested. And when he knew of her need, his prayer brought the fulfillment of her heart's desire: "This time next year you will hold your son."

God is always close by, eager to fulfill our deepest longings. The challenge of our often-crowded lives is to make a place where he might stop and stay; a quiet center in which the Word of God can rest within us, taking root, transforming our emptiness into joy. ▼

"He who seeks only himself brings himself to ruin, whereas he who brings himself to naught for me discovers who he is"
— Matthew 10:39



Questions:

Where in your day-to-day life could you make room for the Word of God to rest? How can you be more hospitable to the stranger whose need may open the door to God's blessing?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 27 - July 3, 1999

Sunday, 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42; **Monday**, Genesis 18:16-33, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday**, Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Wednesday**, Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday**, Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday**, Genesis 23:1-4,19; 24:1-8,62-67, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday**, Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29

Readings for the week of July 4 - 10, 1999

Sunday, Zechariah 9:9-10, Romans 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30; **Monday**, Genesis 28:10-22, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday**, Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday**, Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday**, Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5, Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday**, Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday**, Genesis 49:29-33; 50:15-24, Matthew 10:24-33

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES

Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Actress drawn to religious life by role in 'Les Miserables'

By PETER DROEGE
Catholic News Service

DENVER (CNS) — Several nights a week, thousands of people learn about God's mercy from Joan Almedilla. Then there are the matinees.

Almedilla, who plays the role of Fantine in the touring Broadway production of "Les Miserables," is contemplating joining the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in New York. She has been inspired, in part, by the courageous faith of the character she plays on stage.

Born and raised in Cebu City, Philippines, Almedilla attended a Catholic girls school and the University of San Carlos before pursuing music.

"My family says I was a born entertainer," she joked in an interview with the Denver Catholic Register archdiocesan newspaper. "Our kitchen table was my stage."

As a teen, Almedilla joined a popular rock band in the Philippines and was soon playing New York clubs in Queens and Manhattan. She was "discovered" while auditioning for "Showtime at the Apollo," a nationally televised theater show.

"Before I got on stage, I was very nervous, but said to myself, 'You know what, God? Sing through me,'" she recalled. "I sang there three Wednesdays in a row and Richard J. Alexander, then executive producer of 'Les Mis,' saw an episode and asked me to audition."

Almedilla landed the role of Kim in the Broadway musical "Miss Saigon" and performed in a number of other productions before being cast as Fantine in "Les Miserables."

"I was the first Asian to play Fantine," she said. "At first, I was a little worried about being a Filipino playing a French character, but God has ways of making things work and the experience has been overwhelmingly good for everyone involved in the production."

"Les Miserables" became an instant classic in France when was published in 1862 by Victor Hugo. While its author ostensibly belonged to no church, the book, and Broadway production, are rich with religious themes.

"Les Miserables" weaves a tapestry of story lines around its main character, Jean Valjean, after he is released from prison after serving 20 years of hard labor for stealing a loaf of bread to feed a starving child. His nemesis, Inspector Javert, is set on returning Valjean to prison, believing, once a thief, a person is always a thief.

For some, it is an existential account of the absurdity of life, for others, it is a timeless story of how faith and hope overcome adversity.

"When I first saw 'Les Mis,' I only saw Fantine as the victim of terrible circumstances," Almedilla recalled. "As I rehearsed for the part, I began to see her as a model for hope."

Fantine is a sickly woman who in desperation resorts to prostitution to pay for the care of her illegitimate little daughter, Cosette, and almost goes to prison. Cosette ends up in an abusive foster home but Valjean promises the dying Fantine he will take Cosette and raise her as his own.

CNS PHOTO

Joan Almedilla, a Philippine native who plays Fantine in the touring Broadway production of "Les Miserables," said the role has helped inspire her to consider joining the Sisters of St. John the Baptist.

"If I see Fantine as one whose life is nothing but despair, I will not be doing her character justice," she added. "If I sing the part with hope, it becomes even more tragic.

"A lot of people think the show is dark and depressing," she said. "If you love God and are close to God, you will not see it that way."

A number of the cast members are Catholic and whenever the production arrives in a new town, one of them finds the address of the nearest church and calls for the Mass schedule, Almedilla said.

When she is not touring, Almedilla lives in Long Island, N.Y., where she has developed a close relationship with the Sisters of St. John the Baptist. "When I am home, I visit them every week and join them in prayer at their convent," Almedilla said.

"I had been thinking about becoming a nun, and then I got the role in 'Les Mis.' I asked them, sisters, what should I do? They told me that the most important thing was to be honest with myself — that's how we know where God is calling us," she said. ▾

New at the Box Office

"An Ideal Husband"

Oscar Wilde's 1895 drawing-room comedy of manners finds a rising London politician (Jeremy Northam) in danger of losing his career and adored wife (Cate Blanchett) unless a spoiled bachelor ally (Rupert Everett) distracted by a new love interest (Minnie Driver) can outwit a blackmailing femme fatale (Julianne Moore). Writer-director Oliver Parker's pokily paced adaptation is visually and verbally elegant with an able ensemble cast skewering the era's social pretensions. Fleeting nudity and sexual innuendo, references to fraud and deceitful behavior. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Tarzan"

Ferocious animated tale about an orphaned human baby raised by a jungle gorilla (voice of Glenn Close) who as an adult (voice of Tony Goldywn) encounters his first humans, including a duplicitous hunter (voice of Brian Blessed) intent on capturing his beloved ape family and spunky Jane (voice of Minnie Driver), who tempts Tarzan to return to civilization. Based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' characters dating back to 1912, the animation by directors Kevin Lima and Chris Buck is accomplished and the characters appealing, but several fast-paced action scenes of predatory violence are too intense for younger children. Intensely menacing hunting scenes. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others
Need extra cash?
PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities
• No cash investment
Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

Get DIGITAL dish NETWORK TELEVISION and receive EWTN
Plus 300 other cable channels in digital quality
Special $149 package
includes free self-installation kit
(professional installation - $49)
Call SOL-SAT at
1-888-776-5728
or 764-2933 in the Triad area

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT
. 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
. Miles of white sandy beach
. Island's largest outdoor pool
. 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
. Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
. Retreats & reunions
800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!
Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.
HILTON HEAD ISLAND BEACH & TENNIS RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

As the liturgical year continues in ordinary time, The Catholic News & Herald welcomes the more than 600 men and women throughout the Diocese of Charlotte who were received into the Catholic Church this Easter season through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process. The following are the names of these men and women as submitted by their parish and mission churches. Also included are the names of several children who participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children.

Albemarle Vicariate

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle: Yvonne Short, Alma C. Farmer, Courtney Warren, Caren Elizabeth Upton;
St. James Church, Hamlet: Gerry Baxley, Jem Lee Murray;
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe: Keith Rorie, Linda Stedje-Larsen;

Asheville Vicariate

St. Barnabas, Arden: Michael Forrest, Teresa Forrest, Robin Jordan, Mike Miller, Amy Schiera, Suzanne Schiera;
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville: David Anthony, Joseph Anthony, Joshua Anthony, Michael Anthony, Hannah Barks, Sara Barks, Scott Barnes, Kimberly Bane, Aviva Bruyer, Charles Cain, Leslie Chapman, Amy Davis, Brent Davis, Thomas Davis, Jonathan Dygert, Don Frank, Claudia Giles, Ryan Giles, Renee Hill, Sean McCrane, Alicia Mosher, Crislee Moreno, Barbara Ramb, Tashina Roberts, Brenda Robinson, Consuela Soloman Vincent Taylor;
St. Eugene Church, Asheville: Jacque Benfield, Paul Benfield, Vonda Coli, Alexander Gourley, Justin Hantz, Karen Hantz, Francis Kaplan, Ann Monahan, Thomas Nielson, Chuan Weng, Ellen O'Conner, Jan Trout, Jennifer Trout, Laura Shea Graham, Keenan Scott Graham, Caroline Marie Grasso, Isabel Maxwell, Alex Swendsen, Ariel Brooke Ramsey, Kenneth Alan Dixon;
Sacred Heart Church, Brevard: Connie Nash, Jean Gabrielli;
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville: Margaret Hilliard Joseph, Steven Martin, Mary Wall Culbreth, Langdon Franz, Laura Freeman Myres, Lois Hansen, Janet E. Gibbons, William G. Butler, Rachael Cushing;
St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill: Eric Derbyshire, Whitney Derbyshire, Christian Moloney, Heather Wilson;
St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa: David Caldwell, Aimee Holder, Sarah Baumann;
St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon: Michelle Dover;

Boone Vicariate

St. Elizabeth Church, Boone: Christy Bishop, Michael Clay, Katie Farner, Trina Graybeal, Sandra Krause, Dawn Munoz;
St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine: Joseph Miller, Shirley Wood;

Charlotte Vicariate

St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte: Ashley Nicole Barnhill, Tracy Elaine Osborne, Michael Walter Rickheim, Beth Ann Zak, Kerry Zinkland, Kimberly Jean Barnes, Polly Ann Eppley, Mark Howard Frye, Kimberly Brunnemer Gallagher, James Daniel Guptill, Dennis James Hall, Janet Shaver Hall, Todd Cordell Harke, Amy Elizabeth Lundgren, Michelle Lynn Radabaugh, James Lance Reimier, Joshua Thane Robinson, Todd Douglas Simmel, Christy Lee Teli, Lori Robinson Vieth, John Charles Walsh, Marla Clatta Walsh, Carla Thrower Zorovich;
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte: Jessica Ellis, Sara Getz, Katherine Mills, Tara Presson, Young Tran, Ana Young, Collin Yurewitch;
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte: Shauna Stroud, Damaro Lewis, Louise Herron, Angela Williams, Dagney McDonald;
St. Ann Church, Charlotte: John Alderman, Petra Arthur, Cathy Cantrell, Tina Carney, Alicia Durand, Karen Evans, Dottie Sue Fowler, Tim Fowler, Thomas Grist, Kay Hall, Leigh Miller;
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte: Phillip Addler, Dowe Albright, Elaine Bermudez, Hope Bunn, Jenny Cahan, Mary Chaney, Carolynn Clark, Sarah Cogan, Andrew Davis, Alison Fisher, Dina Givens, Audra Goetz, Angela Heath, Greg Hebeisen, Sallie Jarosz, Heather King, Mark Kinstle, Randy Lane, Nancy Lochary, Than-Thi Luong, Gay Madden, Barry McGinnis, Stacey Meehan, David Miller, Melissa Moore, Jill Neffke, Bruce Neffke, Robin Schmutz, Amy Shaheen, Jessica Stewart, Sara Stroup, Susan Thompson, Anders Torning, Mike Wilson, Tina Young;
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte: Melissa Cocchieri, Christina Cox, Gina Finucane, Corrin Gotta, Shannon Johnson, Mary Lehman, Carmen Long, Laura Lowder, Jeff Lowder, Stephen McCaskill, Wendy McCauley, Heather Muldowney, David Ottaway, Michael Ricard, David Richmond, Michael Schlaeppi, Ginny Szura, Barry Steiger, Brad Williams;
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte: Shannon K. Arnold, Scott M. Bowman, Janet Brower, Debra Busch, William Cuddeback, Amy Denny, Karen Dube, Heather Eaton, Gaye Fitzpatrick, Jeff Gaeckle, Del Gillogly, Chris Gilstrap, Vincent T. Grove, Janet Harmath, Andrea Hines, Dwight E. Holland, Jason Jacobs, Robby Kempton, Carolyn Lanphier, Kim McKee, Scott Minick, Suzanne Monahan, James A. Moss, Matthew Nadolski, Ken Perry, Todd Rhoads, Steve Rickman, Brian Roepe, Kathryn Seymour, Shirley Smith, Thomas Stevens, Erin Sulkey, Sherida Toth, Krista Whaley, Ed Williamson, Heather Wilson, John Wilson, Andrew Busch, Yohanne Granelli, Staci Jacobs, Heidi Renee Merkel, Karen Pupello, Kimberly Ryan, Chris Schilling, Dave Stetzler;
St. Peter Church, Charlotte: Douglas Crouch, Michael Carlisle, Bert Woodard, Linda Estep, Kathryn Sain, Catherine Jordan, Abigail Blackman, David Blackman, Heidi Johnson, Danielle Bolejack, Charles Butler, C. Michelle Sain, Steven Moore;
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte: Dorothy Almaraz, Janet Batres, Vikki Bennett, Ellen Bertanzetti, Debbie Bork, Wanda Brusko, Brent Burns, Lucy Cagle, Angel Carballo, Jeff Davidson, Lorelei DeLeon, Donna Reese Dillard, Pemi Dominic, Bonnie Goodwin, Todd Green, Tonya Griffen, George Gruber, David Guenthner, Alex Hinson, Craig Lamoreux, William Latta, David Lorance, Melissa Lorance, David McMurry, Diana Perez, Eowyn Pepitone, Scott Poteat, David Propst, Kim Rielly, Todd Rielly, Jewel Stephens, Kristy Troutman, Eric Vetack, Rhonda Vetack, Ronnie Waddell, Vickie Waddell, Bruce Waldvogel, Amy Wesner, Erin Wheatley;
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte: Fred Fowler, Nigel MacEwan Jr., Nicolas Harrell, Kris A. Rusak, Ashley Elizabeth Owen, Susan Duong;
St. Luke Church, Charlotte: Kimberly Smith, Kay Adams, Billy Bushman, Andre Hall, Heather Hyman, Barbara McBride, Grant McNeeley, Chanda Thomas, Vickie Scneider, Patty Wallwork, Janice Ward, Kent Bublitz, Abby Whalen, Aislyn Creasy;

Confirmation

Summer reading selections, perfect for vacations!

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 6pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"

Pineville Animal Hospital

10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005

In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming

Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

Make a Difference in North Carolina's Future!

The "Chastity Revolution" is spreading across our country, and Family Honor is emerging as a leader in it. Family Honor is a South Carolina-based organization created to help strengthen family life by teaching effective parent-child communication, especially centering on chastity and God's awesome gift of fertility.

For over 10 years, Family Honor has taught individuals how to present the chastity message. We have developed several different parent-child programs, created an outstanding college-credit teacher training course, and have churches and parents clamoring for our programs.

What we don't have are enough presenters!

That's where YOU come in. We're looking for good people in North Carolina who share our passion for family-building and promoting the chastity message, and who might be interested in taking our unique college credit course, *The Principles of Teaching Family-Centered Chastity Education.*

Some of the course topics include:
❋communication skills that support healthy family life
❋the adolescent personality
❋fertility appreciation as a gift from God . . . and MUCH more!

Whether you're a man or woman, a single adult or an experienced parent, we need you! We can teach you to be a chastity presenter, even if you've never taught anything in your life. Call today for more information: **803-929-0858.**

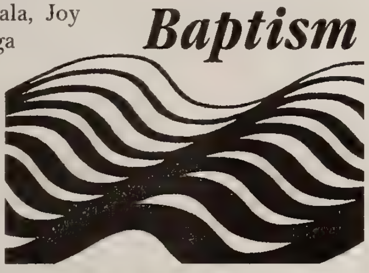
Family Honor INC.

- CALL TODAY -
Next Class
Begins in July!

St. Mark Church, Huntersville: John Holloway, Gary Porter, Amy Dirig;

Gastonia Vicariate

Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont: Sheri Balke, Daniel George, Christopher Hayes, Alex Hunt, Natalie Hunt, Jeremy Stone, Jennifer Thomas, Laura Ricci, Christina Ricci, Brittany Ricci, Robert Ricci, Teresa Garrett, Deborah McTeague, Debbie Will;
Holy Spirit Church, Denver: Destry Ballard, David Baxter, David Foley, Kari Lamich;
St. Michael Church, Gastonia: Ivan McFalls, Cindy Nguyen, Angela Nocom, Amy Tran, Taunia Zagala, Joy Cassidy, Flo Holland, Inga Kish, Tammy Lawrence, Thelma Mitchell, Paulette Murray-Blair, Jeanna Sturgis, Ken Nicholson, Janine Weisenhorn;



St. Mary Church, Shelby: Collette Bridges, Kevin Lavelle, Gail Streicher, Kevin Streicher;

Greensboro Vicariate

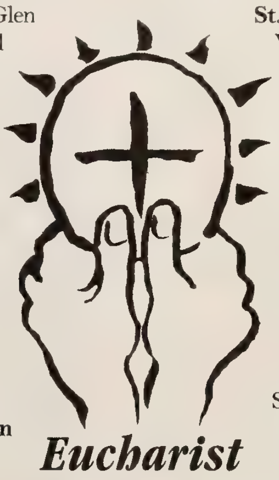
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro: Terri Saunders, Krista Schneider;
St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden: Mark Ligon, Toni Rene Mott, April Rene London, Ariana Marie London;
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro: Christopher Basinger, Margaret Holland Bell, Sally Nickles Blaser, Kerri Michelle Brancazio, Robert A. Burger, Charles Lee Cady, Dean Edward Hall, Leslie H. Hertwig, John William Kelly, Elaine Jean Kenny, Anne Knapke, Kerry L. Lee, Alexa Little, Alissa Marie Lord, Joy Macksood, Sherri Mangum, Evan Matthew McColl, Julie Milunic, Matt Milunic, Eddie Mitchell, Kathy Kenerley Murphy, Holly Malinda Parr, Deborah Lynn Richards, Monica Rose, Susan Ann Savageau, Brian Sickelbaugh, Darren Mark Smith, Worth McCauley Squires, Elizabeth Toto, Meredith Lee Victor, Wayne Alfred Victor, April Cheree Wainwright, Susan Watson, Kathryn Watson, Lauren Watson, Patrick Watson, Peter Whitehurst, Rob Wiley, Lisa M. Wooten, Steven Barrow, Kelly Deane Blevins, Mindy M. Bolduc, Nicole Suzette Boxley, Sherrie Pillion Carson, Tammy Annette Croll, Melissa Gonzales, Gregory Kyle Hefner, Thomas Allen Hyatt, Abby Anne Johnson, Antoine N. Kouakou, Donna Latta, Adam Little, Linda F. Lugo, Crystal Ann Nichols, Philip Owens, Robert Clayton Peacock, Shannon Beth Quinn, Teresa Ray Sowinski;
St. Benedict Church, Greensboro: Linda Davis, Ryan Edwards;
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro: Erin Fagge, Christopher Fagge, Thomas J. Hill, Faith Kostelnik, Joy Olczak, Steve Bullard, Pam Bullard, Brandon Kern, Sallie Myers, Dru Baker, Evelyn Cummo;
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro: Mary Buczek, Michael Frettoloso, Jonathan Gomes, Joshua Gomes, Hamilton Hudson, Stanhope Johnson, Mark Mayhew, Barbara Miele, Maisha Pajardo, Gloria Phillips, James Pressly, Robert Staples, Wayne Vaughn, Adam White;
Immaculate Heart of Mary, High Point: Travis Griggs, Dawn Leviner, Kathy McLaughlin, Ken Shackleford, Jerry Crotts, Cynthia Gervais, Dale Leviner, Helen Radin, Tracie Oberrieder;
Christ the King Church, High Point: Linda Ilderton, Willa Graham, Rebecca Kageorge, Emily May, Frank Shelar Jr., Fern Trottier, Michael Wenig;
Holy Infant Church, Reidsville: Jon Daniel Briggs;
Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville: Darlene Brown, Jolene Brown, Lee Anna Jones, Melanie Katlarsy;

Hickory Vicariate

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory: Carole Anderson, Christopher Caro, Caroline Farmer, Michael Farmer, Tammie Fie, Harvey Fink, John Fink, Beth Fonnesu, Shannon Gilreath, Darin Hatfield, Robert Johnson, Lesa Joiner, Megan Kenzik, Steven Lamothe, Shauna O'Brien, Wendy Propst, Ricky Royall, Julia Slattery, Pam Stafford, Glenn West;
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir: Margaret Ballerini, Gary Bryant, Alethea Dillard, Jeffrey Pasour, Carolyn Welsh, Nichole Kennington, Johnathan Madon, Martha Jane Madon;
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Morganton: Ema Elena Ortiz, Juana Hernandez, Nancy Mendoza, Nancy McCall, Lew Coates, Jan Billings, Nick Phillips, Ellen Mae Byrd;

Salisbury Vicariate

St. James Church, Concord: Glen Ferrell, Carter MacFarland, Daniel Holland, Linne Scott, Elena Elder, Tami Neidl, Greg Williams, Edward McCoy;
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville: Kevin Smith;
St. Therese Church, Mooresville: Dana Landro, Cathy Connell, Amanda Davis, Doug Davis, Tracy Matthew, Amanda Morgan, Wesley Weaver;



Smoky Mountain Vicariate

St. Joseph Church, Bryson City: Steven Thomas Cole;
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin: Carol Kistler;
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Hayesville: Betty Schopp, Donna McAuliffe, Mary Reynolds, Gracie Lash;
St. Margaret Church, Maggie Valley: Marlene Cole, James Donovan, Barbara Enloe, Tami Johnson, Shawn Gaddis;
St. William Church, Murphy: Kara Schutt, Vivian Schell, Eva Law, C.W. Bob Ferrin, Joseph Block, Richard Kimet;
St. Mary Church, Sylva: Ashley Moran, Jesse Stamper;
St. John Church, Waynesville: Kera Leigh Riley, Amber Middleton;

Winston-Salem Vicariate

Holy Family Church, Clemmons: Rebecca Andrews, James LaMott Darling, Gay Louise Diamond, Loretta Ruth Dull, Martha Hughes Ford, Murray Vernon Godley III, Sharon Faye Cliborne Haizlip, Tammy Hauser, Terry R. Hicks, Paul Makio Hopgood, Kimberly Lesser, Franki Miller, Jeffrey Wayne Sessoms, Steven Michael Smeal, William Franklin Yarbrough;
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville: Annette Teresa Buckley, Stephanie Kathryn Burke, Keith John Crouch, Sheila Mary Defoor, Deana Helena Lamanna, Alice Francis McGowan, Kristi Ambrose Merritt, Richard Isaac Newcomb, Kenneth Joseph Osmann, Amanda Elizabeth Trader, Robert Gabriel Wittner;
St. Benedict the Moor Church, Winston-Salem: Kenisha Baham, Connie Wall;
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem: Julie Bell, Stephanie Bowers, Ann Esch, Pamela Frandano, Beverly Gonzalez, Kelley Grabowski, Dorianne Hageman, Heather Hamby, Chong Suk Kern, Sara Lehman, Melodie Long, Jeffrey Priddy, Valerie Relacion, Pedro Rocha, James Saddler, Amanda Sherman, Olivia Sicignano, David Smith, Drew smith, Kelly Smith, Callie thomas, Norman Wiginton, II;
Good Shepherd Church, King: Michael Dunn;
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Winston-Salem: Stephanie Butler, Garrett Butler;
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem: Jacqueline Rogers, Jennifer Danna, Anne Lundahl, Brian Dillard, James Lai

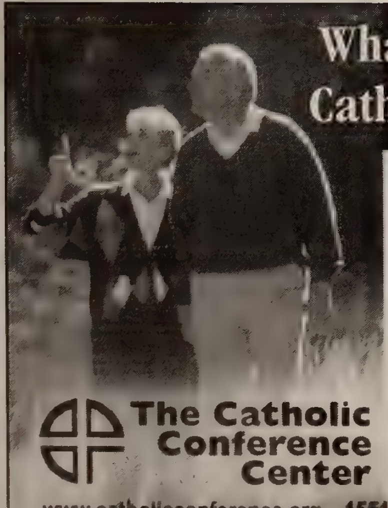
— Compiled by Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's



What's so special about the Catholic Conference Center?

We'll let our guests answer that one!...

"Better than good! I haven't relaxed like that since I don't know when!"

"Planning our event was a breeze. The Center staff was so flexible"

"My diet is restricted so the chef prepared something especially for me."

"The staff gives exemplary customer service"

Come join us and find out for yourself!
Visit our website or call today.

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org 1551 Trinity Lane Hickory, NC 28602 (888) 536-7441

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
➤ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
➤ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

School News

Foreign exchange students to spend year in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — The Foreign Study League is coordinating efforts to bring two Catholic foreign exchange students to the Charlotte area for the 1999-2000 school year. The league is seeking Catholic families to provide room, board and familiy life for the students, an athletic 16-year-old boy who enjoys gardening and a 17-year-old girl who enjoys sports and reading. Both students are German, fluent in English, fully insured and bring their own spending money. For more information, call Constance at (704) 549-8886.

Students lead project in Franciscan spirit

GREENSBORO — Inspired by the faith story of Third-order Secular Franciscan Anne Degiralamo and after watching a film about a Philadelphia soup kitchen, eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School logged more than 350 service hours in projects helping the city's poor and homeless. Students Mary Tate and Maggie Skrabec led the project, which amassed toiletries, clothes, food and other materials that were donated to area homeless shelters. "The students have more self esteem and have improved their performance at school," Degiralamo wrote in the Spring issue of The Franciscan Flyer newsletter. "The poor have benefited, not only in material ways, but in knowing that the community cares for them." The project was a collaborative effort including the Franciscan Family of Greensboro.

Our Lady of Mercy School receives Target grant

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy School recently was chosen from among 1,000 schools nationwide as the recipient of a $1,000 grant from Target stores. The "Target Outstanding Schools Award" was given based on fund-raising, volunteer work, community involvement and other factors involving the Winston-Salem Catholic school. Sandra McMonagle, principal, and Sister Geri Rogers, sixth-grade teacher, submitted the application.

MACS students win big at national Academic Games

CHARLOTTE — Students from the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system won individual and team awards recently at the national tournament of the Academic Games League of America, an innovative program of academic competition introduced into the MACS system five years ago. More than 100 students of MACS' five elementary and one middle schools participated in the program. Thirty-one MACS students participated in three of the six Academic Games' national competitions in Wheeling, W.Va., winning more than a dozen individual and team awards.

Bishop McGuinness awarded volunteer honors

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School and graduating senior Mary Addie Heaton have been awarded State Volunteer Organization of the Year and State Volunteer of the Year by Special Olympics North Carolina. Heaton was recognized for her involvement with Special Olympics through her high school years, including organizing a club whose sole purpose is to support Special Olympics functions in Forsyth Country. The club has more than 100 members who have logged over 1,000 volunteer hours. Heaton and Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School were honored by the Special Olympics North Carolina Piedmont Triad Area at a dinner in Greensboro May 12.

Greensboro parishioner inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Society

GREENSBORO — Stephanie Dorko, a rising senior at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., has been inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The daughter of Michael and Robin Dorko, she is a graduate of Grimsly High School and is a parishioner of St. Mary Catholic Church, both in Greensboro. She is a sociology major. Founded in Dec 1776 at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest undergraduate honors organization. The chapter at Trinity College, a Catholic liberal arts college for women, was established in 1971.

Classifieds

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Faith Formation: Our Lady of the Assumption parish seeks a full-time director for its faith formation programs. Candidates with experience in this parish ministry, or possessing a college background in theology or religious studies, are encouraged to apply. The competitive candidate will possess good organizational and interpersonal skills, and a vision of faith formation emphasizing grade school through middle school youth, but not excluding adults. Exemplary oral and written communication skills required, as well as basic computer skills. The salary range is mid to high 20's, commensurate with experience. Good benefits under diocesan coverage. Send resume with names of references as early as convenient to FF Search Committee: c/o Father Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the followign teaching positions open beginning August 1999. Full-time Social studies, full-time Biology/Environmental science. Must be NC certified. For application, call (704) 543-1127, Mon.-Thurs. 8am-11:30 am.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (Pre-K - 8) has the following part-time positions open beginning August 1999: Music, Librarian, Computer, and Counselor. All applicants must have, or be in a position to obtain, North Carolina certification. Please send resume to: Principal, Sacred Heart School, 123 N. Ellis St., Salisbury, NC 28144; Fax(704)633-6033.

Principal: An academically challenging school with 300 students in grades K4-8th is seeking to fill the position of Principal. Applicants shall have the following qualifications: master's degree in School Administration (or Administration courses); if not holding an Administrative degree, be willing to work for one; at least 5 years of teaching experience; have, or be eligible for, a South Carolina principal's certificate, or have certification from another state; be a practicing Catholic. For application, send resume to: Rev. Arturo Dalupang, St. Anthony Catholic Church and School, PO Box 5327, Florence, SC 29502.

Business Manager: Computer literate Business Manager wanted for local non-profit organization. Responsibilities include bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, payroll, taxes, financial reporting, budget preparation and supervision. Salary to the low $30's including full benefits and retirement program. Send resume to Search Committee, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia, NC 28052 or stmich@bellsouth.net.

Pastoral Musician: St. Paul the Apostle Parish is seeking a part-time Director of Music available August 1, 1999. Must possess skills in keyboard, vocal training, choral conducting, knowledge of Vatican II liturgy. Duties include coordination of music for all worship services, directing the Adult Choir, training parish cantors, providing music for all sacramental liturgies including funerals and weddings. Will work collaboratively with the pastoral staff and director of liturgy. Please submit resume to Rev. James O'Neill, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Director of Development: Bishop McGuinness High School, a diocesan college preparatory school, grades 9-12, is in search of a Director of Development and Public Relations for the 1999-2000 school year (to begin summer 1999). Responsibilities include oversight and coordination of all institutional advancement activities, including fundraising, alumni activities, liaison with media and public, student recruitment, and work with diocesan Development Office staff as school enters transition from current to new campuses. Qualifications: degree in appropriate field of preparation, experience in this or related field a plus; computer skills; demonstrated effectiveness in human relations and motivation; mastery of written communication for publicity purposes, etc. Send resume/qualifications to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27103.

Teachers: Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem, NC, a diocesan 9-12 college prep institution, needs teachers in the following areas for the coming school year: Modern Languages (Spanish, French), Math, and History. Send resume/application to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. (N.C. Certification/some experience preferred.)

Technology Services Coordinator: The Diocese of Savannah is seeking a Technology Services Coordinator. Applicant should have the experience and technical know-how to help create a communications system to link parishes, schools, and social service institutions in the diocese which encompasses South Georgia. Communications skills a must. Five years' experience required. Experience with radio/TV technology a plus. Please request application form and send resume and salary expectations to: Office Communications, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196 or by e-mail to Diosav@msn.com

Accounting Manager: The Diocese of Savannah has an immediate opening for a Diocesan Accounting Manager. Individual will be responsible for all accounting activity including cash receipts and disbursements, general ledger, journal entries, and all financial reporting and analysis. This position is a member of the Finance Council. Individual will also provide support to parishes for accounting matters. Candidates should have a BS in Business Administration with a major in Accounting, 3 to 5 years of professional experience, preferable in the not-for-profit or fund accounting field. Managerial experience is a plus. Good communications and an understanding of parish life are necessary. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Send resume with references to: Diocese of Savannah, Mr. John Benware, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401 or fax: (912)238-2335.

Pastoral Services Director: professional, ministerial supervision and facilitation of worship and service in parish life. Motivated and creative person needed to serve a growing, active faith community of 700 families north of Raleigh. Master's degree in Theology or Pastoral Administration and a minimum of 3 years' experience preferred. Responsibilities include RCIA, liturgy committee, social concerns, health care, parish hospitality, and effective participation in team ministry. Availability for pastoral counsel and crisis intervention important. Active, Confirmed Catholic supportive of our Church's history and tradition a must. Full-time position. Salary and benefits. Send resume with salary requirements and professional references to: Search Committee, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 520 W. Holding Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587.

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith Formation): Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Charlotte area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3244. Inquiries: (704)370-3244. Deadline: July 15, 1999.

House Cleaners: $12/hour. 9 hours a week: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday daytimes. Charlotte area. Call Maid in Heaven: (704)643-5545.

Organist: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, North Carolina is seeking a full-time organist to assist our music director. Applicants must be fully competent on organ and piano, able to lead congregation in singing, coach cantors, and function as music director for weddings and funerals. Send resume to Music Director, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. (336)274-6520. Fax (336)274-7326.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following positions open beginning August 1999: Primary teachers; Assistant principal; Physical Education; and part time for Art, Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. All must have North Carolina certification. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Director of Music/Organist: St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202. 750-family congregation. Four weekend masses and holy days; one adult choir; work with faith formation/children; 35-40 hours/week. Salary negotiable, commensurate with experience; additional fees for weddings and funerals; retirement benefits; continuing ed; 4 weeks vacation. Written contract. Two-manual Zimmer renovated in 1993. Position open 8/1/99. Contact Alan Houck at church address or (704)875-7440 days;(704)948-9536 evenings; (704)875-7473 fax; saraalan@sprynet.com.

Kindergarten Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher to teach Kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. The teacher will be responsible for teaching all subjects including Religion. Please send resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Middle School Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher in the Middle School starting December 6, 1999 through June 2000. The teacher will be responsible for teaching Language Arts. Please send resume to: Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Assisted Living Caregivers: Homemakers and CNA's - enjoy rewarding work with flexible part-time schedules as a Kelly Assisted Living caregiver. If you have life skills and are caring and compassionate, please call us in Charlotte at (704)523-7884.

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and part-time needed, all shifts. Prefer experience in developmental disabilities. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound. Year round position. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Home for Sale: 3Bedroom/2Bath Modular Home (No land). Includes 42" riding mower, utility shed, carport, and other extras. $25,000 fully furnished or $20,000 unfurnished. Call (704)597-1545.

Beach Home for Sale: Ocean Isle Beach. 4 Bedrooms, plus sleep loft (or, den/5th bedroom). 3 1/2 baths. Furnished with style. Gated community - west end. Walk to beach. Pool. Tennis. Year-round enjoyment; fireplace; ample room to entertain. Lou Hayes Realty, agent Bill R. $294,500. (888)-398-7086. (Seller is St. Matthew parishioner.)

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for granting my petition.
—S.C.

Adoption Picnic, from page 1

that despite some adjustment problems, the boys are doing well. Vasily spoke no English when he came to America from a Russian orphanage for gifted and talented children, but has won a presidential award for academic improvement at his new school. He played the French horn at the orphanage and will be in advanced band in middle school this fall.

"He's just the kindest, nicest child you could ever want," Clara said. "I'm so lucky, and my father had wanted grandchildren for years. He's 90, and they love him, too."

Because she is not married, she felt it would be easier to adopt outside the United States, and she feared that an American adoption might be overturned if the birth parents wanted to reclaim the children in the future.

"Once you give your heart," she said, "that's a hard thing to give back."

Lyle Staub and his wife, Kathie, of Atlanta, also were concerned about televised reports of adopted children who had been returned to their biological parents. The Staubs have a son, Matthew, but wanted another child.

"We looked around," Staub said. "We went through the Internet. We went to Mass one day and got the bulletin, and there was something about adoption."

The Staubs started the adoption process in June 1997, working with Lois Miller. In February 1998 they traveled to Moscow to pick up their 10-month-old daughter, Alex.

"All I knew was, when we touched down in New York no one could take her away from me; that was my daughter," Staub said. "It's the best thing we ever did. Actually, I said to Kathie three or four months after we got Alex, 'Well, are you ready to go back?' I'd do it again. I'd do it in a heartbeat."

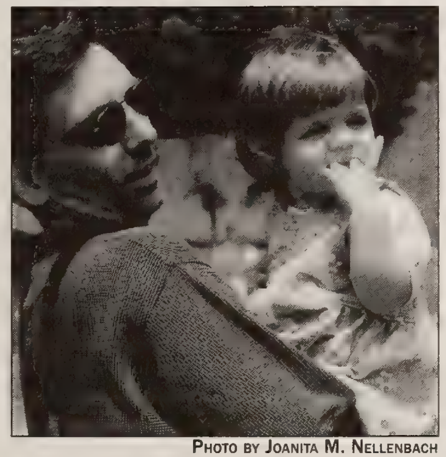


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Safe in Dad's arms, Emma Sidon, 18 months old, checks out the action at the international adoption picnic. Her new parents are Jim and Marlene Sidon of Atlanta.

Other parents also said they had sought international adoption as a way to prevent losing their children to the birth parents.

Elizabeth Thurbee, director of CSS for the Charlotte Diocese said her agency found adoptive parents for 23 American children last year.

"We have a very active domestic program," she said. "We've done a good job of placing white infants, black infants, and biracial infants. A good number of the people who adopt internationally are older. Many times they may be in second marriages. They may have children from a previous marriage, but they haven't had the opportunity of parenting together."

Parents who choose to go the international route often do so, she said, because they believe they will not have to wait as long and because they want an infant. Since its first adoption, in 1994, the IAP has placed 175 to 200 children, 95 percent from Russia. The other 5 percent are from China.

Carol and Elizabeth visit Russian orphanages every six months to photograph and videotape children available for adoption. The children are initially available only for adoption in Russia. After about three months, if no Russian families want to adopt them, they are eligible for international placement.

Chinese officials will not allow outsiders to visit that country's orphanages; an office in Beijing assigns the children for adoption. For either country, adoption takes one to two years.

International adoption is an opportunity for children to thrive who might not otherwise have much a chance to survive and grow. That's the case with Elena, 11 1/2 months old, who came home to Asheville with her new parents, Linda and Alan Geer just a week before the picnic. During the picnic, Elena was smiling away, despite a cleft palate the split her upper lip all the way to the back of the roof of her mouth.

"We had always planned on doing a special needs adoption," Linda said. "Carol said, 'How about going to Russia?'"

Russian officials were mystified by the Geers' desire to adopt Elena.

"Our facilitator just couldn't understand why we wanted her," Carol Meyerriecks said. "We asked if she would have the (corrective) operation there, and they said, 'How can you even ask? We don't have food, and you want her to have an operation?'"

After parents have spent several days getting to know their prospective child, they make the final decision to adopt. They go to a Russian court to finalize the adoption before bringing the child home.

After returning home, Elizabeth Thurbee said, "They have to refinalize the adoption in the United States, and then they have to apply for citizenship for their child."

It's all worth it, as far as the parents are concerned.

"With Lois and Carol and everyone else involved, it's for the kids," Lyle Staub said. "You can see how much love they have for the kids. If there are saints on this earth, it's those two ladies. I mean, look at these families, how happy they are. Look at these children; they're beautiful." ▼

Catholic Social Services is currently seeking adoptive families for children from infancy to school age in their Russian and Chinese programs. For more information, contact Carol Meyerriecks, (828) 255-0146.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools with 7 schools and 4,100 students, is seeking an outstanding candidate to provide learning disabilities and gifted education leadership for these established programs.

Responsibilities include: 1) oversee the learning support and learning enrichment activities programs; 2) supervise the learning support teacher at each of the 7 schools; 3) develop and implement policies and procedures related to the programs; 4) assist the director of admissions in evaluating student needs; 5) coordinate title 1 and speech/language/hearing screenings; 6) submit quarterly program reports to the superintendent.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in special education, school psychology, or other related field. Experience in elementary classroom education and supervision is helpful. Computer expertise a plus.

Candidates with multicultural experience and/or bilingual skills preferred.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Twelve-month position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by July 16 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL
Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick Catholic School, a kindergarten through 5th grade school, enrolls 400 students with a professional staff of 35. St. Patrick is fully accredited by the state of North Carolina, the Diocese of Charlotte and is in the application process for SACS accreditation.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in educational administration, supervision, education or a related field and be certified or certifiable as an elementary school principal in the state of North Carolina. Applicant must have teaching and administrative experience in the elementary grades. St. Patrick is located in Charlotte, NC and is part of a regional school system: Mecklenberg Area Catholic Schools.

Candidates with multicultural experience and/or bilingual skills preferred.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by July 7 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Buying? Selling? Relocating?
RE/MAX® Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320, Charlotte, NC 28277
- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
(704) 543-6680 (800) 726-1231 *relocarolina@mindspring.com* *"Your Realtor for Life."*

State honors CSS Hand to Hand program

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — A Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Social Services project designed to reduce teen pregnancy has been honored by a state agency that provides services to children and families.

Hand to Hand, a CSS adolescent mentoring program operating in Forsyth County since 1989, was selected as one of six state award winners for 1999 by the North Carolina Partnership for Children.

The Catholic Social Services program was recognized in the Family Support category.

Constance McVey, director for Hand to Hand, accepted the award on behalf of the program at a Smart Start Awards Banquet attended by Governor James Hunt in Raleigh on May 25.

"The Hand to Hand program is based on our respect and our value for all life," McVey said recently. "We think it's very unfortunate that these young girls are in these positions as early as they are. However, they have chosen not to have abortions but to bear their children."

"Outreach to women and children, and upholding the sanctity of life are what we're all about," McVey said. "We teach the importance of family and having a value system."

The Hand to Hand program provides a variety of learning and support services to first-time pregnant and parenting teens, the majority of whom are under 15 years of age. Serving about 100 young women each year, the program educates clients about possibilities of adoption as a way of forming families, and supports them in parenting efforts if they decide to raise their children themselves.

McVey said the program instills three goals in clients: self-sufficiency, healthy births and parenting skills, and postponement of any future pregnancies until clients are in different life positions. The program model works, McVey said. "Nationally, a young woman who has a baby as a teen-ager typically has a second child within 24 months," she said. Among the clients in the Hand to Hand Program, less than 5 percent have a second child in that same timeframe, she said.

In addition, eight clients are graduating from high school, and one is graduating with honors from college this year. "When it bears fruit, it's so wonderful," McVey said of the program.

Clients sign contracts and are held to high standards: They attend school, work, and reach for personal goals. No case of child abuse or neglect by any program participant has ever been substantiated, McVey added, a fact she said also speaks of the program's educational success.

Of North Carolina's urban areas, Forsyth County has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates, according to McVey. Citing North Carolina Department of Health and Natural Resources statistics, she said that in 1997 there were 815 pregnancies in the 10-19 age group here.

When considering that nearly 300 of those pregnancies ended in induced abortions, teen pregnancy becomes an even more complex issue, McVey said.

Clients of the Hand to Hand program are either referred by themselves, other agencies or entities such as health departments, churches and schools. They enter the program on a voluntary basis. Unlike many social work models where social workers provide services to other groups, the Hand to Hand program utilizes adult mentors who are paired with clients for one year.

The volunteer mentors are trained, and they commit to three to five hours each week with the clients. "That involves role modeling, making sure they get medical care; they really develop a relationship, a lot a like a big sister," McVey said.

The mentors are the backbone of the program, McVey explained. "Children need role models more than they need critics," she said. "The population that we're working with has a lot of things to struggle against already."

McVey said many clients come from poverty, broken homes, and environments where education is not valued. The mentor-client relationship, she added, allows the young women to understand the consequences of life decisions and invites involvement by family members and other supporters.

The program is funded by Catholic Social Services, the Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership, the United Way of Forsyth County, and the North Carolina Department of Social Services.

"We try to be unconditionally accepting of them as people, but not particularly of negative behaviors," McVey said of the program's clients, who come from a variety of family, educational and faith backgrounds. Because it provides people to listen and personal attention, the program reinforces clients' belief in themselves, McVey added.

"Outreach to women and children, and upholding the sanctity of life are what we're all about," McVey said. "We teach the importance of family and having a value system."

"We have a wonderful, strong, Christian staff of women who believe in these young women. It's not a job; it's a ministry. We count it a great privilege to be trusted by God to minister to these young women." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

The "Pink Lady" This lively statue is an artist's interpretation of Mary. The small bronze plaque at the base reads, "Hail Mary, full of grace." The statue, locally referred to as the "Pink Lady" can be seen at St. Jude Church in Sapphire Valley. The statue was completed by the late Fran Trainor, who was a parishioner at the church.

Photo courtesy of A.J. Mackie

All American
Service to Asheville Buyers & Sellers
Over 40 Years Experience in 3 States
Member of:
National Assn. of REALTORS®
Asheville Board of REALTORS®
Asheville Multiple Listing
Asheville Chamber of Commerce
Asheville Executive Sales Assn.
St. Eugene's Church
American Real Estate Associates, Inc.
TOM "DIXIE" NIELSEN
REALTOR®, Broker
"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
% of fees or compensation donated to your charity or house of worship
828-299-9211 toll-free: 877-OL-GLORY
E-mail: American-realestate@bigfoot.com

Living Water flows through a diocesan endowment.
When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...
Enable Perpetual Support
Every year, your "living water" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.
Ensure a Strong Future
Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.
Enact a Lasting Legacy
Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values: Your faith and the mission of the Church.
Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. — John 4:14
For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

***********************3-DIGIT 275
42083 5303 P1
NC COLLECTION
UNC
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

July 9, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 40

Inside

Johnson elected president of NC Council of Churches ...Page 3

Survey: Women make up nearly half of U.S. diocesan professionals ...Page 7

Jubilee: Priests celebrate anniversaries, recognize retirement ...Page 13

Local News

FIRE Rally invites rekindling of faith ...Page 9

"Brother Bill" is staple at mountain parish ...Page 16

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 4-5

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

> **"Ye are the light of the world. ...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**
>
> —*Matthew 5:14, 16*

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Holy Family Parish joined the village township of Clemmons as Host Homes families for Special Olymipcs athletes, with guests from Macau. From left to right, Cynthia Pao, translates words of welcome from Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. In the second picture, enthusiasm speaks volumes, and to the right, a young member of Holy Family wears her souvenir; a tee-shirt autographed — largely in Chinese — by her new friends from Macau.

It takes a village

Village Township, parish rally to support Special Olympics

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CLEMMONS — Sometimes children speak an international language few adults can comprehend. Sometimes they communicate through universal games or through some form of a sign language only they understand. But always they speak in smiles.

Cantonese and English are galaxies apart linguistically. But miles of smiles filled Holy Family parish and permeated the village township of Clemmons. And for one week in June, a cultural gap narrowed between North Carolina and Macau. Along the way, a bond of friendship was sealed as Holy Family rallied in support for their new friends: Special Olympics athletes from across the international dateline.

This summer's Special Olympics brought 7,000 athletes, 2,000 coaches and 15,000 family members from more than 150 countries to North Carolina. It would take — by all estimates — close to 35,000 volunteers to secure the success of the 10th Special Olympics World Summer Games.

To accommodate the worldwide contingency, 120 North Carolina towns and villages opened their homes and hearts to special athletes from all points on the globe. Within the towns, the Knights of Columbus became special players in their own right.

In 70 percent of those host towns, Knights of Columbus have councils. And each council within the state took on visitors from afar. In Clemmons, the 20 athletes and 11 coaches from Macau got a taste of southern hospitality, compliments of the Knights Council #9499 and Holy Family parish.

"We've rolled out the red carpet," said John Harrison, outgoing State Deputy for the N.C. Knights of Columbus and member of Holy Family parish in Clemmons. Harrison and his wife, Anne also opened their home for two athletes and a coach.

Chairperson for Clemmons host town program, Frank Petto spent months getting groups of volunteers together. Committees for transportation, medical, entertainment, and fundraising were but a few of the tasks that took temporary hold of Petto's life. Like a proud papa, he's puffed with the pride. "It was worth every second," said Petto, who's also a parishioner and Knight at Holy Family. Without hesitation he added, "It's the host families that made it all happen."

The day before the Macau contingency would depart for the games, Holy Family parish threw a dinner party to honor their guests: Turkey and all the trimmings, a typical American feast on the table, laughter and hugs filled the room.

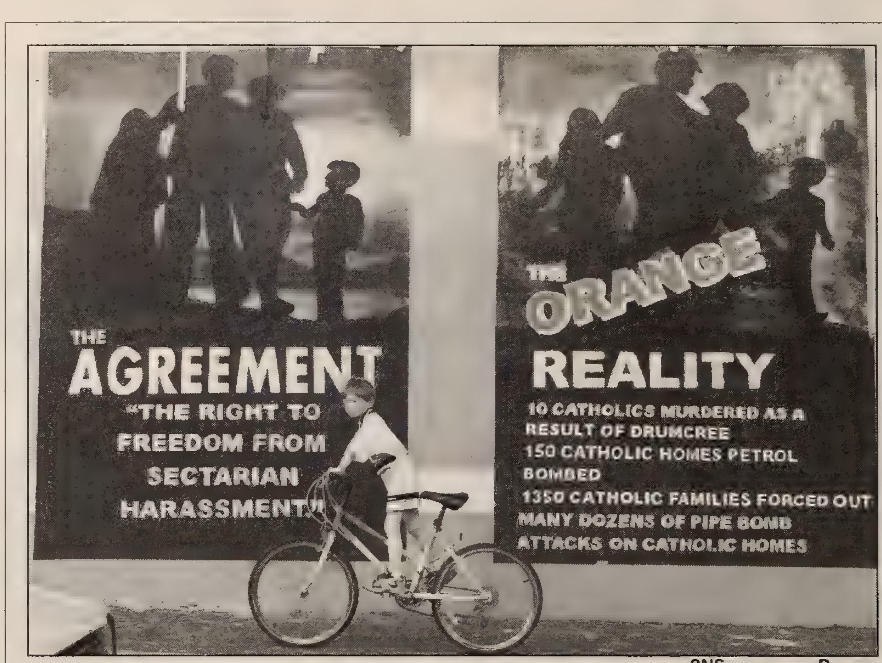
Many of the Knights cashed in vacation hours to volunteer for the duration of the Special Olympics, giving a week in the 90 degree, near-equal humid days typical in the early summer days in the Carolinas.

Financially, the Knights of Columbus established themselves as players in yet another arena: as Bronze level Special Olympics sponsor, investing about a quarter million dollars in support of these special summer games, with half of the funds coming from the 103 councils across the Tar Heel State.

Along athletic venues, Knights of Columbus served in areas of food serving, accreditation, security, venue management, family services, and other roles as needed. N.C. Knights co-sponsored badminton, helped out with basketball, and maintained a presence at the airport and in the World Games Festival Park on the Meredith College campus. If a request sounded for volunteers, Knights were quick to heed the call.

It's easy to see what draws the Knights to respond so generously in time and treasure to these special athletes. As part of their dedication to charity, Knights of Columbus historically provide aid to programs for people with mental retardation. It is one of their key missions. Moreover,

See SPECIAL OLYMPICS, page 15



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Mural in Belfast

A mural in a nationalist area of Belfast July 5 indicates ongoing hurdles in the implementation of the peace plan for Northern Ireland. At this time of year, the Protestant Orange Order holds its annual marches, some of which meander through heavily Catholic areas.

Caritas Mexico receives papal donation for earthquake victims

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico's national Caritas organization received $50,000 from Pope John Paul II to aid victims of a June earthquake. About 25 people were killed and 7,700 homes were destroyed in the southeastern states of Puebla and Oaxaca by the June 15 quake, which measured 6.7 on the Richter scale. The earthquake also shook large areas of central Mexico, including Mexico City, where minor damage was reported. Ricardo Bucio, coordinator of Caritas, and other officials received the papal donation in a ceremony July 1. Caritas is the Catholic Church's charitable agency in the country.

Bishops support amnesty bill for immigrants caught in loophole

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops are backing a House bill to give legal status to immigrants who have resided in the country for years but whose applications for asylum have been rejected because of a misinterpretation of the law. On behalf of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Kevin Appleby, USCC director of migration and refugee policy, announced support of H.R. 2125, the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999, introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas. As many as 350,000 individuals could be affected. Appleby spoke June 30 to a group of about 50 amnesty supporters on the Capitol grounds.

Catholic church dedicated in Kazakhstan's capital

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The first Catholic church has opened in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, a year after the city was inaugurated as the ex-Soviet republic's new capital. German Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne dedicated the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at a June 27 Mass, concelebrated by the Vatican's nuncio to Kazakhstan, Archbishop Marian Oles, and Kazakhstan's apostolic administrator, Bishop Jan Lenga. In his homily, Cardinal Meisner said the opening of the church would give the Christian cross a "permanent presence" in the new capital, whose Catholic parish has been headed by Jesuit Father Otto Messmer since 1988.

Archbishop paints grim picture of Latin American church, society

CLEVELAND (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Latin America faces huge challenges in the form of economic injustices, political corruption, aggressive sects and its own failure to grow, according to the immediate past president of the Latin American bishops' council. Archbishop Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, presented a grim picture of the state of the church in Latin America in a June 25 talk to a conference at John Carroll University in Cleveland. The June 24-27 conference, billed as "dialogue within U.S. Catholic higher education about Latin America" was sponsored by the Association of Catholic Colleges and University and the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Latin America, both based in Washington; the Diocese of Cleveland; and Jesuit-run John Carroll University.

Vatican official says world refugee situation has worsened

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world's refugee situation has worsened with changes in warfare, and tactics such as those used in Kosovo have become more common, a Vatican official said. "War today targets civilians more than ever before," U.S. Divine Word Father Michael A. Blume, who heads the office for the pastoral care of refugees at the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers said in a June 25 interview. "In turn, larger parts of these populations are forced to flee their homes and even their countries."

Even the fittest won't survive current rural crisis, farmers say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Survival of the fittest won't hold sway in the latest rural crisis, said farmers testifying June 23 at a Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing. Some farmers were weeded out in the 1960s by bad management practices; others were driven from the farm by the high interest rates of the 1980s. But now family farmers are hit by a "triple whammy" of "bad prices, bad weather and bad policy," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., who ran the hearing. Wendell Berry, a Catholic farmer from Kentucky who has written books about farming life, testified at the hearing that, more than "immediate answers," a "complete debate" on rural policy is needed.

Irish bishops warn growing tensions may increase parades violence

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Ireland's bishops expressed concern about growing sectarian tensions in Northern Ireland, saying it increases the likelihood of violence as the Protestant marching season reaches its height. "The fact that I am based in Belfast (Northern Ireland) gives me some insight into these problems," said Bishop Patrick Walsh of Down and Connor. "We have seen the murder of Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neill in Portadown and the frightening discovery of pipe bombs in Lurgan. Despite what some people are saying, these are not mindless attacks, they are deliberate, bigoted and sectarian." Speaking on behalf of the bishops of all Ireland in mid-June, Bishop Walsh called on all parties involved in peace talks to resume negotiations.

CCC to help publicize national toll-free service on Mass times

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign has announced it will publicize a service aimed at Catholics traveling around the United States. They can find a nearby Mass by dialing 1-800-Mass-Times, which also is the name of the service. Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee for Communications, announced the partnership June 21. The committee oversees the CCC. "In his recent letter on the Lord's Day, Pope John Paul II reminded Catholics of the importance of Sunday Mass observance," said Bishop Lynch an announcement released in Washington. "1-800-Mass-Times provides a practical way for traveling Catholics to celebrate Mass on Sundays and holy days."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
July 9, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 40
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 11 — 4 pm
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 12 - 15
Provincial Meeting
Bishops of the Carolinas and Georgia

July 18 — 11 am
25th Anniversary of the Parish
St. Paul the Apostle
War Memorial Auditorium
Greensboro

July 18 — 5-7 pm
Dedication of Catholic Social
Services Facility
Winston-Salem

July 20
Catholic Social Services
Board of Directors meeting
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory

July 20 - 21
Priest Continuing Education Day
Living Waters Reflection Center
Maggie Valley

July 24
Mass with Catholic Singles
of Charlotte

July 31 — 4:30 pm
10th Anniversary of the Parish
St. Bernadette
Linville

Diocesan planner

July

11 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrates a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck meal follows the Mass. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

12 CHARLOTTE — Bible study begins today through July 16 at St. Patrick's Cathedral from 9 a.m. to noon. For details, call Lori at (704) 376-7805.

CHARLOTTE — "Life in the Spirit," a four-week seminar on understanding the role of the Holy Spirit, begins today from 7-9 p.m. and will continue every Monday night through Aug 12 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Registration fee is $10 for books and will be taken tonight at 6:45 in the church foyer. Baby-sitting is available at no

Not just a person in the pews:

CSS staffer elected president of NC Council of Churches

ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Trying to catch Bridget Brown Johnson is a difficult task; she travels and works at the speed of light. Now, with her recent election to the presidency of the North Carolina Council of Churches, she will become even busier.

Johnson will be at the helm of the organization which is involved with many issues such as reforming social and racial injustice, aiding migrant farm workers and victims of natural disasters, and providing health care for disadvantaged youth.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is a 63-year-old ecumenical organization devoted to promoting solidarity and unity among over 20 various religious denominations across the state including the Roman Catholic Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Southern and American Baptist Churches, and many others.

> **"She brings a wealth of experience both as a parishioner and as a leader of the council and various programs. Her election is especially significant because the council has been active for over 60 years, and she is the second Catholic person, after myself, to be elected."**
>
> *—Father George Kloster, ecumenical minister for the Diocese of Charlotte*

Johnson is currently a member of the Advisory Council for the Justice and Peace Office and has been a volunteer for a host of diocesan organizations, such as the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Greensboro Urban Ministry, and others. Along with her new role as president of the council, she has also served as the chairperson of the Campaign for Human Development Committee and the Community Life Commission and a participant with the Steering Committee of the Greensboro Catholic Literacy Project and the Diocesan Board for the Office of Faith Formation.

How does this woman divide her time between her family and her work? To find out, one must travel back to her childhood and early adulthood years in Seattle, Wash.

Johnson's parents, who raised her in the Catholic faith, had a large influence on her life. They were actively involved in the church and their community, which inspired her to do the same as she grew older.

"They set a good example, and they always said that you should do what you can for others if you are blessed with the ability," Johnson added.

Her parents also opened their home to adopt biracial children and become foster parents.

Johnson stated that her parents' desire to raise a family of seven of different nationalities "raised her awareness and social consciousness."

When she entered college, she was already personally involved with race relations and integration, so she worked to improve conditions on campus.

After meeting her husband and earning her sociology degree, the couple moved to Greensboro, and she became a member of St. Paul the Apostle Church and immediately became involved with her new church community.

Johnson describes herself back then as an "at-home mom doing volunteer work because I wanted my church parish to become more visible in the city."

"I didn't want to be just a person in the pews," remarked Johnson.

Simple volunteering led to deeper involvement with committees and in the community, which led her to Catholic Social Services. When Sister Anne Joseph Edelen of the Daughters of Charity was transferred to South Carolina, she suggested that Johnson replace her as parish area coordinator because of her dedication and service. This was a position the sister had created in conjunction with the satellite office of Catholic Social Services in Greensboro. Moreover, it was Sister Anne's idea to "start a network of people doing parish social ministry."

After becoming parish area coordinator of Catholic Social Services, Johnson became affiliated with the North Carolina Council of Churches after being asked to attend an annual meeting as a delegate. She sat on the executive board, became vice-president, and was subsequently nominated for the position of president of the council.

She added that "this isn't like an election because it's not as technical; it's an honor because they asked me to serve."

She admitted that she did not

See JOHNSON, page 14

THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
THE CHANCERY

July 9, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of July 17-18, the U.S. Mission Collection will be taken in the parishes of our Diocese. This was previously called the "Collection for Black and Indian Missions" and the "Home Missions Collection."

The purpose of this collection is Evangelization; it helps ensure that the Good News is made available for the Black and Native American communities of this country and that there are priests, religious and laity available to minister for the Church in these areas.

Support from this collection goes to some of the neediest people of the United States - from the inner cities of the rural South, from the deserts of the Southwest, to Alaska's cold wilderness.

Asking your generous response to this collection and wishing you and yours God's abundant blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

---

extra cost. For details, call Lisa Gray at (704) 543-0489.

CLEMMONS — There is a charismatic Mass celebrated today and every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Road.

15 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today and each third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd.

16 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick or Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

17 GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Airport Marriott from 7:00 to midnight. The cost is $30 per person.

18 BREVARD — A Spanish Mass is being celebrated today and every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. through Sept. 5 at Sacred Heart, 4 Fortune Cove.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle's 25th anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin at 10:45 a.m. at the War Memorial Auditorium. A reception follows immediately after Mass. Vouchers for the reception are still available for a $2 donation to charity. For ticket and voucher information, call Nadine Whitacre at (336) 282-1493.

REIDSVILLE — Spanish Mass and meal for migrant workers is taking place today at Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Drive. The Mass begins at 1 p.m. with the meal following the Mass at 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to serve, and these items are neeeded: potluck, side dishes, casseroles, desserts, fruit, and soft drinks. To volunteer or to ask about donating food, call Dolores Ahrens (336) 272-2824.

Upcoming

HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate Aug. 1 through Aug. 6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council 939 Knights of Columbus are hosting a golf tournament Aug 22 at Jamestown Golf Course. There is a $40 fee for lunch, tee time, and cart. Tee times off #1 and #10 at 12:30. Singles and foursomes call Joe Doria at (336) 454-4728 or Bob Thomas at (336) 698-1729. Proceeds to benefit General Charity Fund of Council 939.

BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Women in the Word will continue to meet during the summer on two Friday mornings each month in Room D of the St. Gabriel Ministry Center. Call Kathee Varner at (704) 543-8769 or Julia LeGrand at (704) 362-3011 for details.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

At audience, pope says pallium signifies church communion

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A sacred vestment presented to archbishops by the pope signifies their communion with the church, Pope John Paul II told pilgrims at St. Peter's Square.

"The ancient rite by which the pope bestows the pallium upon newly named metropolitan archbishops is a symbol of the communion of the church's pastors in the apostolic tradition," the pope said at his June 30 general audience. "The pallium is also a reminder that each metropolitan shares in Peter's mission of strengthening the church's unity in faith and fraternal love."

The previous day, in an annual Mass at the Vatican on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the pope presented palliums to 37 new archbishops, including one from the United States and two Canadians.

The white, wool bands ornamented with six small crosses are worn around the neck and shoulders with pendant strips at the breast and back. They symbolize full episcopal authority.

Pope John Paul noted in his audience talk that the pallium's wool was "a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd, whom the church's pastors are called to imitate."

Holding the pallium ceremony near St. Peter's tomb, the pope said, "recalls his ultimate witness to the Lord" — his martyrdom in Rome. St. Paul also was put to death in that city, Pope John Paul pointed out.

Those who wear the pallium, he said, are "successors to the Apostles and are chosen by God as shepherds to lead the faithful."

The pope added that archbishops are "called to be among the principal builders of the unity of the church, which expresses itself in the profession of the one faith and in fraternal charity."

Pope John Paul said archeological and academic studies dated the wearing of palliums to "the first centuries of the Christian era. We therefore find ourselves before an ancient tradition which has accompanied the church practically through all of its history."

Pope clears way for beatification of two Fatima children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has approved the last document needed for the beatification of two Portuguese children who saw the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima in 1917. The June 28 decree marked the Vatican's acceptance of a miracle attributed to the intercession of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two shepherd children who were with their cousin, Lucia dos Santos — a Carmelite nun still living — when Mary appeared at Fatima, Portugal.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Bread and memories

Precious memories come sometimes with color, taste and texture. One of mine comes with fragrance — the comforting, nourishing smell of bread baking in the home.

I remember my grandmother's loaves as they came out of a big brick oven in the house my grandparents built after the turn of the century when they came to America from Italy. And I nostalgically recall the odors in our kitchen in my childhood when my mother baked bread every week.

I used to bake bread with my late son John, but stopped after his untimely death nearly six years ago. Now I am feeling the lure of getting my hands kneading dough again, thanks to my daughter Mary's husband Rick Van Valkenburg.

Rick, who calls bread-making a sacred act, thought it would be nice if people all over the world could share their bread recipes. So a few years ago he set up a web site that is a worldwide recipe-exchange service (www.upword.com/bread).

There is no buying or selling of these recipes on the Free Internet Bread Recipe Archive. His motivation was truly spiritual. "I thought if I put up some recipes and invited others around the world to do the same, we could achieve a kind of global communion, not physically breaking bread, but sharing recipes," Rick told me.

There are now more than 100 bread recipes on Rick's site, coming in from bread bakers as far away as South Africa and Norway.

For Rick this is a way of electronically communicating something that is sacramental — "not that the people responding would be aware of this."

What the recipe-senders wouldn't know is Rick's personal story of why bread became so important to him. Rick is a twin. He and his brother Eric were so identical they often were called to do TV commercials featuring twins.

Earlier this decade Eric contracted AIDS. "I couldn't do much about his illness, but I could make him bread," said Rick, who was devastated by his brother's illness. He thought of the loaves as giving Eric "the bread of life."

Rick brought Eric bread every week for almost three years. The day Eric didn't take the bread, Rick knew the end was near. "He stayed alive as long as he took the bread. He really had an extra year in his life. It was not expected — like a miracle."

The free bread-recipe web site is, in a way, Eric's legacy.

I have watched Rick make bread and can feel his sincerity when he says that "making break is a sacred act. It starts with a seed, collected by man, but planted in earth. It's like an offering to God, created with your hands.

"You give shape to it and put it into an oven, like a womb that gives nourishment. Then God blesses it and makes it live."

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

It's OK to change your mind

I bought a pair of shoes today that I didn't want and paid way too much for them.

I want a pair of brown loafers, with a bit of style. But last week, I saw an ad for semiboring brown loafers. It's a top brand, and the price was excellent. I could almost hear my mother's voice, "They're very practical, Chris, and it's such a good price."

I couldn't get into the store, but I called a salesman and asked him to hold a pair.

When I went in today, the smiling salesman brought my shoes out. "Boring," I thought, "but so practical." I handed him my card, and he cheerfully wrapped them up.

I was on my way to the parking lot — a bit disappointed but feeling quite responsible and grown up. I looked at the sales slip to reassure myself of the soundness of my decision.

My jaw dropped. Instead of the advertised sale price, these shoes cost nearly $100 more than I expected to pay.

I walked right back into the store. "You didn't give me the sale price."

"Oh," he responded with a hint of condescension, "this brand never goes on sale. These are the ones that were marked down," he said, pointing to a truly ugly pair of shoes.

"My mistake," I replied, and walked back out.

About half way home, I started kicking myself. Why did I buy these dumb shoes?

Reflecting, I found that there were several reasons — none of them very good.

First, I didn't want the salesman to think I'm a loser. I felt stupid, not knowing which shoes were on sale, and cheap, not being ready for the fancy price.

Second, I had inconvenienced the salesman. He had set the shoes back for me. Didn't I owe him something for his trouble?

Finally, I'd said I wanted them, and once I say I'm doing something I do it — even if it turns out to be stupid. I get pig-headed.

Dumb, dumb, dumb. They are boring shoes, and they cost too much. I don't want them, but I have them.

There are lots of times in your life when changing your mind is important, and it can take some courage.

Let's say you agree to go with some friends to an amusement park — but then you learn it will cost every dime you've got saved. If it's what you really want, then go. But if you're doing it just so the others won't think you're cheap, that's a mistake. It takes guts to pull out, and it's still the right thing to do.

Or maybe you're invited to a party, but after a while everybody's getting wasted on marijuana. You're not into that. Sure, you accepted the invitation, but you don't owe anybody anything. There's no obligation to hang around. Nobody will be all that impressed if you stay or all that put out if you leave.

Finally, saying you'll do something doesn't mean you must do it every time. Life brings new information, and sometimes we need to make new decisions. What looks like a good plan may end up a mistake.

There are times when you let go of your plans and do something different. Changing course can be a really good idea.

By the way, the dumb brown shoes are going back to the store tomorrow.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Leisure and learning

Ah, the joys of summer vacation! Swimming, sunning, barbecues, and . . . learning! (Did he say, "Learning"?) You bet! Especially if your vacation plans include visiting somebody like my brother Denny.

Like the ancient Greeks who used the word "school" to signify "leisure," my brother has always viewed vacation as an opportunity for discovery. A career military man, now retired, Denny and his family have been stationed at army posts hither and yon for over 25 years. I have had the good fortune to visit with them at just about all of them, and each furlough became a tutorial of sorts.

You see, my brother is one of those happily incurable historians whose appetite for the past, particularly military and cultural history, is voracious. When he settles into a new area — be it Augsburg, Germany, or his current home, Williamsburg, Va. — he raids the local libraries, ferreting out colorful details and lore of the region.

This summer's visit was particularly special because it was the occasion of his daughter's wedding, and I was privileged to officiate at the ceremony. A whole crowd of folks from our side of the family as well as the groom's family and friends were there. My brother enthusiastically planned a full day walking tour and seminar on 17th Century America from Jamestown to Williamsburg for all of us.

As we started to walk among tobacco plants, Denny told us how the "golden weed" became such a money-maker for England's King James I that he decided to support the colony instead of abandoning it to Spanish conquistadors. Interestingly, the king hated smoking and forbade it in his presence.

John Rolfe had acquired the tobacco seeds from Spain and brought them with him. Early on, the settlement could have easily been overrun by the local Powhatan Indians, but the chief wanted to learn as much as he could first about technological advantages such as guns, boat construction and metallurgy.

This strategy led to a few years of peace and tranquility as Rolfe married the chief's daughter Pocahontas, who took the name Rebecca at her baptism. Travelling to England with two other Powhatans, she was secretly on a fact gathering mission and acted as her father's "eyes and ears." But pneumonia claimed her at the age of twenty, shortly after giving birth to a son, Thomas.

As a young army officer Thomas later went to Jamestown to quash hostilities with the Powhatans, who were already being decimated by the "European sickness," or smallpox. The disease was spread by the settlers' clothing and food. Sadly, by 1680, the tribe had dwindled from 15,000 to less than 3,000.

With each step, Denny fascinated his captive audience with the human drama of the colonial Jamestown settlement with its painstakingly restored ships and forts, clapboard homes and Indian villages. Life in 1607 became very real.

They say that history repeats itself. No, not the specific events, but in the attitudes and decisions that can lead to success or failure, to tolerance and respect or to hatred and violence. I am lucky to have had such a good teacher. If only we can all remember the lesson — and take the trouble to pass it along.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What happens at the final judgment?

Q. On the last day, at the final judgment, will all our sins be made public to everyone? I am 85 years old and always believed that, but my children tell me they do not. Is this still part of Catholic doctrine?

A. According to Catholic teaching, that is at best a very limited and incomplete way to describe what will take place at "the end of the world," whatever and whenever that may be.

The central truth about the "last judgment" is that Christ will come in his glory, and, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "In the presence of Christ, who is truth itself, the truth of man's relationship with God will be laid bare."

In other words, we will, as fully as created human nature can do so, see things as God sees them. We will understand, as the catechism says, the fullest consequences of the good things we have done or failed to do in our earthly life.

This awareness can motivate us to conversion, to commit ourselves "to the justice of the kingdom of God," to do our best to live now the kind of life we will hope to have lived when that time comes. But that judgment is not something to panic about or fear.

It is not likely that, under this kind of eternal scrutiny, any of us humans will be concerned about what other people think. We will all be too humbled by the majesty and beauty and love of God, too awed by the unimaginable debt we each owe to his mercy and goodness.

To put it briefly, a lot will be revealed at that time. Our puny sinfulness will be a long way from the focus of attention.

The sacrament of penance

Q. I am a manic depressive and a recovering alcoholic. For about three years I ruined my mind and body, but am now in treatment. I went to the sacrament of penance and told the priest I wanted to confess all my bad confessions. Angrily he said he didn't want to hear them. My mind went blank; I didn't get to confess my sins, but thanked him after he prayed. Maybe it was absolution?

After receiving holy Communion a few times, I stopped because I felt guilty. Was I right? What should I do?

A. Often a priest will discourage going back over "bad confessions" when it appears that this request might evidence some sort of scrupulosity.

The circumstances of your confession, however, seem to be entirely different, and I'm sorry you were so hurt and confused.

Since you say you are in treatment, I'm guessing that your desire for confession was in connection with the Fifth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous or something similar.

I have a number of times talked with individuals as they worked their way through the Fourth Step ("to make a fearless and searching moral inventory of oneself") and then assisted them through the Fifth Step ("to admit to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs").

For Catholics, this is frequently accomplished in the context of the sacrament of penance. The occasion can be a powerful spiritual experience for both the priest and the penitent.

I'm certain there are priests close to your home who have experience assisting people like yourself with this step. Even if you're not in Alcoholics Anonymous, they or the agency you are working with will know such priests in your area.

Rachel's Vineyard

DR. MARTHA SHUPING
GUEST COLUMNIST

Rachel's Vineyard retreat introduced to diocese; more retreats planned

Counseling psychologist Dr. Theresa Burke recently led a Rachel's Vineyard retreat for women and men who were grieving an abortion.

Held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, this is the first retreat of this type in the Diocese of Charlotte. Besides the 16 participants, a local team was present to assist with the retreat and to learn the process in order to facilitate future retreats in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The retreat is based on Dr. Burke's book, "Rachel's Vineyard", and focuses first of all on connecting more deeply with God. In Living Scripture exercises, participants place themselves in each scene, then use ritual such as candle lighting to deepen the experience. The abortion itself, as well as anger and forgiveness issues, are discussed in group.

The sacrament of reconciliation and also the anointing of the sick are both available. The weekend retreat concludes with a Mass of the Resurrection on Sunday.

Participants were eager for others to know about the retreat and requested that their written comments be shared.

One woman, a volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center, wrote: "When I came into this retreat, I thought I was healed and ready to begin my work with other post-abortive women. The most meaningful part of this retreat is that I know my heart was searched throughout. I realized that God has so much more work to do with me, and I need to stay open... I thought that I was completely healed. But, this retreat went so much deeper than my counseling before. This retreat touched a part of me that I didn't even realize was there. I feel healed from the inside out."

Another wrote: "At first I was not sure what was going to happen, and how I would feel. But as I listened to others I became more comfortable and was able to begin to share my feelings. I think this should be available to all and should be everywhere... So many suffer in silence."

The retreat was jointly sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte and by Transfiguration Ministries. Because the first retreat filled quickly, a second retreat on Aug. 6-8 has been scheduled and only a few spaces remain available. A seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, Johnathan Hanic, has agreed to attend in order to learn the Rachel's Vineyard retreat process. We plan to invite a seminarian to each retreat. Additional retreats are now being planned for November 1999 and March 2000.

Dr. Burke also recently conducted a workshop for professional counselors, clergy and peer counselors. A number of those attending were crisis pregnancy center volunteers, some of whom are already running post-abortion support groups. Representatives from five different states came to learn how to develop or enhance programs in their own areas. Audiotapes of the workshop are available.

To order tapes or for information about future retreats, contact Dr. Martha Shuping at (336) 659-1342.

Catholic doctor urges more world efforts in maternal health care

OTTAWA (CNS) — A Catholic doctor urged greater international and church efforts to prevent women's deaths from pregnancy and childbirth, saying hundreds of thousands of such deaths occur each year because "mothers are not politically important." Dr. Robert Walley, founder and president of MaterCare International, and a consultor for the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers, said 99 percent of the deaths occur in developing countries and involve mothers who are "so young, so poor, so insignificant that they don't have any voice." "It's an international disgrace and an outrage that this is allowed to continue," he said in a late June interview in Ottawa. The risk of a mother dying as a direct cause of pregnancy and labor in Africa is one in 13, while in Canada it's one in 7,300, noted Walley, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Timorese pledge more dialogue at end of church-sponsored talks

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — East Timorese leaders participating in the Catholic Church-sponsored Dare II talks in Jakarta agreed to renew their commitment to peace and reconciliation, and pledged to continue dialogue. Only genuine dialogue and reconciliation can avoid conflicts and ensure a democratic atmosphere, where different ideas and perceptions are respected, said delegates representing pro-independence and pro-integration factions. They made their remarks in a statement at the conclusion of the June 25-30 Dare II talks, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Calcutta archbishop is sure of Mother Teresa's sainthood

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — The archbishop of Calcutta, who will formally initiate the canonization cause for Mother Teresa July 26, says her reputation for holiness and commitment to the "Gospel of life" are the strengths of her cause. "General acceptance of Mother Teresa as a saint in her lifetime will be the strongest reason for initiating the process of canonization," Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The archbishop spoke as the 12-member diocesan tribunal he assembled to gather information concerning Mother Teresa's cause prepared for its preliminary investigation which is the first step in the canonization process. Its results will be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Funeral of Cardinal Hume
The casket of Cardinal George Basil Hume is carried from the altar steps accompanied by priests, bishops and cardinals at Westminster Cathedral in London June 25. Cardinal Hume, head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales since 1976, died June 17, two months after announcing he was suffering from inoperable abdominal cancer.

S. Africa's Catholic defense minister known as 'bridge builder'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South Africa's newly appointed minister of defense is a Catholic known as a "bridge builder" and is not likely to use military power to resolve conflicts, said South African church officials. President Thabo Mbeki, who succeeded Nelson Mandela after the June 2 general elections, appointed Patrick Lekota as minister of defense and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge deputy minister. Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Bloemfontein said Lekota's appointment was significant in that he had a reputation as a "bridge builder" while he was leader of the Free State province. "He bent backward to build unity in the province," he said, "and I think it is that skill that led to this appointment."

Head of Armenian Apostolic Church dies of cancer

ROME (CNS) — The patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin of Etchmiadzin, was known as a bridge builder who promoted unity within his church and forged stronger links with other Christians, especially the Catholic Church. The Armenian Orthodox patriarch, whom Pope John Paul II called "one of the pioneers in the field of ecumenism," died June 29 in Etchmiadzin, Armenia, at the age of 66, after a long struggle with cancer. Pope John Paul, who had met Catholicos Karekin three times at the Vatican since 1983, had wanted to visit the dying Armenian leader, but the patriarch's worsening condition forced the cancellation of a July papal visit to Armenia. Pope John Paul then decided to make a one-day visit June 18 to Armenia, but the pope caught the flu and had to cancel even the short trip.

Paulist priest urges Hollywood to show power of nonviolence

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — If Hollywood can help shatter racial and gender stereotypes and give smoking a bad name through its stories, the entertainment industry can do the same to promote nonviolence, said Paulist Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser. Right now there is a crisis of conscience in Hollywood, he said, in the wake of a White House summit on violence, studies linking entertainment violence to real-life violence and arguments that media violence was a factor in the tragedy in Littleton, Colo. A segment in Hollywood admits there is a problem, he said in an essay in June in The Los Angeles Times. "Another segment decries any connection and says it is simply reflecting the violence of our society," said Father Kieser.

RE/MAX®
Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320
Charlotte, NC 28277

Buying? Selling? Relocating?

- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
"Your Realtor for Life."

(704) 543-6680
(800) 726-1231
relocarolina@mindspring.com

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"
- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511
Members of St. Lawrence parish

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

K OF C ®

Career Sales Opportunity Available in
Greater Winston-Salem area! Call today.

JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE

Or write: 535 Stinson Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

Women make up nearly half of U.S. diocesan professionals

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Women hold nearly 47 percent of U.S. diocesan administrative and professional positions, up 2 percent from 1995, according to a survey released by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church.

Data from 1998 show that women hold just over a quarter of top diocesan jobs, 40 to 52 percent of middle management positions, and more than 60 percent of lower-level professional slots where there is no supervision of other professionals but may be supervision of support staff.

Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., committee chair, said the survey is good news for the church and for women.

Archbishop Vlazny also praised the bishops for recognizing the "many gifts and talents" of women in diocesan appointments. He added: "The church looks forward to welcoming even more women into lay leadership roles in the parishes and dioceses all around the country."

Last October, in the statement "From Words to Deeds: Continuing Reflections on the Role of Women in the Church," the committee urged that women be appointed to leadership positions, with progress toward that goal tracked and evaluated.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop William G. Curlin was pleased with the NCCB declaration recognizing the rising contributions of women, both laity and women religious," said the bishop. "In our pastoral center — and throughout the 46-county diocese - both lay women and women religous hold key positions of leadership."

The new survey, conducted for the committee by the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, or NACPA, is titled "Women in Diocesan Leadership Positions: A Progress Report."

Cincinnati-based NACPA noted in the study that it has compiled data since 1990 on the gender of diocesan administrators and professionals as part of a survey of salaries paid to diocesan staff members. The issue of salary is not addressed in this survey.

The survey analyzes data from 1995 through 1998. Over that period, participating dioceses numbered between 77 and 92, with the average of 87 representing half of U.S. dioceses. The survey said a core group of 52 dioceses responded in all four years with an additional 30 responding in three of the years.

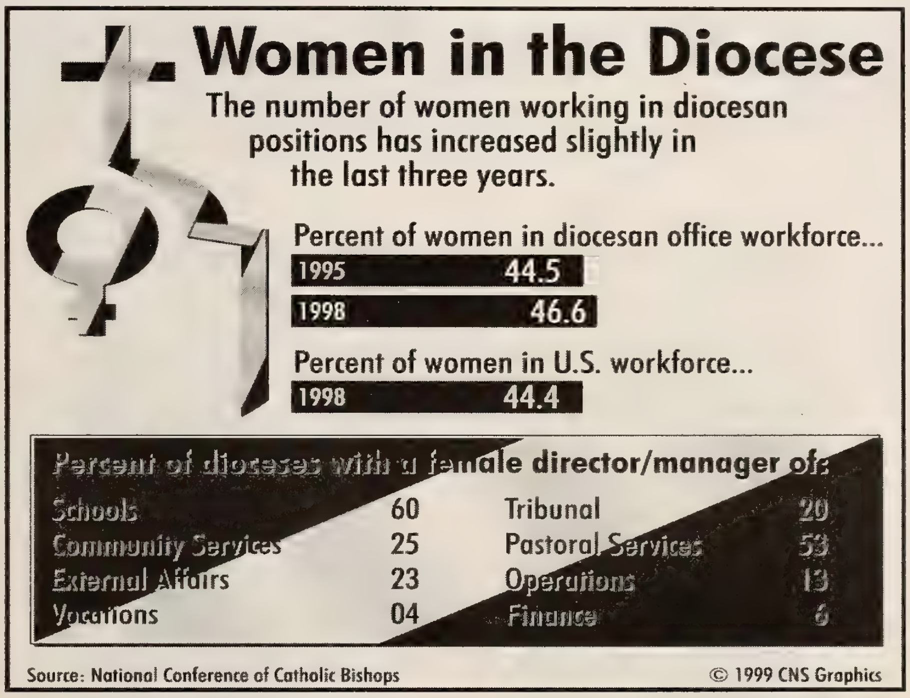
The survey looked at 55 specific diocesan positions, ranked at four levels by participating dioceses based on their particular structure.

Generally, level 1 positions represent top diocesan administrators — including the heads of pastoral and community services, chief financial and personnel officers, superintendent of schools and chief of staff — who report directly to the bishop.

Level 2 and level 3 positions — for example, directors of liturgy, evangelization, youth ministry, family life, social action, religious education, vocations, and newspaper editor — typically report to the bishop, curia moderator, chief of staff or someone in a level 1 position.

At level 4, diocesan professionals report to an administrator in a higher level, do not supervise other professionals and often have a technical expertise or specialization, for example, in curriculum or computers.

The survey found that the number of women in all 55 positions increased from 44.5 percent in 1995 to 46.6 percent in 1998.



Women in the Diocese

The number of women working in diocesan positions has increased slightly in the last three years.

Percent of dioceses with a female director/manager of:

Schools	60	Tribunal	20
Community Services	25	Pastoral Services	53
External Affairs	23	Operations	13
Vocations	04	Finance	6

Source: National Conference of Catholic Bishops © 1999 CNS Graphics

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the diocesan percentage is similar to national percentages for 1998, when women made up 46.2 percent of the U.S. workforce and 44.4 percent of executive, administrative and managerial workers.

Diocesan increases from 1995 to 1998, which the study described as "small but steady growth," were recorded at each level.

The survey showed that women hold a high percentage of positions in education and human resources, and a low percentage in finances, facilities management and vocations.

Diocesan demographics also were examined by size and region.

Small and medium-sized dioceses of fewer than 350,000 Catholics averaged 47 to 48 percent women professionals, compared with large dioceses of more than 350,000 Catholics, which averaged 42 percent women professionals over the four-year period.

The survey found the South to be the strongest employer of women administrators and professionals, averaging 52.3 percent from 1995 to 1998. Other regional averages were: the West, 50.6 percent; Midwest and Central regions, 44 percent; and the Northeast, 38.2 percent.

"The Diocese of Charlotte, a growing, medium-sized Southern, is an excellent representation of these statistics," said Bishop Curlin.

And, in comparing the latest figures to those from a similar four-year period in the early 1990s, NACPA officials noted increases in level 1 and level 4 positions, but said middle management positions at levels 2 and 3 "show no statistical change between the two periods." ▼

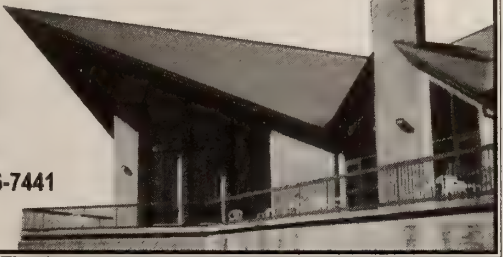
Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

Wondering where you're going to have the next meeting?

The Catholic Conference Center of Course!

Visit our website at www.catholicconference.org!

The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free: (800) 536-7441
E-mail: ccc@twave.net



Candle Lovers, Mothers, Others

Need extra cash?

PartyLite offers fun, flexible, part-time or full-time opportunities

- **No cash investment**

Call Janice Pappas
PartyLite Consultant
for info/free catalog
(704) 455-6741

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?

We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.

Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen - Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Experience the 'New Evangelization' and New Springtime of The Great Jubilee!

FIRE

A CATHOLIC ALLIANCE OF
FAITH, INTERCESSION, REPENTANCE, AND EVANGELISM

"I pray that the FIRE Rally will stir up the flame of faith in all who attend that we might embrace the ministry of evangelization with renewed enthusiasm."
— *Most Reverend William G. Curlin*

Southeast FIRE RALLY is coming to the Carolinas!

Take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to ignite or rekindle your faith!

The FIRE Team with Pope John Paul II.
Rev. John Bertolucci, Rev. Michael Scanlan, T.O.R., Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L., Mr. Ralph Martin

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

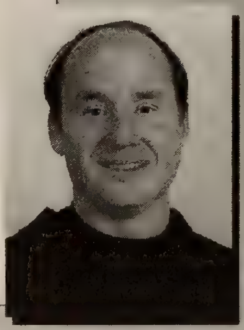
Wheeler Athletic Center, Belmont Abbey College
Belmont, NC *(15 minutes west of Charlotte)*
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. *(Doors open at 8:00 a.m.)*

Events for the day include:

- Conferences on *Faith, Intercession, Repentance,* and *Evangelism* (F.I.R.E.)
- Eucharistic Liturgy with Bishop William G. Curlin
- Inspired music by Hearts of Fire
- Bookstore and Ministry Fair

High School Youth Breakout

This newly-expanded dynamic session will be offered from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka. T.O.R. (at right), Sr. Sarah Burdick, S.G.L., and Lisa Militello. Special music by **Lion of Judah**. *Students will join FIRE Rally for closing liturgy.*



Registration Information

- Enclose names and addresses of each person.
- Full payment must accompany all registrations. No refunds.
- Lunch available by pre-registration only. ($6 each)
- Confirmation packets will be mailed prior to the Rally.
- **Pre-registration deadline is August 25, 1999.**
- **$10 savings for pre-registration! Pre-registration highly recommended as seating is limited.**
- Sorry, childcare not available.
- For further info and area hotels, please call (704) 519-0316 or visit our website at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews

Make checks payable to: ***S.E. Fire Rally Committee***
Send to: 5121 Baker Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210

FIRE Rally Registration Form

Pre-registration deadline is ***August 25, 1999***

NAME ____________ PHONE ____________
ADDRESS ____________ CITY/STATE ____________
PARISH NAME ____________ CITY/STATE ____________

#___Adult	...@ $15.00 each = $________	*($25.00 at door, upon availability)*
#___Clergy/Religious	...NO registration fee	
#___College Student	...@ $10.00 each = $________	
#___High School Student *(free lunch!)*	...@ $10.00 each = $________	
#___Lunch *(hoagie, salad, chips & drink)*	...@ $ 6.00 each = $________	

TOTAL ENCLOSED $__________

☐ Disability seating needed (# of seats ____)

FIRE
A CATHOLIC ALLIANCE OF
FAITH, INTERCESSION, REPENTANCE, AND EVANGELISM

Ablaze for Christ

FIRE Rally invites rekindling of faith

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BELMONT — After more than a year of planning, organizers of a Catholic, evangelistic prayer rally are starting to feel the heat.

Never mind the summertime warmth; planners enthusiastically say it is flames of faith that cannot be extinguished.

The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, comes to the grounds of Belmont Abbey College and Monastery Sept. 18. The daylong gathering will feature speaking presentations by popular Catholic evangelists.

The rally will close with a Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin; Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor; Abbot Oscar Burnett of Belmont Abbey; and other participating clergy.

A ministry of hope, education and worship, FIRE encourages devotion to the Eucharist, daily prayer and Scripture reading, and loyalty to the church's teaching authority. Above all, organizers say, it is a ministry rooted in faith in Jesus Christ.

The first FIRE Rally took place in May 1983, and since then rallies have been hosted throughout North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The September gathering in Belmont will be the first FIRE Rally in the Carolinas.

"It's a really good opportunity to rekindle our faith, and to celebrate the great jubilee as declared by Pope John Paul II," said Scott Walters of Charlotte, a Southeast FIRE Rally committee coordinator, of the upcoming event.

Walters is one of more than 45 people across the Diocese of Charlotte — and the Southeast — who has spent the past year preparing to welcome the ministry to western North Carolina. He has attended FIRE Rallies in the past.

"It's completely changed my view in terms of our faith being, like the Gospels, the 'good news,'" Walters said of the ministry. "It's uplifting; it's inspiring."

The speakers featured at the FIRE Rally are well known in evangelistic circles:

— A Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance priest, Father Michael Scanlan is an author and serves as president of Franciscan University of Stubenville;

— Father John P. Bertolucci, a priest of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., is also an author;

— Servants of God's Love Sister Ann Shields is an educator, radio program host and speaker;

— Ralph Martin is an author, a leader in charismatic renewal, and the president of Renewal Ministries, a Catholic evangelistic and renewal organization.

"I find it very exciting that they're coming," said Michelle Walters, Scott's wife, who is also coordinating the rally committee. "People are just anticipating the excitement that this kind of event can bring to people."

Valerie Hoeft, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, has attended several FIRE Rallies internationally. "The people who gave the talks are very blessed people," she said. "They explained how ... once we had the Holy Spirit upon us, God will do the rest."

A variety of books, cassettes and other resources are available at the rallies.

The ministry of FIRE is to apply Gospel teachings into the real context of today's world, to reach out to Catholics who have questions and doubts about their faith, and to challenge the faithful to more fully participate in church life.

To further assist in that mission, a ministry fair will highlight the September event. Representatives of various ministries and agencies within the Diocese of Charlotte will be on hand to answer participants' questions and to invite future involvement.

A youth track will also welcome young people to rally around their faith.

"We originally had this designed where if the adults brought their teenagers, we'd have a breakout session for three hours," said Scott Walters. Original plans accommodated about 150 youth. Now, organizers expect between 300-400 young people.

Father Dave Pivonka, a Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance priest, will lead the youth rally. The teens will join the adult group for the closing liturgy.

Like the Carolinas Billy Graham Crusade in 1996, said Mike Gardner of Charlotte, the FIRE Rally appeals to the faithful interested in stoking those flames of faith. A parishioner of St. Matthew Church, Gardner attended his first FIRE Rally last year and now serves on the Southeast rally committee.

"This is an opportunity," he said, "for people to help increase their faith, especially those people who are being prodded by the Holy Spirit to look for something more, to have a religious experience — and to learn." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Vatican issues guidebooks for jubilee year pilgrims

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anticipating the needs of jubilee year pilgrims from around the world, the Vatican issued two books to guide their footsteps and prayers.

The volumes were meant foremost to help visitors to Rome know the deeper meaning of year 2000 celebrations, but were "also intended to place the accent on the connection of this spiritual event with current circumstances," said Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Vatican's jubilee year organizing committee.

Vatican officials and the books' publishers presented the "provisional" editions July 6.

They noted that revisions were to be made in the coming months, to bring maps in line with the current Roman public transport system and to provide further practical information.

The two volumes — "Pilgrims in Rome" and "Pilgrims at Prayer" — were issued first in Italian.

"Pilgrims in Rome" includes historical information about sites of particular religious interest at the Vatican and beyond its walls. It also provides hours of operation, telephone numbers and days of the week when sites such as museums and catacombs are closed.

"Pilgrims at Prayer" offers liturgical information, plus special jubilee-related texts such as a selection of Pope John Paul II's writings on the celebrations and the lyrics to the official jubilee year hymn.

The Milan-based, multimedia company Arnoldo Mondadori Editore was placing a "deluxe" version of the set — with glossy, reinforced paper

See VATICAN GUIDEBOOK, page 13

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity
and Freedom of Choice
Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Six Simple Strategies
For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.
To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled "Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

Book Review

Discovering personal spirituality becomes easier with new "guidebook"

REVIEWED BY MARY KENNY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Seven Essentials for the Spiritual Journey"

By Dolores R. Leckey
The Crossroad Publishing Company (New York, 1999).
126 pp., $13.95.

Spiritual seekers, those who are trying to find greater meaning in their lives, will find "Seven Essentials for the Spiritual Journey" a helpful guidebook. Author Dolores R. Leckey has been a retreat leader, author and lecturer for more than a quarter of a century. For many years she worked for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops as executive director of the Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

Despite these fine credentials, this reader approached Leckey's book with some skepticism. Another "seven" book? Haven't we exhausted that avenue of interest? And hasn't the idea of a "spiritual journey" also been beaten to death? Even worse, I feared this book might be a rehash of personal piety, spiritual exercises of the "Jesus and I" school which ignore an active life in the real world.

I was wrong on all counts.

The seven essentials which Leckey proposes prove to be an effective way to organize some diverse material.

First, says Leckey, to put more spiritual meaning in life, we need mentors or guides. Mentors can help us find times of solitude. However difficult in a busy life, solitude is an essential part of spiritual seeking.

But solitude alone is not enough. We are not solitary but interdependent creatures. We need an authentic community to grow in our spiritual lives.

Leckey believes that certain attitudes grow in the spiritual seeking person: finding the sacred in the ordinary, savoring the small experiences of life, and laughter which lightens the spirit.

The growth in these six essentials leads to the culminating seventh one: surrender. We are not in charge of the world, Leckey reminds us. We are not even in charge of our own lives or those of our loved ones. Although difficult for modern persons, such an attitude can lead to serenity and peace.

While the book can be read straight through, it is more valuable as a choice to be read a few pages at a time, going back to favorite chapters again and again. My personal favorite, discovering the sacred in the ordinary, is a proposal I can read and reread, growing richer with each reminder.

Leckey's material is seldom original. The ideas have appeared before: in sermons, in retreats, in spiritual reading, in poetry. However, giving full credit to her sources, Leckey brings important ideas together in a nice, readable and useful fashion. The reader who is unfamiliar with most spiritual reading will be comfortable with this book.

Throughout Leckey offers examples and ideas from diverse religious traditions. She has specific practical actions at the end of each chapter. No reader will choose all the actions, nor can one person change at once in all the ways suggested.

This is a book to be read and savored, allowing the reader to discover that change comes slowly, but change is possible and the rewards are great. ▼

Kenny is co-author of the Catholic News Service column titled "Family Talk."

Word to Life

July 11, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 65:10-14
2) Romans 8:18-23
3) Matthew 13:1-23

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"When you have water out here, you have everything. When you don't have water, you don't have anything."

The speaker was Jesuit Father Rick Thomas, guiding light of a number of ministries to the poor in the El Paso-Juarez international urban sprawl area on the Texas-Mexico border. It was February 1982, and my wife, Susan, and I were on a weekend trip to visit with members of the Catholic charismatic community whose members and works also spanned the border. Father Thomas was explaining a basic truth of life in an arid, semidesert area.

Toilet tanks all had bricks in them to save water. You were reminded to turn off the tap when you weren't actually washing anything or filling a glass or container. If up to now you had missed how vital the link between life and water is, you weren't going to miss it in the company of these who served the poor in Christ's name.

Of the myriad of stories we heard during our visit, one involving water was among the most interesting. Because the community used its Vado, N.M., ranch facility as a summer camp for city kids each summer, it had a swimming pool. It sat surrounded by mounded-up earth which supported its concrete sides, making it a cross between a conventional and an above-ground pool.

During a drought, a farm neighbor's well ran dry. A day or two without adequate water was going to be enough to do the farm's crop critical damage.

So they came to their neighbors at The Lord's Ranch. Sure, they were told, just throw your hose into the pool, and start the motor on your pump. Which they did. Next morning, folks from The Lord's Ranch found that water was overflowing down the sides of the little mounded-up hill that contained their swimming pool. Seems God had offered them a little bonus water for their generosity.

Today's Old Testament reading from Isaiah 55 speaks of the efficacy of God's word. "For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 11 - 17, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23; **Monday**, Exodus 1:8-14,22, Matthew 10:34-11:1; **Tuesday**, Exodus 2:1-15, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday**, Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday**, Exodus 3:11-20, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday**, Exodus 11:10-12:14, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday**, Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21

Readings for the week of July 18 - 24, 1999

Sunday, Wisdom 12:13, 16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43; **Monday**, Exodus 14:5-18, Matthew 12:38-42; **Tuesday**, Exodus 14:21-15:1, Matthew 12:46-50; **Wednesday**, Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15, Matthew 13:1-9; **Thursday**, Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, John 20:1-2, 11-18; **Friday**, Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 13:18-23; **Saturday**, Exodus 24:3-8, Matthew 13:24-30

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Quality Personal Care.
For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.
Maryfield Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

New at the Box Office

"South Park" film is tiresomely adolescent

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A cartoon marathon of sexual expletives and scatological references awaits those willing to pay the price to see "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut" (Paramount).

For those who may not know, "South Park" is a cable cartoon show featuring grade-school children uttering obscenities, which apparently evokes laughter from fans of the show.

Blown up for the big screen and expanded to 80 minutes, the movie version is certainly bigger and longer than the TV version but the humor seems to be missing.

The story opens with a group of third-graders sneaking into a raunchy Canadian movie and emerging with a four-letter-word vocabulary that shocks their mothers, who launch a national anti-smut campaign leading to a war with Canada.

A subplot involves Satan, who is despondent over a sex affair with Saddam Hussein, but it seems to have been pruned because it doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

Directed by Trey Parker, the satiric story line takes potshots at the movie rating system, the V-chip, censorship and the media in general, but these jabs are stale, slipshod and self-serving.

The children's constant use of foul language is excruciatingly tedious and the sexual gags and scatological riffs are tiresomely adolescent.

Though the cartooning is interestingly stylized and the songs have a certain comic zest, there is little wit and less humor in the third-graders' four-letter adventures.

Because of excessive rough language, scatological digressions and sexual references, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Wild Wild West" (Warner Bros.)

Glossy adaptation of the 1960s TV series in which two post-Civil War government agents — one trigger-happy (Will Smith), the other skilled at disguises and inventions (Kevin Kline) — must disable a behemoth killing machine operated by a wheelchair-bound madman (Kenneth Branagh) bent on bringing down the republic. Director Barry Sonnenfeld blends sci-fi contraptions, a comic tone and the Old West setting for a hollow, gimmick-driven plot with impossible stunts and decorative femme fatales for giddy escapist entertainment. Intermittent explosions and stylized violence, some sexual innuendo and double entendres, and fleeting rear nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Guide aimed at helping families view media critically

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A "Family Guide for Using Media" from the U.S. bishops is aimed at helping families view television shows, films and other media more critically.

The document, authorized by the more than 50-member Administrative Committee, updates a 1993 document issued by the bishops' Committee on Communications.

In its introduction, the guide states: "The media's impact continues to grow as computer networks and the Internet add powerful and easily accessible new means to the familiar forms of mass communication — print, television, radio, film, video, telephone, and cable services."

To understand the impact of all kinds of media, the guide said, "we must step back and consciously think about how they shape our lives and what they are saying."

"The use of media involves moral choices," it added. It lists 10 points to guide parents "as media consumers" to evaluate shows:

— Respect life: Is the taking of life portrayed casually and without consequences?

— Respect human beings and the family: Do the media glorify attitudes such as excessive consumerism, promiscuity or other exploitative relationships, prejudice or violence?

— Apply Gospel values: Are compassion, reconciliation, thanksgiving and moral responsibility affirmed?

— Use your intelligence: How are you and your family reacting to your media choices? Are you benefiting from them?

— Talk back to the media: Get in the habit of using television, film and other media to start a dialogue. When media are interactive, you can engage in actual dialogue. When they aren't, you can contact networks, local stations and newspapers to compliment them or complain that their stories are not helping you as a parent.

— Set your own agenda: Choose the media that serve your needs rather than just tuning in or logging on.

— Look at the consequences: Help your children recognize the difference between fiction/fantasy and real life, especially when it comes to depicting, violence, sexual activity, and lavish lifestyles that have no visible means of support.

— See the whole picture: When using media, be willing to ask what aspects of life are neglected, what issues are being ignored, and whether bias or manipulation is involved.

— Be alert to the effects of advertising: Parents need to ask whether their families are consuming what they need or what the media make them think they need.

— Talk to each other: How can your media usage improve family communication and enrich your conversation? Look for a way to balance media involvement with other family activities. ▼

View the document online

The entire document, which includes a list of resources and other references, is available on the Web at www.nccbuscc.org/comm/familyguide.htm.

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...

Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT

- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

SUMMER BIBLE INSTITUTE
Sunday, August 1 — Friday, August 6
"Wisdom Tradition in the Old Testament"
Camilla Burns, SND

"The Proclamation of the Risen Christ: The Book of Revelation"
Daniel Harrington, S.J.

For more information write:
Summer Bible Institute
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Tuition: $110 Room & Board: $200

PRESBYTERIAN
PRO
Health
Team

Your children will have so much fun as members of the Pro Health Team, you'll wish it had been around when you were a kid.

PRESBYTERIAN PRO Health Team HEALTHCARE

When you see how much your kids enjoy participating in the Presbyterian Healthcare Pro Health Team program, you just might get a little jealous with all the fun stuff they get to do.

The Presbyterian Pro Health Team is a free community-based program where kids ages six through 12 learn about staying healthy, playing safely and feeling good about themselves.

To learn more about the Pro Health Team, call **(704) 384-CARE** or log onto www.presbyterian.org.

Get your kids in the Presbyterian Pro Health Team. It'll do them a lot of good and make you wish we had thought of this when you were young.

Presbyterian Healthcare
NOVANTHEALTH

Vatican guidebook, from page 9

covers and color photos — in Italian bookstores immediately, with a suggested retail price of about $32, said the firm's director, Gian Arturo Ferrari.

An economical version of each of the two books was later to be printed on cheaper paper and sold for about $5.40 per copy — with a slight discount for religious organizations ordering directly from the publisher — so pilgrims could choose one book or the other, rather than buying the set.

Publishers outside Italy were to prepare versions of the two books in English, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese, Ferrari said.

Mondadori and its partners in other countries had set a September deadline for placing the books on store shelves worldwide, he added.

Continuum International Publishing Group, based in New York City, planned to get "deluxe" versions of the books into stores by September at a suggested retail price of $15.95 each and would not be publishing the lower-priced versions, a company spokeswoman told Catholic News Service. ▼

Priests celebrate anniversaries, recognize retirement

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — "There are no words adequate in my heart to fully express what I feel in gratitude for these jubilarians, my brothers," said Bishop William G. Curlin in honor and recognition during the annual jubilee celebration of priestly ordination. The June 22 celebration also recognized those retiring from active ministry.

"On this day, my brothers, let us affirm one another, let us be concerned about one another, let us look after one another," said Bishop Curlin. "And above all, let us join in celebration with our brothers who stand before us."

In his homily, the bishop reflected: "I don't know how any priest survives unless he has a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. You have given your lives to Jesus," said the bishop. "That is the heart of the priest,"

Milestones this year included The Most Reverend Michael J. Begley, bishop emeritus, marking his 65th anniversary to the priesthood. Bishop Begley is in residence at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point. While not in attendance at the St. Patrick Cathedral celebration, the retired bishop celebrated his 90th birthday this past spring with a special Mass in his honor at the Maryfield chapel.

Father John Bradley celebrated 55 years to the priesthood.

Benedictine Father Raymond Geyer and Benedictine Father Matthew McSorley, both of Belmont Abbey, marked 50 years of service, as did retired Father Charles Reese.

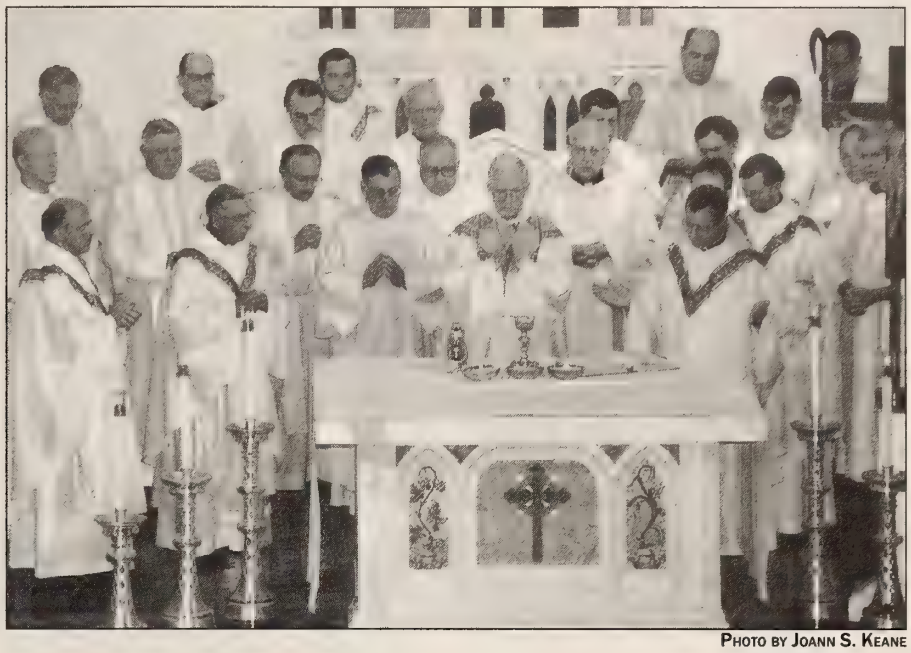


Photo by Joann S. Keane

Priests in the Diocese of Charlotte join in celebration of anniversaries for their brother priests. Here, they concelebrate the Mass.

Father Francis Connolly and Father Gabriel Meehan observed forty years.

Silver anniversary celebrants Father Richard Hokanson, Conventual Franciscan Father George Sullivan, Father Paul Wilderrotter and Monsignor John McSweeney celebrated 25 years of priestly service. Monsignor McSweeney was the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte by Bishop Michael J. Begley.

Bishop William Curlin was commemorated in celebration, noting the fifth anniversary of his installation as the third bishop of the Charlotte Diocese.

Retiring from pastoral ministry was Father Raymond Hourihan of Waynesville and its mission in Canton. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

Summer reading selections, perfect for vacations!
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905
Mon.-Fri. 9:00am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Please join us...
Catholic Heritage Society
Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate

For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Johnson, from page 3

want to serve as president after she became vice-president, even though it was the next logical step. She thought that she somehow would not be as effective as past presidents who had theological and liturgical backgrounds.

However, she realized that she had "attended all of the meetings and had been very active throughout, so I thought 'why not; I can do this.'"

Father George Kloster, the pastor of St. William in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville and the ecumenical minister for the diocese, agreed: "She brings a wealth of experience both as a parishioner and as a leader of the council and various programs. Her election is especially significant because the council has been active for over 60 years, and she is the second Catholic person, after myself, to be elected."

Johnson added that the council is mostly made up of people who do not have work conflicts, so she fits in well.

When questioned about how she would be different as president and what new duties she would have to assume, she responded that "she will naturally have a different style because she is not an ordained minister and she is a woman."

George Reed, Legislative Program Associate for the council in Raleigh, felt that "it is important that the council is not led by clergy or men only; she will do a good job of providing leadership."

Johnson said that "the good thing about the council is that it helps a person to learn more about various faiths."

She wants there to be smooth transition between presidents; moreover, she wishes to continue the council's focus on increasing public awareness of vital social issues and its visibility in the state.

"Bridget has served on several committees for several years and is very active ecumenically. She will do the diocese proud," stated Joanne Frazer, Director of the Office of Justice and Peace with Catholic Social Services in Charlotte.

Reed continued: "I like that she has a grasp on the big picture but is also sensitive to the needs of the individual person. She is also good with nuts-and-bolts things like meeting locations and how it will run. For example, she allowed time for a 'getting-to-know-you' period for the first meeting which provided a human touch."

"I have a lot of trust in her," concluded David Harold, Director of the Piedmont Triad Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Winston-Salem and Johnson's direct supervisor. "This [role as president] is the culmination of many years of good work."

Sister Evelyn Mattern, a Sister of Faith in the Christian Community and Program Associate of the council, sincerely stated: "I have known Bridget for about 15 years and have seen her functioning at an ecumenical level and in community settings. She has been dedicated to improving women and children's issues over the years. She has a good sense of humor and is extremely open in her thinking. She is a gracious and gifted person who does what needs to be done and always has time to do what is required. She will bring a spirited and spiritual tone to the meetings."

How does Johnson feel about what others have said about her?

"I am flattered. Many of these people are close friends, and all have contributed to my learning process." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org

George Reed, Legislative Program Associate for the council in Raleigh, felt that "it is important that the council is not led by clergy or men only; she will do a good job of providing leadership."

Bequest establishes scholarship in donor's name

BELMONT — Barbara Ann Fisher McLean of Gastonia recently left a $200,000 bequest to Belmont Abbey College. Her generous gift will establish an endowed scholarship in her name.

Her gift was made through an increasingly popular method of planned giving. A bequest can be a gift of property, a monetary amount, or a percentage of an estate. The gift can be made for a specific purpose or be left to the college to use at its discretion.

One advantage of a bequest is that it does not take away from a family during the donor's lifetime, and with proper life insurance planning donors can contribute to a favorite charity as well as take care of loved ones. It's also easy. Potential donors should simply contact an attorney to look after the details, then contact Belmont Abbey College to let the college know about the pending gift. ▼

For more information call Diane Sullivan in the Belmont Abbey College Development Office at (704) 825-6736.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business Manager: Computer literate Business Manager wanted for local non-profit organization. Responsibilities include bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, payroll, taxes, financial reporting, budget preparation and supervision. Salary to the low $30's including full benefits and retirement program. Send resume to Search Committee, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia, NC 28052 or stmich@bellsouth.net.

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith Formation): Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Charlotte area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3244. Inquiries: (704)370-3244. Deadline: July 15, 1999.

Direct Care Professional: Full-time and part-time needed, all shifts. Prefer experience in developmental disabilities. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Director of Development: Bishop McGuinness High School, a diocesan college preparatory school, grades 9-12, is in search of a Director of Development and Public Relations for the 1999-2000 school year (to begin summer 1999). Responsibilities include oversight and coordination of all institutional advancement activities, including fundraising, alumni activities, liaison with media and public, student recruitment, and work with diocesan Development Office staff as school enters transition from current to new campuses. Qualifications: degree in appropriate field of preparation, experience in this or related field a plus; computer skills; demonstrated effectiveness in human relations and motivation; mastery of written communication for publicity purposes, etc. Send resume/qualifications to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27103.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following positions open beginning August 1999: Primary teachers; Assistant principal; Physical Education; and part time for Art, Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. All must have North Carolina certification. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teaching positions open beginning August 1999: Full-time Social Studies, Full-time Biology/Environmental Science. Must be NC certified. For an application, please call (704)543-1127, Monday-Thursday 8am - 11:30.

House Cleaners: $12/hour. 9 hours a week: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday daytimes. Charlotte area. Call Maid in Heaven: (704)643-5545.

Kindergarten Teacher: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has an opening for a certified teacher to teach Kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. The teacher will be responsible for teaching all subjects including Religion. Please send resume to Paula Robinson, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262 or call (336)887-2613.

Pastoral Musician: St. Paul the Apostle Parish is seeking a part-time Director of Music available August 1, 1999. Must possess skills in keyboard, vocal training, choral conducting, knowledge of Vatican II liturgy. Duties include coordination of music for all worship services, directing the Adult Choir, training parish cantors, providing music for all sacramental liturgies including funerals and weddings. Will work collaboratively with the pastoral staff and director of liturgy. Please submit resume to Rev. James O'Neill, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Principal: An academically challenging school with 300 students in grades K4-8th is seeking to fill the position of Principal. Applicants shall have the following qualifications: master's degree in School Administration (or Administration courses); if not holding an Administrative degree, be willing to work for one; at least 5 years of teaching experience; have, or be eligible for, a South Carolina principal's certificate, or have certification from another state; be a practicing Catholic. For application, send resume to: Rev. Arturo Dalupang, St. Anthony Catholic Church and School, PO Box 5327, Florence, SC 29502.

Special Ed Teacher: BA/BS in Special Ed and NC Certificate in Severe/Profound. Year round position. Excellent benefit package includes medical, dental, life and LTD insurance; paid time-off; on-site childcare; pre-tax options; and fun! Between Charlotte and Gastonia. Apply at Holy Angels, 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC or call (704)825-4161.

Teachers: Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem, NC, a diocesan 9-12 college prep institution, needs teachers in the following areas for the coming school year: Modern Languages (Spanish, French), Math, and History. Send resume/application to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. (N.C. Certification/some experience preferred.)

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (Pre-K - 8) has the following part-time positions open beginning August 1999: Music, Librarian, Computer, and Counselor. All applicants must have, or be in a position to obtain, North Carolina certification. Please send resume to: Principal, Sacred Heart School, 123 N. Ellis St., Salisbury, NC 28144; Fax(704)633-6033.

Teachers, Media Specialist: Our Lady of Grace School is in need of a Library Media Specialist, Learning Resource teacher, a part-time Science and Religion teacher, and a middle-school Math teacher. These positions are for the 1999-2000 school year, beginning August 16, 1999. Please send your resume to Roberta Hutchcraft at Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403; or fax to (336)274-7326.

REAL ESTATE

Beach Home for Sale: Ocean Isle Beach. 4 Bedrooms, plus sleep loft (or, den/5th bedroom). 3 1/2 baths. Furnished with style. Gated community - west end. Walk to beach. Pool. Tennis. Year-round enjoyment; fireplace; ample room to entertain. Lou Hayes Realty, agent Bill R. $294,500. (888)-398-7086. (Seller is St. Matthew parishioner.)

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted: Set of Catholic Encyclopedias - preferably older editions. Children's would be even better. Call Terri DeLuca at (704)888-6050.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for granting my petition.
—S.C.

Thank you Lord Jesus, Blessed Mary, St. Jude and all the saints for favors granted. —J.H.

Classified ads bring results! Over 104,000 readers! Over 42,000 homes!
Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
How to order: Ads may be faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Special Olympics,

from page 1

the reward comes in the smiles of the athletes as they strive to achieve their personal best. The Special Olympics oath says it all, 'Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.'

Bringing people together — those with and without mental retardation — is the founding premise of the Special Olympics: Breaking existing barriers and blossoming understanding, acceptance and new relationships the ultimate goal.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver is credited for establishment of the games: Her day camp for those with mental retardation expanded into the First International Special Olympics during the late 1960s. Since then, millions have shared in sporting events that previously shunned their participation.

"When they do little things we take for granted, it takes them more time to do it, more time to understand," said Macau swimming coach Sammi Chan. "But they remember when you tell them, and they give 100, no 200 percent."

And give it their all they did. The Macau team returns home laden with precious medals: Eleven gold, five silver, thirteen bronze medals and a dozen or so placement ribbons. A great show for 20 athletes from Macau, a tiny peninsula off mainland China. ▼

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Swimming coach Sammi Chan, left, chats with one of the Macau volunteers during the Holy Family Parish dinner.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Maryfield observes National Nursing Home Week

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home recently observed National Nursing Home Week with a variety of spiritual and social activities that observed the theme, "Loving Hearts and Caring Hands. The celebration of Mass, music, and food highlighted the week of May 9-15. Founded in 1947, Maryfield is a nursing and retirement community operated by the Poor Servants of the Mother of God religious community.

CCHS band members selected for honors band

CHARLOTTE — Eleven members of Charlotte Catholic High School's band were recently selected to perform at Wingate University Honors Band. Students Mike Mowry, Chris Dunn, Niki Menninger, Pat Elliot, John Kuppinger, Chris DesNoyer and Dan Vinh Nguyen were selected to play in the concert band. Tood Durica, Amanda Champagne, Kristan Chun and John Ezzard were selected to perform in the honors band.

Greensboro teen selected to U.S. Air Force Academy

GREENSBORO — Joe VanKuiken, a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church, has been selected to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., following an intensive candidacy process. VanKuiken was nominated for consideration by N.C. Congressman Melvin Watt, and is one of 1,100 high school seniors accepted into the institution. Selected candidates were chosen on the basis of leadership ability, physical strength and ability, and personal interviews. A graduating senior of Western Guilford High School, he has also taken classes at the Weaver Education Center. He has served as chief squire of Piedmont Squires Circle 2474 and says he owes a debt of gratitude to the Columbian Squires, his religious beliefs, and the Knights of Columbus leadership school.

Sister with Charlotte Diocese ties celebrates jubilee

JOLIET, Ill. — Sister of St. Francis Louise Marie Skoch, a former director of religious education at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, celebrated her 50th anniversary of profession to her religious community June 19 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Sister Skoch began her teaching ministry in 1949. She has taught in elementary and high schools, as well as in religious education. She currently teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) for the San Diego Community College district. Sister Skoch is among 20 jubilarians celebrating anniversaries in their community this year.

— Compiled by Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools with 7 schools and 4,100 students, is seeking an outstanding candidate to provide learning disabilities and gifted education leadership for these established programs.

Responsibilities include: 1) oversee the learning support and learning enrichment activities programs; 2) supervise the learning support teacher at each of the 7 schools; 3) develop and implement policies and procedures related to the programs; 4) assist the director of admissions in evaluating student needs; 5) coordinate title 1 and speech/language/hearing screenings; 6) submit quarterly program reports to the superintendent.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in special education, school psychology, or other related field. Experience in elementary classroom education and supervision is helpful. Computer expertise a plus.

Candidates with multicultural experience and/or bilingual skills preferred.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Twelve-month position is available beginning the 1999-2000 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by July 16 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

"Brother Bill" is staple at mountain parish

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Brother William C. Harkin, O.S.A., shares a laugh with St. Margaret parishioners Hank Porter (second from left), Stanley Kobylanski, George Pastore and Jim Cunningham.

> During one recent week, his parish duties included interviewing families who want to have their babies baptized, meeting with the finance committee, planning liturgy, and facilitating the RCIA class.

MAGGIE VALLEY — When Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle started his homily at St. Margaret at few Sundays ago, he quipped, "We're trying to prove we can do this without Brother Bill."

The congregation laughed appreciatively. Brother Bill was away only a few days, but people missed his hearty laugh, his affable manner.

"He's always thinking ahead," Father Frank said later. "He's always anticipating needs, both liturgically and for our community."

Brother William C. Harkin, O.S.A., was among 40 Augustinian friars who volunteered four years ago to work in the South. He, Father Frank and Father Terrance W. Hyland, O.S.A., have been at St. Margaret since September.

Father Frank is St. Margaret's pastor; Brother Bill is pastoral associate. Father Terry is director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Brother Bill helps out in the parish and at the reflection center, typical of a man whose ministry has encompassed a range of duties.

"I like the variety," he said. "That's what I like here. This is appealing because of the parish community, which is stable, and the retreat community which is always fluctuating."

During one recent week, his parish duties included interviewing families who want to have their babies baptized, meeting with the finance committee, planning liturgy, and facilitating the RCIA class. Ordained a deacon three years ago, he also preaches at Masses about once a month. At the reflection center, he supervises the employees and deals with finances.

"The hospitality aspect, that's what would attract us (to the reflection center)," he said. "The business part is really secondary. Can we make (the retreat experience) more conducive to people for their spiritual life? Everything else facilitates that."

Brother Bill was 18 when he joined the Order of St. Augustine on Oct. 28, 1958, "the day Pope John XXIII was elected, he said. "We started our ministries together. I knew I wanted to do something, but I didn't know what until I was a junior in high school."

He had attended Philadelphia's Monsignor Bonner High School, staffed by 46 Augustinians.

"I worked with them and served Mass," he said. "I saw their community life and their prayer life. They were always doing things together. The community life is what attracted me."

Every Augustinian friar is a brother; some brothers are priests, some are doctors, artists, lawyers, or in other professions. They are missionaries in Peru, Japan and South Africa.

"If someone has a particular gift, there's a good opportunity for them to develop it," he said. "Our community has always been open to people doing what they felt called to do, but, again, it should all come out of our community life. We have to live in community; [we ask] how the church can use us in that situation."

Brother Bill has worked as a parish business manager, in liturgy, and with the elderly in a neighborhood senior citizens group.

"The last community I worked in in Philadelphia, I worked with the parish community in welfare reform," he said. "We formed the Interfaith Coalition for the General Welfare."

Thirty-three congregations (two were Catholic) joined forces to improve conditions in their area of the city. The group hired a social worker and pooled resources. "The idea was not to just give food," he said, "but to find government funding, and when that was exhausted, use funding provided by the churches."

During the second year, the group founded Breaking Bread, a movement designed to break tensions and find common ground in its economically and culturally diverse area. Residents ran the gamut from wealthy to middle class, single mothers to corporate vice presidents.

Groups of 12 to 15 people met in area homes; local restaurants donated the food, so participants wouldn't have to rush home to cook something to take to the dinner. Professional facilitators lead the discussions with such questions as "What were you values when you were growing up? What was life like for you then?"

"I think the thing that came out of it was that you had various groups working together," Brother Bill said.

Working together — that community life — is what comes first for him.

"He's a great people person, very community oriented," said Father Frank, who has known him for more than 30 years. "He has a great sense of humor."

"I'm always open to what comes along," Brother Bill said. "I never thought I'd be involved in a retreat house. But who knew?" ▼

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 5331 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-3930

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

July 23, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 41

Inside

Diocese of Charleston: Bishop Thompson retires; Florida priest named successor

...Page 3

Pope offers prayers for Kennedy, family after crash

...Page 4

Area families open homes to Russian visitors

...Page 7

Local News

Catholic Social Services expands office facilities

...Page 9

Living the Faith: 'Faithful Servants' learn about life, leadership in community experience

...Page 16

Every Week

Editorials & Columns

...Pages 4-5

Entertainment

...Pages 10-11

> **"While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."**
> — *Matthew 17:5*

Taking the SPLUNGE

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Imagine not having enough food, being homeless, not being able to take a simple shower, or being treated unfairly by the police or court system. This was the challenge for the participants of this year's SPLUNGE, an acronym for Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences, held July 11-16.

This experience, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, was a deeply spiritual and emotional one for the 20 participants and the nine team leaders from various parishes around the diocese.

"I had preconceived notions about homeless people. It is not what I expected. I liked it when we went to the family shelter because I like working with kids. They accepted our help, and we were able to interact," said Cirsten Nimmons from Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte.

"The week consisted of several simulations which focus on homelessness and poverty," stated Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. "Basically, the focus is two-fold in that the kids learn about poverty and the infrastructure of a city and engage in active participation."

The day began and ended at Our Lady of Grace Church where the students considered what they had done that day, had a simple dinner, prayed, and slept in sleeping bags. Specific details are kept quiet so that future participants can have the same fresh experience as the previous "Splungers."

This program, developed from an action program from the University of Notre Dame, is designed to show the teens how different groups of people live. It is a period of awakening for many who had not been aware of the plight of the less fortunate, and it helps them to better understand the hows and whys of homelessness, hunger, the justice system, and the role of the public-at-large from a Christian perspective. The main motto of SPLUNGE is "live simply so that others may simply live."

The main motto of SPLUNGE is "live simply so that others may simply live."

One of the events was a visit to the Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro Police Department, and Guilford County Detention Center. One of the teens was deeply affected by the treatment of the some of the people having to go through court: "I saw some people being disrespected and treated like dirt. The Bible says to 'love your neighbor as yourself' no matter what you have done," stated Christian Smith, a St. Luke parishioner in Charlotte.

Another of the events included two days at the Urban Ministry Soup Kitchen. For the first day, the teens served the clients, and on the next day, they went through the line to simulate the experience of being served at a soup kitchen.

A couple of the Splungers said that they "felt bad" taking the clients' food and felt better after they gave it to someone who asked for their leftovers.

"I was afraid to say anything because I didn't want to offend anyone," revealed Peter Shaw from St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro

He was already aware of SPLUNGE from his sister Mary, a youth leader.

"I wanted to learn more about the other people involved and how to open up and trust others. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the best part was developing a friendship with one of my group members, Christian," explained Shaw.

Jordan Nivens, a parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte, admitted that she "felt uncomfortable with some of the reactions from some of the homeless people. The idea was to try not to take away from their dignity, and I hope we were able to do that. Altogether, it was a good experience."

"I never understood how I should grateful for what I have. I had to call my parents and thank them for what they have done for me; that was a really emotional experience. I recommend this to everyone my age. My eyes have been opened to many things," continued Smith. ▾

Contact Staff Writer Alesha Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

"Splungers" Christian Smith from St. Luke and Kasie Pons from St. Matthew, both of Charlotte, listen intently as the day's group discussion unfolds.

The World in Brief

Jubilee justice gathering opens with multicultural Mass

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — More than 3,000 Catholics from 50 states joined a multicultural liturgical celebration July 15 to open the National Catholic Gathering for Jubilee Justice. The Mass that began the four-day meeting on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles included readings in Spanish and English and songs that ranged from African-American spirituals to those with lyrics in Hawaiian and Latin.

Arsonists burn two Catholic churches in Northern Ireland

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Arsonists burned two Catholic churches in Northern Ireland in what has been a quiet year for sectarian attacks. The two attacks occurred July 11 in neighboring parishes in the town of Lisburn. The first church hit was St. Patrick's, the oldest Catholic church in the Down and Connor Diocese, which serves Belfast and the northeastern corner of Northern Ireland. At about 1:20 a.m., the arsonists bored a hole through the thick wooden doors guarding the church's only entrance, poured flammable liquid inside, then set it alight. The flames did not spread to the church's interior, but fire damage to the porch was extensive, and there was significant damage to vestments and other church property inside.

Results of NATO bombing 'mixed,' says U.S. archbishop

NEW YORK (CNS) — The results of the NATO bombing in Yugoslavia are a "mixed bag," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee said after a visit to the area. Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., said in a telephone interview July 10 that "something good" came out of the bombing because the people of Kosovo now had an opportunity to exercise at least some degree of autonomy. But he deplored the lives lost, and said that "the bombing really triggered this terrible cruelty and killing."

Polish court orders withdrawal of Bernstein-Politi book on pope

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish court has ordered the withdrawal of a book that claims Pope John Paul II collaborated with the CIA, after its authors said the edition was "censored" by its Polish publisher. The Polish edition of "His Holiness: John Paul II and the Hidden History of Our Time," by Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi, will no longer be sold in Poland. However, the publisher welcomed the ruling as "milder than expected." "This decision is favorable to us, since we've only been told to stop selling copies and apologize in an unspecified newspaper," said Iwona Strauss, a spokeswoman for Warsaw-based Amber publishers.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Voting in East Timor

Citizens of East Timor wait inside a school being used to register voters in Bekora, a suburb of the East Timor capital of Dili, July 16. U.N. monitored voter registration was beginning for a historic August election that could result in East Timor's independence from Indonesian rule.

Cooperation, accountability key to Kosovo healing, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For reconciliation and reconstruction in Kosovo, there must be international and interreligious cooperation, as well as accountability for state-sponsored and individual crimes, said the head of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee. "It is time for the horrible cycle of violence to end," Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., committee chairman, said in a statement released July 9 in Washington. Speaking for the bishops, he said, "We pledge to work with leaders of all religious faiths to renew and strengthen interreligious dialogue and work cooperatively to repair the damage done by this terrible conflict."

WCC head says Congo's churches more active in public affairs

ROME (CNS) — Congo's churches are becoming more active in public affairs, an "encouraging" sign that the country may be moving toward reconciliation, the head of the World Council of Churches said. "For a long time in that region, most of the churches had a particular understanding that politics was none of their business," the Rev. Konrad Raiser told Catholic News Service in a July 12 telephone interview from the WCC's headquarters in Geneva. "As a result, they let themselves be drawn into close association with the prevailing political powers. But now, they are developing a sense of their integrity, which leads them to take their own stand as churches."

Churches disappointed at proposed school curriculum for England

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The Catholic Church and the Church of England said they were "deeply disappointed" at the lack of emphasis on spiritual and moral development in government proposals for school curriculum in England. The Catholic bishops' Department for Education and Formation and the Church of England's Board of Education issued a joint statement in early July in response to a curriculum review for England's schools, published by the government of the United Kingdom. "Schools are required by law to promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils. Spiritual growth is an integral part of what it means to be human, stimulating a search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which we live," the statement said.

Papal nuncio praises U.S. church but sees room for improvement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his first address to a full gathering of the U.S. bishops, Pope John Paul II's representative in the United States had high praise for the contributions of the U.S. Catholic Church to the worldwide church. But Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, named apostolic nuncio to the United States last December, also urged quick action on U.S. norms for Catholic higher education and greater dissemination of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council to those who "have not yet reaped the fruits of the council." Archbishop Montalvo addressed the spring retreat-style assembly of U.S. bishops June 21 in Tucson, Ariz. The meeting was closed but a copy of his talk was made available to Catholic News Service in early July.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
July 23, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 41
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 24
Catholic Singles Mass
Charlotte

July 31 — 4:30 pm
10th Anniversary
St. Bernadette Church, Linville

August 8 — 12 noon
Confirmation
Cristo Rey, Yadkinville

August 14
Mass for the Malades and
the Knights of Malta

August 15
Assumption of the Virgin Mary

August 19
Diocesan Foundation Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

August 21
"Open Wide the Doors"
Ecumenical Evangelization
Celebration
St. Ann Parish Center, Charlotte

Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral change effective July 20, 1999:

Rev. Carl E. Kaltreider
From pastor, St. Mary, Shelby
To Sabbatical at his request

Diocesan planner

July

25 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke's Habitat for Humanity (HFH) will sponsor a BBQ chicken dinner today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. under the church's pavilion. The money goes to St. Luke's HFH House, and the leftover chicken goes to the homeless shelter. Call Madge Daly for cookout information at (704) 365-2466.

CHARLOTTE — Sure Foundation, a vocal ensemble with live accompaniment, will begin St. Luke's Artworks Series of concerts tonight at 7 p.m. in St. Luke's sanctuary. The night of contemporary and traditional Christian music is free to the public. Remember to bring a chair for extra seating. Call Marty Pushak at (704) 545-1224 for information.

26 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group, which provides activites for the memory-im-

Bishop Thompson retires; Florida priest named successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop David B. Thompson of Charleston, S.C., and has appointed a Jacksonville, Fla., pastor, Father Robert J. Baker, as his successor.

The changes were announced in Washington July 13 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Thompson, 76, was appointed coadjutor bishop of Charleston in April 1989 and has been head of the diocese since February 1990.

Bishop-designate Baker, 55, has been pastor of Christ the King Church in Jacksonville since last year. He also has been a seminary spiritual director and theology professor.

Born in Fostoria, Ohio, June 4, 1944, Bishop-designate Baker went to Columbus, Ohio, for high school at Josephinum High School and for college at the Pontifical College Josephinum, where he earned a bachelor's in philosophy and master of divinity degree. He also earned a licentiate in theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla., in 1970, Bishop-designate Baker had his first assignments in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., as teacher at Bishop Kenny High School and associate pastor of St. Paul Parish for two years.

He then was a student at the North American College and the Gregorian University in Rome, 1972-75, earning a doctorate in theology at the latter.

Returning to the United States, Bishop-designate Baker was spiritual director of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 1975-76; administrator of St. Augustine Parish in Gainesville, Fla., 1976-81; professor of theology at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, Boynton Beach, Fla., 1981-84; and rector of St. Augustine Cathedral, St. Augustine, 1984-97, simultaneously serving as a member of the diocesan college of consultors.

THE NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY PHOTO

Father Robert J. Baker, left, a pastor in the Diocese of Jacksonville, Fla., was appointed bishop of Charleston, S.C., by Pope John Paul II. He is shown with retiring Bishop David B. Thompson at a press conference.

During his tenure at the cathedral, the oldest parish in the United States, artifacts from the Spanish and British colonial periods were found in 1991 during a city-mandated archaeological dig prior to construction of a new parish center.

That year, Bishop-designate Baker also participated in the reburial of the skeletal remains of about a dozen American Indians which had been on display in a northeast Florida park.

He also decried the 1989 execution of notorious murderer Ted Bundy as a "sideshow" that "alarms me personally." Rather than being "a reason for elation," he said, the execution "should be a time to get down on our knees and pray."

Bishop Thompson was born in Philadelphia in 1923 and ordained to the priesthood in 1950. He was appointed coadjutor bishop of Charleston in 1989 and succeeded Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler the following year.

During his tenure in Charleston, Bishop Thompson wrote a pastoral letter condemning capital punishment in 1995. Three years later he issued a strongly worded appeal to the governor to commute the sentences of those on death row to life imprisonment without parole.

In January 1996, Bishop Thompson opened a statewide citizens summit on community-building with a call to make the state's racial diversity a resource instead of an obstacle to community. In May 1997 he joined with Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist bishops in South Carolina in confessing the "sin of racism" and asking for forgiveness.

He was also involved in ecumenical affairs and joined with other religious leaders in supporting efforts to rebuild churches, mainly in rural areas, destroyed by fire. South Carolina was hit hardest of any state in a rash of church arsons in 1996 and 1997.

Bishop Thompson was honored by the Catholic Press Association in May 1997 with the organization's Bishop John England Award for his defense of First Amendment rights as a Catholic publisher.

As publisher of The New Catholic Miscellany, Charleston diocesan newspaper and the oldest continually published Catholic newspaper in the United States, he was recognized for taking a public stand against the flying of the Confederate battle flag over the South Carolina state house in Columbia and for letting his paper be a forum of vigorous debate of both sides of the issue.

The statewide Charleston Diocese, established in 1820, has about 117,000 Catholics in a total population of about 3.7 million.

Bishop-designate Baker's episcopal ordination is set for Sept. 29 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston.

"It is with humble gratitude that I accept the trust our Holy Father has placed in me," he said in a statement.

"I now look forward with anticipation, joy and confidence in the Lord to serving the dedicated priests, religious and lay men and women of the historic Diocese of Charleston."

Bishop John J. Snyder of St. Augustine, in a July 13 statement, said that the bishop-designate "has been an exemplary priest wherever he has been called to serve."

He said his 13 years at the cathedral in St. Augustine was "an outstanding ministry marked by concern and compassion, especially toward the poor and marginalized."

Bishop Snyder recalled how Bishop-designate Baker helped start an ecumenical program to feed and house the hungry and homeless, and brought into the diocese a method of caring for and rehabilitating those with addictions, establishing Our Lady of Hope Farm outside St. Augustine.

"It is a source of great joy and pride for all in the Diocese of St. Augustine to have one of its own priests chosen for this important pastoral responsibility," Bishop Snyder said. ▼

---

paired, meets today and every fourth Monday of the month in Rooms D and E of the Ministry Center at St. Gabriel, 3016 Providence Road, from 2:00-3:30 p.m.. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

27 GREENSBORO — "Life," a discussion about what people want for their lives, will be led by Father Anthony de Mello at St. Pius X, 2210 North Elm St., at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room of the Kloster Center. Refreshments will follow.

29 ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass will be celebrated at St. Joan of Arc, 919 Haywood Ave., tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship follow the Mass. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

August

1 HICKORY — "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings and Beyond" is an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate that begins today through Aug. 6 at the Catholic Conference Center. This foundational institute, which features a track on campus ministry, teaches the Christian initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in various settings. For a registration brochure and other details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or send e-mail to jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

8 STATESVILLE — In preparation for the Year of the Jubiliee, a Grand Ultreya will take place today at St. Philip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr., from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. The Ultreya will be followed by Mass and potluck. All Cursillistas and English, Spanish, and Vietnamese-speaking people are invited to attend. For more details, call Lee Accettullo at (336) 765-9473.

15 HICKORY VICARIATE — A Sunday Spanish Mass is celebrated beginning today at the following churches: St. Francis in Lenoir at 9 a.m., Holy Trinity in Taylorsville at 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph in Newton at 12:45 p.m., Our lady of the Angels in marion at 1 p.m., St Aloysius in Hickory at 2 p.m., and St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton at 5 p.m.

22 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council 939 Knights of Columbus are hosting a golf tournament today at Jamestown Golf Course. There is a $40 fee for lunch, tee time, and cart. Tee times off #1 and #10 at 12:30. Singles and foursomes call Joe Doria at (336) 454-4728 or Bob Thomas at (336) 698-1729. Proceeds to benefit General Charity Fund of Council 939.

Upcoming

BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

Ongoing

BREVARD — A Spanish Mass is celebrated at Sacred Heart every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. through Sept. 5

CHARLOTTE — Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, a non-profit, private organization for those experiencing Alzheimer's or dementia, meets every Mon. and Wed. from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel. A $35 fee covers snack, lunch, activities, and socialization. Those not affiliated with the parish are welcome. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 for information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope offers prayers for Kennedy, family after crash

QUART, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his prayers for John F. Kennedy Jr. and for his family.

Pope John Paul was informed early July 18 of Kennedy's presumed death after a small plane piloted by Kennedy apparently crashed off the shore of Martha's Vineyard, Mass. The pope was informed that Kennedy's wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, had been traveling with him and also were presumed dead.

"As always when hearing of a tragic death, the pope interrupted the account, immediately offering a prayer," said papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Speaking to reporters in Quart, a small town in the Italian Alps where the pope was vacationing, Navarro-Valls said the pope "remembered the many tragedies of this family, beginning with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy."

"He recalled having seen the photograph of John Jr. saluting the coffin of his father," during the president's 1963 funeral procession. The Kennedy son was 3 years old at the time.

In Alps, pope highlights humans' responsibility for environment

LES COMBES, Italy (CNS) — God wants people to take good care of the earth's environment, Pope John Paul II said.

"Human beings have a specific responsibility toward the living environment in relation not only to the present but also to future generations," the pope said. "The great ecological challenge finds in the Bible a luminous and strong spiritual and ethical foundation."

Pope John Paul commented on the wonders of nature during his first Sunday noon blessing after starting a two-week vacation July 7 in the Italian Alps. He spoke from the balcony of his chalet to several hundred residents of the Introd-Les Combes resort area.

"Every time I have the chance to go to the mountains and to contemplate these scenes, I thank God for the beautiful majesty of creation," the pope said. "I thank him for this beauty, of which the cosmos is also a reflection, capable of fascinating souls who are open to it and to prompt them to praise its grandeur."

Pope John Paul said the mountains also offer "a school of life" where one may find solace and silence and learn "to recognize one's own smallness in such a majestic and solemn environment."

The pope added, "May humanity of the year 2000 reconcile itself with creation and find ways toward harmonious and sustainable development."

He prayed that people may receive help "to appreciate and to respect creation."

Speaking in Italian and French for the benefit of all the local population, Pope John Paul also recalled the victims of avalanches in the region last winter and a deadly fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel. He expressed solidarity with the victims' families.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Families of origin

One thing about a good story is that when retold, even many years later, new meaning is derived. This is true about a good movie. A few days ago we dusted off an old video, "On Golden Pond," and viewed it as a family. The last time we watched it was at least fifteen years ago, before our younger child was born and when the older was more interested in "Fraggle Rock."

Most striking to us then was the relationship between Norman and Ethel, the elderly retirees at their summer home in New England on Golden Pond. We enjoyed projecting ourselves into those characters and the fantasy of our retirement years in an arboreal setting, perhaps in Michigan or Wisconsin. Watching this time, the relationship between Norman and their adult daughter, Chelsea, captured our interest.

Unresolved issues between this father and daughter had distanced them. They were both hurting from their wounded relationship. Yet, they were both stuck in old patterns of behavior toward each other that kept their love for each other buried under resentment and anger.

In a scene with Ethel and Chelsea, Ethel tries to console her pensive daughter. Chelsea says, "I don't think I've ever grown up on Golden Pond. I act like a big person everywhere else. I'm in charge of Los Angeles, and I come here and act like little fat girl."

In another scene, Chelsea tells her mother about Norman, "I don't even know him" Ethel says to Chelsea, "Norman is eighty years old. He has heart palpitations and trouble remembering things. When do you expect this friendship to begin?"

It is then that Chelsea breaks the mold of their old relationship and talks to her father from her heart.

In this dramatic presentation the issues are resolved rather quickly. This may not be the case in real life. Yet, it demonstrates the power of courage to change through the initiative of one. It takes two to have a relationship, even a bad one. However, often it only takes one to set a bad relationship on a new and better course.

When visiting our families of origin, we too have the feeling sometimes that we've never grown up. We sometimes act out of old patterns. That's not always negative. But when those old patterns are toxic, it's necessary to do something different, something to set that relationship on a new course so that our love may be unearthed and shown for the glory of God.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:11-13)

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Strategic Planning

MARY COYNE WESSLING
Guest Columnist

Human Concerns Committee: Reaching out to all

How do we deliver services to people who live in the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Charlotte 20 years from now?

That was the main question the Human Concerns Committee explored during our strategic planning session last fall. To answer that question, we asked a few others: Who are we called to serve now and in the future? What are the services we deliver now and will they change in 20 years? How are we delivering those services now and is this sufficient?

The Human Concerns Committee met for more than 21 hours over the course of a weekend to set goals and objectives that would answer these questions and lay the foundation for a 20-year plan.

Among the many important guidelines we set in answering these questions, were these primary ones:

- We are called to respect, love and serve others as Jesus would;
- All programs should support and enhance family values and support systems that benefit especially the poor;
- We must take a proactive approach to developing programs and not wait until a problem arises or reaches a crisis stage; and
- Programs and services must continue to be geographically accessible to as many people as possible in the diocese.

Keeping these and other guidelines in mind, we explored the reality that we face in 2020: the population in our diocese will triple. This is the most critical issue facing the diocese and its ability to deliver human services. The need for the delivery system to grow to meet the demands of a growing population is vital.

The face of that growing population also will change. That led our committee to discuss another major issue: What services are needed for an aging population? How will they be delivered and by whom?

Our discussions, lively and insightful, led us to identify 10 strategic issues that served as the foundation for our goals and objectives. Those 10 issues are: further develop training programs in lay ministry and volunteerism; consider geographic diversity; address multicultural issues when developing services and programs; address racism as it impacts on services and programs; consider the elderly, their needs and contributions; consider further development of prison ministry and outreach; address issues specific to the economically disenfranchised; promote a consistent ethic of life in all programs and services; address family issues when developing programs and services; develop a strong communications plan to ensure efficient delivery of services and programs.

Goals and objectives for each issue were presented to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee for review and consideration in November. Our committee finished our weekend together feeling tired but encouraged by the many good ideas we had addressed. We hope our suggestions will aid in developing a plan to promote the growth of a healthy, efficient human services delivery system in our diocese.

In addition to the committee members' invaluable insights and expertise, several people involved in CSS and similar service institutions were asked to identify issues which should be addressed by this group. Our many thanks to all who helped.

Mary Coyne Wessling serves as vice chair of this committee and is a member of St. Pius X Parish in Greensboro.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The divine sense of humor

Nowadays, laughter is big business. Moviegoers in big cities pay as much as $9 for an evening of chuckles. To say nothing of all the time TV devotes to trying to tickle our funnybones.

Yet laughter is as free as the air, and as unpremeditated as a sneeze. In fact, studies show that spontaneous laughter reduces pain, increases alertness, energy and your sense of well-being.

Fulton J. Sheen, who always laced his television talks with a cheerful dose of humor back in the 1950s, often worried about the modern world's inclination to take itself too seriously. "A person has a sense of humor if he can see through things and he loses it entirely when he ceases to see things as revelations, or symbols, or reminders of God, and begins to regard things as ends in themselves."

Sheen's observation struck home recently when I came across a condensed Dictionary of Terms Used in Church. Here's a sampling from that tongue-in-cheek list:

Amen: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Bulletin: 1. Parish information, read only during the homily. 2. Church air conditioning. 3. Your receipt for attending services.

Choir: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

Divine Justice: When kids have kids of their own.

Hymn: A song of praise, usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

Recessional Hymn: The last song at a service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

Incense: Holy Smoke!

Jesuits: An order of priests known for their ability to found colleges with good basketball teams.

Jonah: The original "Jaws" story.

Pew: A medieval torture device still found in many churches.

Procession: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of a service, consisting of the clergy and lay participants as well as latecomers looking for seats.

Recessional: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of a service led by church members trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

Relics: People who have been going to church for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

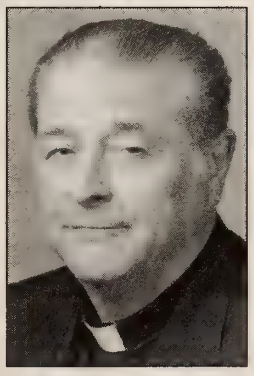
Ushers: The only people in the parish who do not know the seating capacity of a pew.

I am convinced that the ability to laugh — especially at ourselves — is a divine gift.

As Archbishop Sheen suggested, those blessed souls who bring holy, beautiful, joyful laughter into the world will receive the one thing the Lord did not show anyone on earth but saved for them in Paradise. "For those who have a Divine Sense of Humor, there is one thing the Lord has saved for heaven that will make heaven heaven, and that is — His smile!" Be of good cheer!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

References to "the Jews" in Scripture

Q: Like many Catholics after Vatican II, I am troubled by the expression "the Jews," which occurs so often in the Scripture, especially in the Gospel of John. The topic has come up in our parish in connection with our Scripture courses, which I help to arrange. The expression seems to promote anti-Semitism, which certainly we would condemn today. Could you suggest how to understand this?

A: The Greek word translated as "the Jews," "Ioudaioi," occurs 71 times in the fourth Gospel, most of the time in an antagonistic context, pitting that group against Jesus and his followers. So the problem is real. Much of the ugly anti-Semitism of the last 2,000 years has been blamed on the Gospel of John.

Scholars today generally point to two questions which help put this concern in perspective.

— First, what was the historical context in which this Gospel was written?

— And second, who exactly were these "Ioudaioi" in the story?

Everyone minimally interested in the Bible is aware, I believe, that the earliest Christians considered themselves still a part of Judaism. Their worship was fashioned in the style of synagogue worship; they met in the places of Jewish prayer; their leader, Jesus, all his first disciples and most of his followers for a number of years were Jews.

Therefore, when Christians were rejected by their Jewish brothers and sisters sometime after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Roman armies in the year 70 AD and were refused access to their Jewish roots, there was a great sense of dislocation and confusion.

Where did they belong now? How would they identify themselves in isolation from their Jewish background? The fourth Gospel makes clear, in many subtle and not so subtle ways, that they still professed their historic Jewish connections. But now they had to find their identity over against those who had become their opponents and persecutors.

The problem is that we can read this Gospel as if it were written today, not realizing the polemical, argumentative contest that is going on in the story. The same kind of mistake can be made, of course, with other books of Scripture.

Thus, it would be a mistake not to understand that these texts are "occasional" writings; that is, they are molded for the occasion, the social context, in which they were written and to highlight the belief-vs.-unbelief theme, which is a major one for John.

There is, therefore, no warrant to be found here for any Christian rejection of, or animosity toward, all Jewish people.

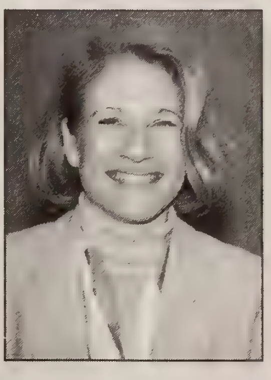
This fact is underlined by the second question, Who were these "Jews" the fourth Gospel speaks of so reproachfully?

Apart from the fact that Jesus and his close disciples were Jews, John reports that many other Jews were believers in our Lord (see for example John 8:31 and 10:21), and some of their leaders, including Pharisees, were friends of Jesus. One of these Pharisees, Nicodemus, helped to bury him after the crucifixion.

Obviously, therefore, it makes no sense to assume that "the Jews" refers to the entire Jewish people. Most scholars today would suggest, as one likelihood, that the phrase intends to designate the Jews of Judea (the area around Jerusalem and Bethlehem), as distinct from those of Galilee (Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee).

Another possibility is that the referral is to Jewish leaders at the time, and in the locations, of the Christian communities when the fourth Gospel was written.

Estate Planning



CINDY RICE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Prayerful planning results in meaningful gifts

Most of us have found that things worthwhile are generally not easy. They require hard work, consideration, and thoughtful planning and prayer. Planning our estate is one of those things many of us fail to do because it requires time and effort. Yet, estate planning allows you to continue good stewardship of the blessings God has given, accomplish personal goals for loved ones, and fulfill charitable wishes you may have for the Catholic community.

Through your estate plan, you can arrange for the distribution of the property you have been blessed with in a way that fits your values. Your estate plans can also help you set up trusts to manage property for your family or other heirs. Your plans can allow you to perpetuate the work of your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocese or the diocesan foundation.

Deciding to create your estate plan is the first step in the planning process — and often the biggest hurdle. Here are some suggestions on what to do next:

1. Consider the people and causes that have been important in your life.

2. Make these lists:

- All property you own and its value, including stocks, personal property, real estate, business interests, retirement plans, etc.
- Ownership of assets (outright, jointly, etc.).
- Names and ages of all family members.
- How you prefer your property be distributed.
- Gifts you wish to make to your church.

By collecting information before you meet with your attorney, you may save time and expense.

3. Make an appointment with your attorney. If you do not have an attorney, ask trusted friends or advisors for names of lawyers they know who specialize in estate planning.

4. How much will it cost? Most wills, the backbone of estate plans, cost less than the legal fees you probably paid the last time you bought a home.

As good stewards of God's gifts, you have shown your gratitude with gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the church. Through your estate plan, you can continue to provide for the material needs of the church well beyond your lifetime.

Your support of the Church can start with details laid out in your will. You have many options in making charitable gifts in your will:

- Giving a specific amount of money.
- Giving a specific property you own.
- Giving a percentage of your estate.
- Giving all or a portion of what is left in your estate, also known as the residue, after all other loved ones have been provided for.

Knowing you have a complete and up-to-date estate plan brings peace of mind. People often tell me of the satisfaction they feel knowing their loved ones and the church — both of which mean so much to them — will be provided for after they are gone.

For more information about creating or revising your estate plan, please feel free to contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28023, (704) 370-3320.

Catholics nationwide once again praying for Kennedys

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sadly, Catholics across the nation once again were praying for the Kennedy family in the aftermath of tragedy. From U.S. cardinals and bishops to parishioners attending Sunday Mass, Catholics offered prayers for John F. Kennedy Jr. — son of the only Catholic president of the United States — his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren Bessette. All three were presumed dead following the disappearance and apparent crash of their plane late July 16 off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Actor accepts Pax Christi award but says others 'more deserving'

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Actor and activist Martin Sheen was named the recipient of Pax Christi USA's highest award, but he accepted it July 16 on behalf of an elderly woman imprisoned near Fort Worth, Texas, for her protests against the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga. Sheen, who said he had spent time in jail with many in the room, agreed to receive the 1999 Pope Paul VI Teacher of Peace award from Pax Christi only if he could pass it on to activist Kathleen Rumpf, who was scheduled to be released July 19 from the Carswell State Penitentiary near Fort Worth.

Humanitas Prize, in 25th year, names winners, expands for 2000

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (CNS) — Steven Bochco, David Milch and Bill Clark were among numerous writers honored July 8 at the 25th annual Humanitas Prize awards luncheon for effectively "incorporating human values into entertainment writing." The 1999 Humanitas Prizes awarded a total of $120,000 to 15 writers from seven different film and television categories.

Christians arrive in Jerusalem, apologize for Crusades

JERUSALEM (CNS)—Nine hundred years after Crusaders broke through the walls of Jerusalem in the name of Christianity, another group of Christians asked forgiveness for the bloodshed caused by their forebears. "We have apologized to Muslims, Christians and Jews throughout the region, but this is one specifically from us as members of the Western Church to the Eastern Church. Please accept our apologies," Lynn Green, international director of The Reconciliation Walk, told Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros at the group's official apology ceremony July 15.

CNS PHOTO BY NEIL JACOBS

Praying for justice

Presenters at the jubilee justice gathering in Los Angeles link hands for prayer during the final session July 17. From left: Mary Jane Owen, director of the National Catholic Office for People with Disabilities; Craig Kielburger, founder of the anti-child-labor group, Free the Children; John Sweeney, AFL-CIO president; Sister Miriam Mitchell, chancellor of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux; Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of Dili, East Timor; Alexie M. Torres, of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice in the Bronx; Andrew and Terri Lyke, coordinators of marriage ministry for the African-American community in the Archdiocese of Chicago; and Msgr. Ray East, pastor of Nativity Parish in Washington, D.C.

S. Korea president says his pilgrimage to freedom is lifelong

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Kim Dae Jung, president of South Korea since December 1997, has overcome several obstacles along the road to being elected to his nation's highest office. "I have had a lifelong pilgrimage toward freedom," said Kim, a Catholic. "Along the journey certain forces have sustained me. The first is the Christ I believe in. He gave his life upon the holy cross; He taught us how to be free in spirit. The cross was my training toward freedom." Kim, who received the Philadelphia Liberty Medal during July 4 ceremonies at Independence Hall, was first imprisoned by the communists during the Korean War.

Bishop says best-selling 'visionary' mistaken about 'messages'

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester says a local Catholic layman who claims he receives interior visions of Jesus, Mary and some saints has misjudged ordinary mental prayer for supernatural communication. For the past six years, John Leary, a retired Kodak chemist who lives in the Rochester suburb of Greece, has detailed the supposed messages in public talks and 13 published volumes which have sold in the tens of thousands, and have appeared on some best-seller lists.

Social action directors honor nun for environmental work

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Roundtable, the association of social action directors in U.S. Catholic dioceses, honored a Louisiana nun with its highest award July 14. Sister Miriam Mitchell, chancellor of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodeaux and a member of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, received Roundtable's Harry A. Fagan Award for her work on behalf of the poor of Louisiana, and especially her work on environmental concerns. A native of Ireland, Sister Mitchell has worked for more than 25 years in the Houma-Thibodeaux Diocese, where she has been diocesan director of Catholic Relief Services and coordinator for social ministry since 1985.

Anthony Wilhelm dies; wrote "Christ Among Us"

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (CNS) — Anthony J. Wilhelm, author of the best-selling book on Catholicism, "Christ Among Us," died July 7 at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek of complications from advanced myeloid dysplasia, a degenerative blood disorder. He was 74. A memorial service was scheduled for July 24 at Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley.

Florida seamstress thinks flag planted on moon is just fine

BRADENTON, Fla. (CNS) — After 30 years Dolores Black still looks up at the moon and wonders how her flag is holding up. "It should be just fine," Black, 72, told The Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Venice Diocese. "It is sewed very well because every stitch really meant something to me." Black made the flag that Neil Armstrong put on the moon during the Apollo 11 lunar landing on July 20, 1969. She sewed the double-faced nylon flag with embroidered stars when she was an employee at Eder Flag Corp., Milwaukee.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Career Sales Opportunity Available in *Greater* Winston-Salem area! Call today.
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
K of C
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Or write: 535 Stinson Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

Area families open hearts, homes to Russian visitors

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WAXHAW — On an atypically dreary day in a quiet suburban neighborhood, it is a typical day for the Spika family with one special addition. The three children are playing outside with their Russian houseguest. Russian, one may ask?

The Spikas were one of 14 host families in and around Charlotte to sponsor students and their chaperones from Moscow for three and a half weeks as an experience in American culture and the English language. These 13 adventurous children and their chaperones were brought to the United States courtesy of the Charlotte area office of Catholic Social Services (CSS).

The Spika family, parishioners from St. John Neumann in Charlotte, hosted Edouard "Ed" Vakilov, a 13-year-old teen from Moscow. Regina and Steve Spika decided to open their home to another child after Regina saw the advertisement in her church bulletin.

"I saw the ad, and I thought that we would be perfect candidates. We had recently bought the house and had the room, and I am a stay-at-home mom. It sounded like something we could do," stated Regina.

Everyone was in agreement that it would be an interesting and exciting experience.

The couple has two sons, Steve Jr., 12, and Michael, 8, and had originally asked for a girl as a playmate for their 10-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, but stated on their application that they would accept any child. They were informed that Ed would arrive on June 25.

After the first night, Regina was concerned because Ed was not eating or really talking. So, the next morning, she and her guest sat and talked; during that time, they became better acquainted and more comfortable with one another.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Ed Vakilov and some of the other visiting teens make ice cream sundaes courtesy of the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham, and Taft.

Though Ed speaks English well, he felt insecure about expressing his feelings into words and was unsure about some American phrases. After his talk with Regina and a few games with the children, he felt more comfortable, and everything turned out fine.

This venture began in 1997 through the work of Svetlana Batsulo, the Russian facilitator for adoptions through CSS, Capuchin Franciscan Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Charlotte, and Geri King, director of the Charlotte regional office of CSS.

Recruitment began in September with those interested families from church parishes that had responded. They had to submit an application which had to be approved by the parish pastor, and the candidates also had to go through fingerprinting and background checks.

"We wanted to make sure that the children would be in safe and secure environments," emphasized King.

Only St. Thomas Aquinas had been involved with the first visit; however, this year, four other church parishes around Charlotte joined the effort: St. Ann, St. John Neumann, St. Luke, and St. Gabriel.

The event, as a whole, "has brought families and church parishes together. It is wonderful to see the level of interest and is a good experience in international relations and benefits the Russian adoption program," stated King.

Ed and the other visiting teens attend the same school in Moscow which can be described as an "immersion school" where they speak English on an all-day, everyday basis.

"I wanted to practice my English because in Moscow, we cannot practice it outside of school very much," stated Ed.

Back in Russia at home, Ed's day consists of school which begins at 8:00 a.m. and goes non-stop until he gets home and does his homework and computer work until 1:00 a.m. He says there is "little time for TV" but he does extracurricular activities like soccer, basketball, volleyball, and tennis.

Steve said that "in three short weeks, Ed had become another member of the family."

"At first, I thought it would be weird to have someone else living here, but it has been great. We've gone bike riding, skateboarding, and swimming. We've had a lot of fun," added Steve Jr.

"What benefited me was to see that children don't have any language barriers," informed Regina. Children seem to have the ability to become friends quickly with those of various nationalities and races with little difficulty.

The family also went to a Charlotte Knights baseball game and to various stores for souvenirs for Ed to take back to Russia to his family.

Collectively, the students also had many group activities scheduled during their time in Charlotte including trips to Carowinds, Discovery Place, and an outing to the Carillion Building.

English spoken with heavy Russian accents filled the halls of Cadwalader, Wickersham, and Taft, a law firm in Charlotte on July 9. The firm hosted a party for the group of students and chaperones, the result of a suggestion from a secretary who is hosting the chaperones.

Debbie Pike originally asked if the chaperones, Olga Gousseva and Tatiana Bondarenko, could come for a tour of her office. Jim Carroll, managing partner of the Charlotte office, agreed only if all of the visitors and their host families could come, and the firm would pick up the tab for pizza, ice cream, and would include a teleconference with a Russian associate at the New York office.

See RUSSIAN VISITORS, page 12

Join us for breakfast this Sunday!

Recalling a time when the best things to eat were always homemade!

OLD FASHIONED SODA SHOP
PIKE'S

- Sunday breakfast 8-2
- Homestyle family atmosphere
- Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Enjoy ice cream on the patio
- Private dining room for meetings or parties

On the Trolley Line at Camden & Tremont

1930 CAMDEN ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC (704) 372-0092

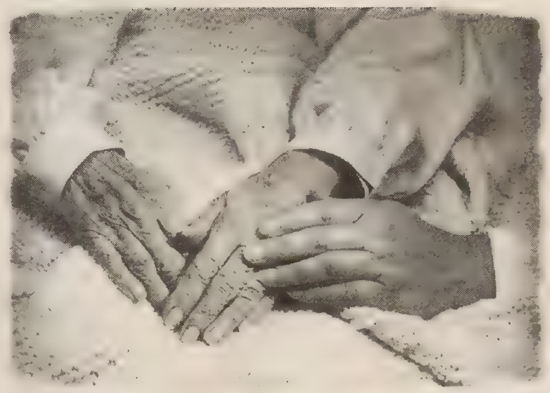
The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Can you answer "YES" to any of these questions?

1. Do you have a house or car to sell?
2. Do you want to rent/sell vacation property?
3. Do you need a good renter for a condo?
4. Are you looking for qualified employees?

With OVER 104,000 READERS,
The Catholic News & Herald classified ads WORK for YOU!

For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!



Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

Every

Act Of Mercy

Is Backed By The

Power Of The System.

Mercy Hospital, long known for its excellent care and gentle touch, still offers those ingredients so important to medical care. And now, each Mercy Hospital program is backed by the largest, most comprehensive healthcare system in the region — Carolinas HealthCare System. Unlock the Power of the System at Mercy Hospital.

Emergency Department
Characteristically offering the shortest waits in the area, the Mercy ED is staffed by board-certified and board-eligible Emergency Medicine specialists 24 hours a day.

The Heart Center
The cutting edge of high technology allows the center's outstanding heart specialists to diagnose and treat heart problems. With 25 years of experience, hundreds of open heart surgeries and thousands of cardiac catheterizations are successfully completed here each year.

Conveniently Located Doctors
The System's network of primary care physicians is located over several counties and work with Mercy's 200-plus specialists.

Managed Care
If you're covered by a healthcare plan, chances are good Mercy is among your accepted hospitals.

The Lung Center
Mercy has designed a center exclusively for the diagnosis, treatment and management of lung diseases in adults. The Lung Center offers a wide variety of equipment and specialists who treat the full spectrum of pulmonary disorders from asthma to lung cancer.

Pain Center
The center offers a comprehensive approach to the diagnosis and treatment of people with chronic pain. Our team of specialists includes a physician specially trained in pain management and focuses on both the physical and psychological aspects of a person's pain condition.

Rehabilitation Center
A full program of rehabilitation — led by physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors — helps patients overcome the changes resulting from physical disability.

Outpatient / Inpatient Surgery
Professional staffs give outstanding care to patients and families, whether it's for a few hours or for overnight stays.

Mercy Hospital
Carolinas HealthCare System

In the heart of Elizabeth at Vail Avenue and East 5th Street
www.carolinas.org

In brief ...

Belmont Abbey graduate earns doctorate

HOUSTON, Texas — Otto William "Tres" Schwalb III, who earned his bachelor of arts degree from Belmont Abbey College, has earned a doctorate from Rice University in Houston. His dissertation, which focused on statistics, was titled "Practical and Effective Methods of Simulation Based Parameter Estimation for Multidimensional Data." Raised in Savannah, Ga., Dr. Schwalb graduated from Benedictine Military School in 1989. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Belmont Abbey College in 1993, and master's degrees from Clemson University and Rice University in 1995 and 1998, respectively. Schwalb and his wife, Melissa, live in Houston. He is the son of Otto W. Schwalb Jr. and the late Mary Agnes Burnett Schwalb of Savannah.

Triad teacher wins excellence award from Wal-Mart

GREENSBORO — Christina Tschida, a parishioner and fourth-grade teacher at St. Pius X Church and School, has been recognized by local Wal-Mart associates as the area's Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. With the recognition came a $500 education grant to the school on Tschida's behalf, an all-school assembly and a speical trademark blue Wal-Mart vest emblazoned with "Teacher of the Year." Tschida is one of more than 2,500 teachers nationwide to received the award for 1999. "She inspired her students and helps them to fashion a strong sense of self-worth," said Sue Geraghty, school principal, who nominated Tschida for the award.

Catholic Social Services office expands facilities

By LARRY CHANCE
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop William G. Curlin led the dedication and blessing of the expanded Catholic Social Services facility on Sunday, July 18. The new facility, next to two existing CSS buildings, adds 4,500 square feet of space to house programs for the Triad area.

In his remarks, Bishop Curlin emphasized the organization's mission by saying, "The action of God is loving and serving of others. ...This is what proves that we're church." He said of those involved, "I come here today not to just bless a building. I've come here in the name of Jesus Christ to say to you, He will reward you abundantly because you saw Him, you served Him, you loved Him in those around you... God rewards you for that kind of love."

Prior to the expansion project, space problems were numerous, with staff sharing tight quarters. According to Mable H. Stevenson, program director for Host Homes, "Up until expansion was made, I had two staff in the closet, literally serving families out of a closet. ...We will be able to do more programs because we have more space to spread out, adding to the different types of things that we're doing, but expanding our programs."

David Harold, Catholic Social Services area director, said, "We needed the space... There was no space to interview clients. There was no private counseling area. ...So we're really much better able to do the work." He went on to say, "We're just really blessed. Blessed by the diocese, by all these people you see who are parishioners and volunteers, blessed by our clients. Yes, we are truly, richly blessed."

Photo by Larry Chance

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the newly renovated Catholic Social Services building in Winston-Salem while David Harold, CSS area director assists.

The original building was a private home built in 1917. A major modification took place in 1924 when a middle story was inserted between the first and existing second floor.

Egloff Building Co. Inc., handled this latest renovation process with most of the work completed by Anton and Martin Bevis, a father and son team. The building had to be jacked up and the foundation leveled. New walls, flooring, HVAC and electrical service were constructed.

Part of the funding came through a capital campaign that raised more than $100,000. In addition, several Triad-area companies donated their services.

Past CSS diocesan board chairperson, Lee Accettullo has witnessed the agency's growth. "I remember when Catholic Social Services was in a little one room of an old building down at Our Lady of Mercy. ...For them now to have doubled in size, to provide such a nice area for counseling, Hand to Hand, and everything, it's great. And I also think it's nice that they're still here downtown; easily accessible by the bus, and other things for the whole community."

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1948 and the Winston-Salem office opened in 1983. The new building houses CSS Core Services and Hand to Hand, a program designed to serve first time pregnant and parenting teens. The local staff serves more than 1,500 Triad area individuals and families. ▼

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260 (704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225 (704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228 (704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705 (336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

C.C.H.D.	(704) 370-3234
Casa Guadalupe	(336) 727-4745
Catholic Relief Services	(704) 370-3225
Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
Marriage Preparation	(704) 370-3228
Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
Prison Ministry — beeper	(704) 581-7693
Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

1123 South Church St. • Charlotte, NC 28203 • www.cssnc.org

Buying? Selling? Relocating?
RE/MAX® Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320, Charlotte, NC 28277
- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
(704) 543-6680 (800) 726-1231 *relocarolina@mindspring.com* *"Your Realtor for Life."*

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Book Review

Millennium-related book offers wisdom and insight without fear

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Lure of the Millennium: The Year 2000 and Beyond"

By Raymond F. Bulman. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 1999) 238 pp., $18.00.

Bookstore shelves are teeming with millennium-related texts. Most are of the "You better watch out" variety. Fortunately, Raymond Bulman's "The Lure of the Millennium" does not instill fear but puts the doomsayers' words in perspective.

That perspective comes from a well-defined, well-explained examination of millennialism — belief in the reality of a thousand-year reign of Christ on Earth before the consummation of all things. In fact, Bulman includes a glossary of what he calls "special terms" which helps readers understand millennium mania in general and his text in particular.

For those who want to know the author's simple summary of Y2K, it is this: "... there is no reason to believe that the year 2000 will have any special millennial significance." However, for those who want a detailed history and thorough analysis of the journey to the New Millennium, take time to read this book. And you will need time, as Bulman, a professor of theology at St. John's University, provides a background that is wide and deep. Keeping the people, eras and terminology straight is time-consuming, but worth the investment.

Of particular help to Catholics, particularly those who are confronted by fundamental Protestants who predict doom and gloom in the new millennium, are the two chapters devoted to the Book of Revelation. Bulman's scholarship and common-sense approach are welcome in the midst of disaster-preaching televangelists and their followers. It is an ideal text for those who participate in discussion or Scripture study groups where Revelation/millennium questions often arise.

Bulman's approach to the millennium parallels that of Pope John Paul II, who has called it "a time of great grace." The author sees the year 2000 and beyond as an opportunity to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit and the birth of spiritual communities. In short, he sees it as an opportunity for renewal.

That is what readers will be — renewed, if they read this volume with the same level-headedness with which it has been written, and appreciate the wisdom and the insight which the author provides. ▼

Olszewski is the editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

Word to Life

July 25, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128
2) Romans 8:28-30
3) Matthew 13:44-52

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Her last words as we parted after a long, catching-up conversation were, "I really and truly believe that all things work together for those that love the Lord."

She was paraphrasing one of the Scriptures from this week's readings, but in the context of her life and the stories she had just told me about her kids, her husband and her work in ministry to young women, she revealed a great deal more than the Apostle Paul about how this understanding of God's workings in our lives brings order and meaning when the surface logic of painful circumstances only leaves us standing in a bombed-out shell, ashes where our dreams had been.

My friend has seen some children do well, some do OK and some with more obvious gifts excel. She's seen a loving husband decimated first by disease, then by an addiction.

But she's seen it all through eyes that sparkle when she talks about the intimacy and the nearness of God, and his great love for us.

I suspect this is the wisdom that Jesus speaks of in one of the parables in this week's Gospel when he talks about the pearl of great price. The man who found it went out and sold all he possessed in order to have that pearl.

I suspect it is the wisdom that Solomon, as king of Israel, asked God for that gave him the ability to make good and just judgments for his people.

It is wisdom that recognizes that one must pursue the good as God reveals it at the cost of all that would oppose the effort. It is wisdom that finds that the highest good from which all others flow is love, and that the greatest love must flow from the source of all love, who is God.

The riches my friend possesses are as great as the riches of Solomon. The wisdom she possesses in her simplicity and in her profound, sincere faith is greater than that of Solomon because she has comprehended that which Solomon could only anticipate, the pearl of great price itself, the love of a Savior made man, come to earth to love, to teach, to heal, to live and to die, and to rise again offering us all the hope of unending life in the presence of the source of all love.

We can all share in that wisdom. It's there for us to have if we'll seek it with our whole hearts, with willingness to set aside whatever stands between us and its possession. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 25 - 31, 1999

Sunday, 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13:44-52; **Monday**, Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34, Matthew 13:31-35; **Tuesday**, Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28, Matthew 13:36-43; **Wednesday**, Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday**, Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38, John 11:19-27; **Friday**, Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday**, Leviticus 25:1, 8-17, Matthew 14:1-12

Readings for the week of Aug. 1 - 7, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35, 37-39, Matthew 14:13-21; **Monday**, Numbers 11:4-15, Matthew 14:22-36; **Tuesday**, Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14; **Wednesday**, Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14.1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday**, Numbers 20:1-13, Matthew 16:13-23; **Friday**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Matthew 17:1-9; **Saturday**, Deuteronomy 6:4-13, Matthew 17:14-20

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

TV Review

"An American Celebration" reminds us of our proud musical heritage

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The annual salute to American music and dance forms is showcased in "An American Celebration at Ford's Theatre," airing Thursday, July 29, 8-9 p.m. EDT on ABC.

Taped live and attended by President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the gala benefits the historic Ford's Theatre, site of the assassination of President Lincoln, who was an avid supporter of the arts.

"An American Celebration at Ford's Theatre"
July 29, ABC, 8-9 p.m. EDT on ABC

Nathan Lane gets things started belting out "There's No Business Like Show Business" followed by the angel-voiced 13-year-old Charlotte Church as she sings "Amazing Grace."

Adam Arkin relates how gospel music helped Americans through the Depression, which segues into Queen Esther Marrow and the Harlem Gospel Singers' medley of rousing spirituals.

Nine-year-old tap dancer Cartier Anthony Williams should bring a smile to viewers' faces while chanteuse and jazz pianist Diana Krall performs Duke Ellington's "Take the A-Train" to an appreciative audience.

Debbie Allen's monologue on freedom proves starkly dramatic, but the highlight of the evening is opera great Kathleen Battle in an exquisite gown with a voice to match as she sings the song Lincoln so loved: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Other celebrities appear as well before the president and first lady go on stage to remind the audience of the importance of the arts, and of preserving Ford's Theatre in particular.

As directed by Paul Miller, it's a classy hour that reminds us of our proud musical heritage of American jazz, country, Broadway, gospel and rhythm and blues. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

"Lake Placid"
Brendan Gleeson (left) and Oliver Platt star in the thriller "Lake Placid." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted.

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Out on video

"Down in the Delta" (1998)

Uplifting tale in which a drug-addicted single mom (Alfre Woodard) and her two young children leave the inner city to make a fresh start in rural Mississippi with her righteous uncle (Al Freeman Jr.) and Alzheimer's-afflicted aunt (Esther Rolle). Directed by Maya Angelou, this hopeful story of the healing power of family is flawed only by the apparent ease with which the troubled woman is transformed once she escapes urban temptations. A scene of substance abuse and a fleeting reference to prostitution. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Miramax, rental)

Don't Go Home Without Us.

When it's time to go home from the hospital after an illness or injury, you need the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your home care agency will be there to help you get well.

For 30 years Duke & St. Joseph Home Care has been helping folks get well all over central North Carolina. The qualified and experienced Duke & St. Joseph team of health care professionals will serve you with compassion and dignity in the comfort and privacy of your own home.

Duke & St. Joseph Home Care. The name you can trust.

DUKE & ST. JOSEPH HOME CARE
800•581•9257

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT

- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line
at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Russian Visitors,

from page 7

Debbie admitted, "I was overwhelmed. I never expected all of this, and it was very generous of them to do this."

Debbie and David Pike decided to host a child because they did not have any of their own and could dedicate the time. And while Debbie began working full-time, all worked out well because they were assigned as the host family for the chaperones, Olga and Tatiana, teachers at the Moscow school where the children attend.

The three women sat around talking at night about their native countries and went on several outings which included a trip to the beach.

"We want to see the ocean," said the ladies simultaneously, "we want to swim in the ocean," added Tatiana as she pantomimed the butterfly stroke.

Both of the women had visited America before, and Tatiana's 14-year-old daughter Natalia took advantage of this visit.

"I want my daughter to have an idea of the American lifestyle. Practicing English is important, and this will help her in her future," stated Tatiana.

Both women agreed that what they like most about America are the people.

"American and Russian people have much in common. Debbie has been very hospitable and gracious. We are like that. Even if there is not enough food for the rest of the week, we share all that we have with guests," expressed Olga. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org

Summer reading selections, perfect for vacations!

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri. 9:00am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

Own a Home?
Have Equity?

Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

Serving the investment needs of the community.

Stocks and Bonds
Mutual Funds
IRAs and Pension Plans
Money Management

Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant

110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or **(800) 334-4401**

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
A member of citigroup

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

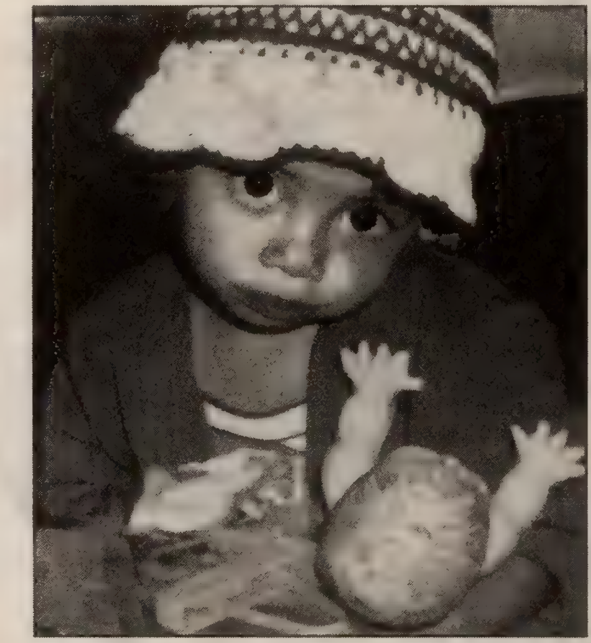
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsor . . . and I invite you to join me. CFCA is a dedicated organization working on behalf of the poor at Catholic missions worldwide."

Most Reverend James P. Keleher
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas – Sponsors José Muños of Honduras

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*



Many children in the developing world live in poverty with little hope for the future. Can you help a poor child? Become a sponsor today!

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program,* can show you the affordable way to sponsor a child.

Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship helps provide a poor child with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most.

You receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important,* you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

CFCA
Catholic Child Sponsorship
420

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ **$20** ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ _______
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ _______.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ____________________ Exp. Date ________
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ _______.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ____________________
(please print)
Address ____________________
City/State/Zip ____________________
Phone (_____) ____________________

CNH7/99

Send to:
Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Cleaning of 10th-century coins reveals image of Christ

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Recent thorough cleaning of a horde of 10th-century coins discovered last year in Tiberias have revealed 60 rare "Jesus coins" bearing an image of Christ.

Coins of this type, known scientifically as "anonymous folles" because they neither contain the name or image of the ruler of the time, were minted briefly for 80 years at the end of the 10th century by Christian kings in Constantinople, said Hebrew University Archaeology Professor Yizhar Hirschfeld, who led the dig at the site of ancient Tiberias.

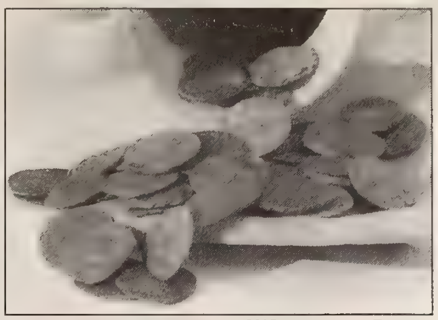
The coins, along with some 20 additional coins and another 1,000 bronze items from the Islamic period, were among the largest cache of objects from that period ever discovered in Israel. Although uncovered last year, it was not until the cleaning of the coins began this year that archaeologists realized the magnitude of their find.

Although they were not of high monetary value – valuable coins were made of gold – the Jesus coins seem to have had a special significance similar to that of a religious medallion for Christian pilgrims.

The coins are engraved with an image of Jesus and with Greek inscriptions proclaiming "Jesus the Messiah, the King of Kings" and "Jesus, the Messiah, the Victor," Hirschfeld said. Normally Jesus was not used as symbol on coins, he added.

"You can see Jesus very clearly on the coins. There is a big cross behind him, and he has a big head and eyes like on the icons of the 5th century," Hirschfeld said. "These are very rare coins, and it is the first time they were found in Israel."

He said the largest collection of such coins is housed at the Dunbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington, D.C. The coins found at the Tiberias dig are now on display in a new "House of Bronze" exhibit at the Hebrew University Institute of Archaeology.



CNS photo from Reuters

Fifty-eight of 82 coins discovered last October near the Sea of Galilee have the image of Christ. Greek inscriptions such as "Jesus the Messiah, the King of Kings" and "Jesus, the Messiah, the Victor," appear on some of the coins.

Hirschfeld said the bronze "Jesus coins" were minted as a form of propaganda by the Christian kings at the end of the last millennium in response to the rising tide of Islam.

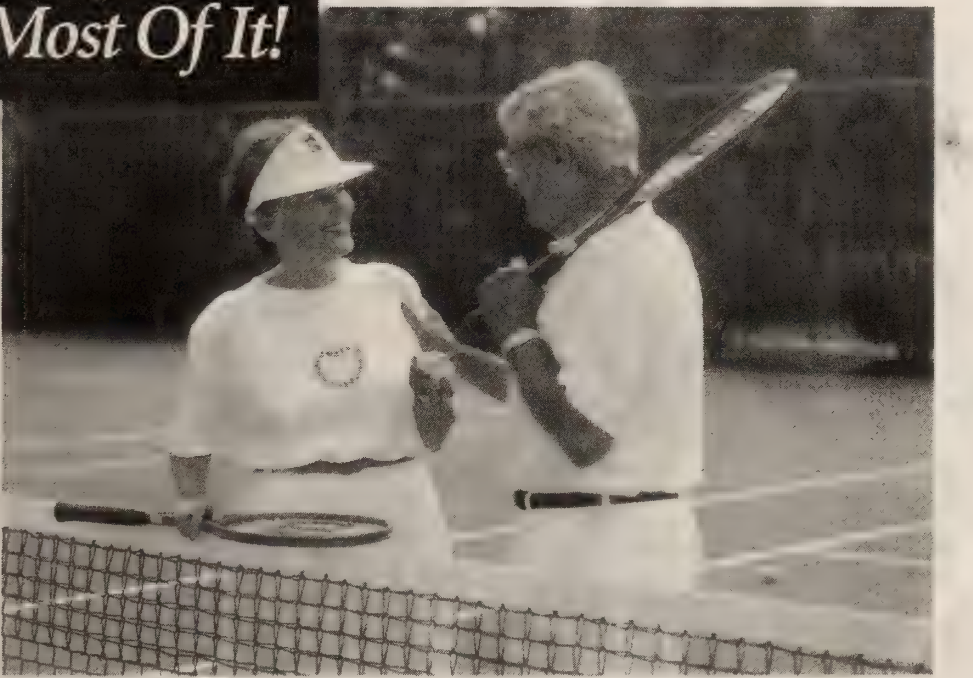
Although they were not of high monetary value — valuable coins were made of gold — the Jesus coins seem to have had a special significance similar to that of a religious medallion for Christian pilgrims.

The items were found in three large clay pots hidden under the floor of a structure, apparently where the building owner had hidden the metal objects and coins out of fear of invasion by the Crusaders at the end of the 11th century.

The Crusaders invaded and destroyed ancient Tiberias, which at the time had a mixed population of Jews, Muslims and Christians. The coins and bronze items remained well concealed in their hiding place and were not plundered by the attacking forces.

"These coins show that the owner was possibly a Christian and if not, then that he had contact with the Christian population of Tiberias. This find also demonstrates that there were Christians in Tiberias at that time and that pilgrims from Constantinople came to Tiberias — otherwise we would not have these coins here," said Hirschfeld. "It is nice at the end of the second millennium to find these coins in the same place they were hidden by the unknown owner at the end of the last millennium." ▼

It's Your Life.
Make The Most Of It!



Perhaps you've heard about Belle Meade Retirement Resort, currently under development near the beautiful villages of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. When completed in 1999, it will be the premier full-service Life Care community in the Southeast.

Proposed Belle Meade Clubhouse

Learn more about Belle Meade's casually elegant lifestyle, attractive amenities, secured environment and extensive health care services including the resort's unique Life Care Plan. Simply call 800-343-7463 and ask to speak with Marketing Counselors Beth Corning or Myra Couch. They'll give you all the details.

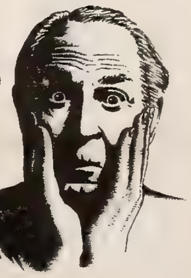
BELLE MEADE
Retirement Resort
Member: Catholic Health East

95 Aviemore Drive • Pinehurst, NC 28374
800-343-7463 • 910-215-4535

Sponsor: St. Joseph of the Pines, Inc. - Pinehurst • Architectural services: Thompson, Hancock, Witte & Associates, Inc. - Atlanta • Feasibility consultation: KPMG Peat Marwick - St. Petersburg • Construction consultation: The Holcomb Group - Roanoke • General contractor: Rodgers/Hardin - Charlotte/Atlanta • Financial services: First Savings Bank of Moore County - Southern Pines & Wachovia Bank, NA - Southern Pines • Marketing consultation: [illegible] • Senior Managing Underwriter: Merrill Lynch & Co. - New York • Certified member: Association of Retirement Resorts International

OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

This is a Test.



	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

For a free information packet, call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving.
(704) 370-3320

Workshops provide opportunity for candid discussion of difficult topic

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HICKORY — Employees of the Diocese of Charlotte were perhaps taken with the open and frank dialogue as the diocese elected to offer a workshop, Culture and Commitment, as a means to address ministry-related sexual misconduct.

The workshop dealt directly with the historic failure to talk about misconduct and the often-destructive consequences for the Church. It was a unique opportunity to reach out with open dialogue before troubling incidents occur.

The diocese chose a proactive initiative to concurrently educate lay personnel, religious, clergy and volunteers who minister to vulnerable populations. Integrating [combining laity, ordained and professed individuals] the workshop sends a clear message, said Michael Morton, a Pennsylvania educator, family therapist and addictions counselor with over 20 years experience in human services who conducted the workshops. "This is a community problem and needs a community response regardless of the status of the offending party."

"Sexual misconduct is more than a clergy problem," said Morton. "It occurs in ministry at all levels and demands an inclusive audience." The response to abuse and misconduct is much more effective when everyone is aware of and empowered to act when — *and if* — incidents occur, he added. Participants were reminded that misconduct is not restricted to child abuse, it includes sexual conduct, language and contact.

During his presentation, Morton minced few words as he described horrific acts of abuse — recalled from his experiences as a therapist — in graphic terms. While providing a focus for discussion, the workshop provided a tool for those troubled by situations that might be approached. Morton said many participants commented on the positive aspects of being able to openly hear, and ask questions which are troubling to all thoughtful Catholics involved in ministry.

Several years ago, Bishop William G. Curlin announced zero tolerance for ministry-related sexual misconduct in response to a case of clergy misconduct. Today, he upholds this commitment, and was counted among those attending one of the daylong sessions.

"The very act of making the issue public to a mixed audience with the presence of the bishop allows for a healing dialogue to address the painful issue in a public forum," said Morton. "This also gives permission for individuals to voice concerns about situations evidencing potential misconduct."

"In too many cases, the past disallowed individuals to talk, express their feelings and trust that such efforts would be heard for both healing and prevention of future abuse," said Morton. "The Diocese of Charlotte acted in a true pastoral way, which can be an example for other dioceses to follow." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Photo courtesy of St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Local youth welcome Team India to Special Olympics

St. John Neumann youth participated in greeting the Special Olympians from Team India on June 21 at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Before the event, many of the youth were penpals. Here, members of both groups join together at the welcoming ceremonies to pose for a photograph.

Grand Ultreya to reflect on coming jubilee

STATESVILLE — The Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Charlotte will center at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville Aug. 8, when it will gather in preparation for the jubilee with a Grand Ultreya. Cursillo, a Spanish word meaning "short course," is a spiritual encounter focusing on evangelization and renewal. The movement in the United States celebrated its 15th anniversary in 1972, the year when Bishop Michael J. Begley began his ministry as spiritual shepherd of the newly created Diocese of Charlotte. Bishop Emeritus Begley fostered continued interest in the movement, and it continues to enjoy popularity in areas throughout the diocese today. The Aug. 8 gathering in Statesville begins at 3 p.m. and continues until 6. Mass and a potluck dinner will follow the Ultreya. The event will be a multi-cultural one, featuring tracks in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. St. Philip the Apostle Church is located at 525 Camden Rd., off Interstate 77's Exit 49B, in Statesville.

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 104,000 readers! Over 42,000 homes!
Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
How to order: Ads may be faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business Manager: Computer literate Business Manager wanted for local non-profit organization. Responsibilities include bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, payroll, taxes, financial reporting, budget preparation and supervision. Salary to the low $30's including full benefits and retirement program. Send resume to Search Committee, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia, NC 28052 or stmich@bellsouth.net.

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith Formation): Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Charlotte area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3244. Inquiries: (704)370-3244. Deadline: July 30, 1999.

Director of Development: Bishop McGuinness High School, a diocesan college preparatory school, grades 9-12, is in search of a Director of Development and Public Relations for the 1999-2000 school year (to begin summer 1999). Responsibilities include oversight and coordination of all institutional advancement activities, including fundraising, alumni activities, liaison with media and public, student recruitment, and work with diocesan Development Office staff as school enters transition from current to new campuses. Qualifications: degree in appropriate field of preparation, experience in this or related field a plus; computer skills; demonstrated effectiveness in human relations and motivation; mastery of written communication for publicity purposes, etc. Send resume/qualifications to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, N. C. 27103.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following positions open beginning August 1999: Primary teachers; Assistant principal; Physical Education; and part time for Art, Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. All must have North Carolina certification. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Faith Formation Director: An established Catholic parish of 600 families just outside of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsibilities will include the creation of a Faith Formation Process that offers ALL parishioners opportunities to grow in their faith at all stages of life. This includes: catechetical ministries for children and youth, as well as RCIA, sacramental preparation, ministry training, and adult formation. Qualifications: at least two years' parish experience, organizational skills, and ability to work with and communicate with all ages. Salary will reflect qualifications. Mail resume with references to: Search Committee/Faith Formation, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, NC 28012.

High School Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following teaching positions open beginning August 1999: Full-time Social Studies, Full-time Biology/Environmental Science. Must be NC certified. For an application, please call (704)543-1127, Monday-Thursday 8am - 11:30.

House Cleaners: $12/hour. 9 hours a week: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday daytimes. Charlotte area. Call Maid in Heaven: (704)643-5545.

Pastoral Musician: St. Paul the Apostle Parish is seeking a part-time Director of Music available August 1, 1999. Must possess skills in keyboard, vocal training, choral conducting, knowledge of Vatican II liturgy. Duties include coordination of music for all worship services, directing the Adult Choir, training parish cantors, providing music for all sacramental liturgies including funerals and weddings. Will work collaboratively with the pastoral staff and director of liturgy. Please submit resume to Rev. James O'Neill, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.

Principal: An academically challenging school with 300 students in grades K4-8th is seeking to fill the position of Principal. Applicants shall have the following qualifications: master's degree in School Administration (or Administration courses); if not holding an Administrative degree, be willing to work for one; at least 5 years of teaching experience; have, or be eligible for, a South Carolina principal's certificate, or have certification from another state; be a practicing Catholic. For application, send resume to: Rev. Arturo Dalupang, St. Anthony Catholic Church and School, PO Box 5327, Florence, SC 29502.

Teachers: Bishop McGuinness High School, Winston-Salem, NC, a diocesan 9-12 college prep institution, needs teachers in the following areas for the coming school year: Modern Languages (Spanish, French), Math, and History. Send resume/application to George L. Repass, Principal, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. (N.C. Certification/some experience preferred.)

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (Pre-K - 8) has the following part-time positions open beginning August 1999: Music, Librarian, Computer, and Counselor. All applicants must have, or be in a position to obtain, North Carolina certification. Please send resume to: Principal, Sacred Heart School, 123 N. Ellis St., Salisbury, NC 28144; Fax(704)633-6033.

Teachers, Media Specialist: Our Lady of Grace School is in need of a Library Media Specialist, Learning Resource teacher, a part-time Science and Religion teacher, and a middle-school Math teacher. These positions are for the 1999-2000 school year, beginning August 16, 1999. Please send your resume to Roberta Hutchcraft at Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403; or fax to (336)274-7326.

REAL ESTATE

Beach Home for Sale: Ocean Isle Beach. 4 Bedrooms, plus sleep loft (or, den/5th bedroom). 3 1/2 baths. Furnished with style. Gated community - west end. Walk to beach. Pool. Tennis. Year-round enjoyment; fireplace; ample room to entertain. Lou Hayes Realty, agent Bill R. $294,500. (888)-398-7086. (Seller is St. Matthew parishioner.)

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted: Set of Catholic Encyclopedias - preferably older editions. Children's would be even better. Call Terri DeLuca at (704)888-6050.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for granting my petition. S.C.

Thank you Lord Jesus, Blessed Mary, St. Jude and all the saints for favors granted. J.H.

St. Paul the Apostle celebrates a quarter-century of growth

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Where does the time go? Twenty-five years is a long time to some and only a blip on the screen to others. For the parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle, their 25th anniversary was something to celebrate.

On July 18th, Bishop William G. Curlin was homilist to a full house at Greensboro's War Memorial Auditorium. The weekend's events, which included a dinner dance the night before, had been a year in the making for the members of the committee.

Oblate Father Joseph Morrissey, Oblate Provincial, offered, "St. Paul's is a very vibrant parish. Quite frankly, it is a model we try to emulate in other churches along the coast. It is well-organized, has a tremendous spirit, and defines us as a collaborative ministry. It is one of the premiere examples of Church in the 20th century."

The celebration began with an introduction by one of the founders of the parish, Dick Douglas.

Parishioners reminisced as Douglas related the interesting history of a church that had to climb a few hills before reaching their plateau.

Back in 1974, Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley felt that another church should be developed in Guilford County. He asked the Paulist Fathers if they would become a part of a new church; however, at least 30 families would have be recruited. So, Douglas, Joe Berry, and Paulist Father Bob Scott, who was the Chaplain of three area colleges at the time and became the founding pastor, studied parish boundaries.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Oblate Father Jim O'Neill, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle and Father Bernard Backiel, from Our Lady of Grace take time out for a picture before the start of Mass.

Ninety-five Catholic families began worship services in a number of uncommon places: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Guilford College Methodist Church, and Forbis and Dick Funeral Home. In 1991, the Paulist Fathers left to staff other churches, and the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales came to take their place.

The present pastor Oblate Father Jim O'Neill, who has been with the church for nine years, now celebrates five Saturday and Sunday Masses for nearly 2,000 families.

"The growth of the church is incredible and surprising," stated Father Scott. "The secret of the parish was cooperation and enthusiasm of people who took it upon themselves to establish a community. It has grown, but there is still that sense of community."

The bishop's homily focused on the link between the past and the present in relation to St. Paul's parish and how Christ is continuously present within our lives. "Your past is the same as my past [because we are] filled with the sense of God's presence, the understanding of His mercy, and the overwhelming joy of His love."

"This is what community is all about, Jesus Christ walking the Earth in each one of us, and the recognition of that presence binds us like nothing else in this world," he continued.

Dominican Sister Gerry Magel, who served as Director of Religious Education from 1987 to 1992, thinks that "there is a spirit in the parish that really presents to her what people are called to do as a Church." She said that she can "feel the presence of God when she comes to St. Paul's."

"My main goal is to help people find the Lord and to worship together through the Eucharist. I think that evangelization is one of the most important areas. We have to strengthen those who are already living their faith and to help those who have strayed away from the church. I feel that the youth are most important to us as a whole," said Father O'Neill. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Come find out about...
Natural Family Planning
Introductory Classes: 2nd Tuesday of every month
Next class: August 10th
Upcoming classes on Sept. 14 & Oct. 12th
Fee: $10
Classes held at 7pm at the Charlotte Diocese Pastoral Center
1123 South Church Street
(4 blocks from Ericsson "Panther" Stadium)
For information, other class locations and methods, please call (704) 370-3230.

School Uniform Sale!
Lower prices!
➤ Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
➤ 9-month "School Year Warranty"
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75!
1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

ModularCorp
Specialists in Custom Modular Buildings to meet your growing and changing needs
Turn-key and Professional Solutions
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com
Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner
- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available
10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

'Faithful servants' learn about life, leadership

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

HICKORY — After a week of sharing prayer, liturgy and experiences, some teens and adults found it difficult not to reach out to comfort one another. Most failed to stifle their welled-up tears. All of them heard a message reflecting on how true Christian leaders are to live.

An emotional silence followed the service of prayer, reflection and music. Then, quietly, a youth ministry leader expressed a reassuring yet urgent missive.

"That is our call, brothers and sisters," said Paul Kotlowski, youth ministry director for the Diocese of Charlotte. "As we walk the roads of our lives, (we are) to find the risen Jesus in all those we meet, reminding all of us that we are created good, that we are meant to be happy, and that we are to love one another."

So ended "Faithful Servant: A Christ-Centered Leadership Experience," sponsored by the youth ministry offices of the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses. A community encounter of learning life and leadership skills, the seminar ended with a closing ceremony that focused on a deeply personal experience of grace.

Circled in a dormitory recreation room on the campus of Lenoir Rhyne College and asked to give one another the space to pray and reflect, participants found a drastic departure from the rest of a week focusing on togetherness. A suggestion calmly clued them in about the gift of solitude.

"Listen to the voice of God speaking within you," Kotlowski told the nearly 50 youth from across North Carolina, who were joined by several adult participants as well. "And if you find yourself in need of comfort and support, know that those around you, that all of us in this room, are with you in spirit — God's spirit."

The purpose of the faith-based, weeklong seminar is to invite teens and adults involved in ministry and service to realize their leadership potential through a variety of spiritual and social exercises. Organizers hope participants will bring what they learned back home to their families, parishes, schools and communities.

Youth ministry director Paul Kotlowski prays for a participant of "Faithful Servant." The laying on of hands is an old form of blessing in the Catholic tradition.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Led through the week of June 25-29 by a mentoring team of youth ministers, participants learned about leadership abilities and styles relating to communication, organization and planning. They discussed topics ranging from conflict resolution to consensus seeking to theology.

They celebrated Mass and gathered to receive the sacrament of penance. They prayed, played, and lived together while rediscovering themselves, one another and — as Kotlowski reminded them at week's end — the holy call to live happy, productive, faith-based lives.

"We were only together five days, but during those five days you really get to know these people," said Martha Fiaschetti, 15, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. "You feel so much closer to them. We had a reconciliation service, and everyone was crying. People you didn't even know very well would come up and just hug you and tell you 'It will be okay. We're here for you.'"

Fiaschetti, who plans on active involvement in her parish's blossoming youth ministry, added that faith formed a common bond among all the participants.

That bond was also noticed by Billy Tripp, a 16-year-old from Garner who plays leadership roles in the band and in an anti-violence club at his school. "(The seminar) taught me leadership and how to be a good Catholic," explained the parishioner of St. Mary, Mother of the Church Parish.

"At things like this that we go to, we learn how to do it right — how to help other people and set a better example for everybody else on going through their life," he said. "It made me realize where I came from, who I am, and what I need to continue to be."

The final gathering in the dorm rec room featured stories from Scripture and Catholic tradition which told how youth of long ago made the most of such gifts — courage and trust and strength.

Missi Fahle, 16, traveled from her home parish of St. Andrew the Apostle in Apex for the seminar. A soccer coach who helps out with junior youth ministry at her parish, she said people should strive to be leaders in everything they do. She's attended school-led leadership retreats before, but found an entirely new experience in "Faithful Servant."

"Having seen it from a different point of view — trying to deal with things by having God to back you up — makes me personally realize that it's a lot easier to get through things and to help other people if you're more centered with God," said Fahle.

Christian Smith, also 16, said the experience not only taught him how to lead, but reminded him how to live. "I haven't really known who God was for a long time, so I just really wanted to get in touch with my faith," said Smith, a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Charlotte.

Smith said the trials of teen-age life make it easy to steer away from a focus on faith, but credits the retreat with reacquainting him with Jesus.

"I had never thought of doing anything like we did that week," he said. "Two years ago if you had told me I was going to do that, I would have laughed at you, just because that's not where I was."

Smith, who now serves on his parish youth council, looks forward to more youth retreats like "Faithful Servant." "Everything we did you could relate to the Bible; I mean *everything*," he said. "You could relate to how Jesus did what he did." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen – Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S304 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 6, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 42

Inside

Diocese sells Home Health and Hospice Agency ...PAGE 3

Youth "jog" towards new understanding ...PAGE 7

Commission reaches out to gay and lesbian Catholics ...PAGE 9

Local News

Decade of growth in mountain parish ...PAGE 8

Former sanctuary becomes music studio ...PAGE 13

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Crowned with Glory

The Feast of The Assumption is August 15. This statue is at Our Lady of The Assumption parish in Charlotte.

May the prayers of the Virgin Mary bring us to the salvation of Christ and raise us up to eternal life.

The Feast of The Assumption is August 15

House votes 230-197 to cut some School of Americas funding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House voted 230-197 July 30 to eliminate some funding for the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga. For the first time in years of attempts led by a Maryknoll priest to close the training program for Latin American military officers, a majority in the House voted to kill the portion of the school's funding included in the U.S. government's foreign operations budget. The balance of its funding is included in the defense budget. School officials said the action, if endorsed by the Senate, would affect $1.2 million of its $4.3 million budget.

U.N. group's respect for confidential confession in doubt

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Respect for confidentiality between priest and penitent in proceedings of the International Criminal Court appeared in doubt as the Preparatory Commission for the court began a session July 26 at U.N. headquarters in New York. Vatican officials thought recognition of the confidentiality of the confessional was secured in Rome last year. But Vatican representatives at the United Nations expressed concern that a discussion paper introduced in the commission's Working Group on Rules of Procedure and Evidence did not mention clergy in connection with confidentiality privileges.

Pan-American meeting to discuss bioethics, demographics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bioethics, demographics and the legal status of the human embryo were some of the subjects on the agenda for an early August pan-American meeting planned by a Vatican council. The August 3-5 gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina, would provide "a good opportunity for dialogue between politicians and pastors from throughout the Americas on these very important themes," said Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Presenting the program for the event July 28, the cardinal noted that among the invited guests were "potential candidates for the U.S. presidency," but he said none had confirmed that they would attend.

CNS photo from Reuters

Mother in Kosovo

An ethnic Albanian mother washes her son amid the ruins of their home in Fustica, Kosovo, July 29. World leaders were gathering in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in late July for a summit on bringing peace and prosperity to the Balkans region, which has suffered a decade of bloodshed.

Former ambassador says normal life has not returned to Bosnia

ROME (CNS) — While peace has held for more than three years in Bosnia-Herzegovina, restoring a normal, dignified life is far from over, a former U.S. ambassador said. Thomas P. Melady, retired U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, visited the Balkan country July 18-25, less than a week before world leaders were to hold a summit meeting on reconstruction of the region. "I did not expect it to be a casual visit, but I was surprised and disappointed by what I saw," Melady said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

Bishop says creditors must share blame for Latin American debt

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — The Latin American debt is a consequence of bad government administration, and of creditors' greed, said Coadjutor Archbishop Hector Aguer of La Plata, Argentina. In a response to an article published by the newspaper La Nacion on the Catholic Church's stance regarding the international debt, Archbishop Aguer said cancellation or reduction of the debt "is not only the request of a favor, but the application of justice, since the current debt is also the responsibility of the creditors."

Mexican bishops prepare document on 'Mexico we long for'

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — As Mexicans prepare for national elections in July 2000, the country's Catholic bishops are preparing a document that will outline their vision of "the Mexico we long for." In January, the Mexican bishops' conference will publish a document including formal proposals for "achieving unity, cohesion and dialogue among Mexicans, so as to overcome the crises and defeat the economic and political threats of the next millennium." The document will include reflections on evangelization, economic models, development, employment, education, politics, culture and human rights, a spokesman for the bishops' conference announced July 20.

Serb-Albanian reconciliation now paramount, says archbishop

NEW YORK (CNS) — Reconciliation between ethnic Albanians and Serbs is now the paramount concern in Kosovo, said Archbishop Rrok K. Mirdita of Durres-Tirana, Albania. But reconciliation "will be very hard because the scars are very deep," he added. The archbishop made the comments in an interview with Catholic New York, the archdiocesan newspaper, during a visit to New York in mid-July. Archbishop Mirdita went to the Albanian Catholic community he served for 20 years, Our Lady of Shkodra Church in Hartsdale, where he celebrated Mass for an overflow congregation of 800 persons July 18. He said that, just as in the Gospel parable about the grain of wheat and the weeds growing together, the good will triumph in the Balkans.

Church officials say vigilantism is response to failed courts

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A sudden rise in vigilantism is the response of ordinary South Africans to what they see as the failure of the criminal justice system, church officials said. People are "resorting to street justice because they feel that the justice system is failing them," said Brian Redelinghuys of the Cape Town archdiocesan justice and peace commission. "Police investigations are often done sloppily and there is corruption, such as files that mysteriously go missing and cases that never get to court even though there are witnesses and evidence," he said.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
August 6, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 43
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 8 — 12 noon
Confirmation
Cristo Rey
Yadkinville

August 14
Mass for the Malades
and the Knights of Malta

August 15 — 11 a.m.
Assumption of the Virgin Mary
Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

August 19
Diocesan Foundation Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center
Hickory

Diocesan planner

August

7 HAYESVILLE — A variety of items can be found at Immaculate Heart of Mary's White Elephant sale and annual bazaar, today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Hwy. 64 West in the Commons room adjacent to the church. It is sponsored by the Women's Club. There will be a bake sale and coffee after the event.

MOORESVILLE — A rummage sale is today at St. Therese, 217 Brawley School Road, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Susan Wallace for details at (704) 483-5066.

8 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrates a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m. with a potluck to follow the Mass. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

STATESVILLE — In preparation for the Year of the Jubilee, a Grand Ultreya takes place today at St. Philip the Apostle, 525 Camden Dr., from 3-6 p.m. The Ultreya is followed by Mass and potluck. All Cursillitas and English, Spanish, and Vietnamese-speaking people are invited to attend. For more details, call Lee Accettullo at (336) 765-9473.

11 CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh leads a "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians'" meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in St. Peter's sacristy, 507 South Tryon. Call (704) 332-2901 for details.

13 CHARLOTTE — Tonight from 8-10 p.m. at St. Matthew's, 8015 Ballantyne Parkway, Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej is the facilitator of the "Nite of Joy," a time for sharing of faith and reflection through contemporary Christian music and reading the Gospels. Tonight's guest speaker is Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp from Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro who will focus on

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

August 6, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ:

Once again, we are asking you to support The Catholic University of America — the Church's national University. This is our foremost symbol of Catholic higher education in the nation, and it is the national center for research in Catholic theology, philosophy and law.

The Catholic University was founded by the Bishops of the U.S. in 1887, and it continues its original charter from Pope Leo XIII by providing doctrinally-sound education to priests and religious in their formation, as well as to other students from around the world.

The Catholic University (CUA) has educated more U.S. bishops and priests than any other institution. These Church leaders, along with religious and laity who have an education from CUA, minister in every diocese in our nation.

The University is a national leader in advancing Catholic Education. Also, being in the nation's capital, CUA has played a major role in influencing national policies.

The success of The Catholic University of America depends upon us. Please be generous in your support of this collection when it is taken in your parish on the weekend of August 7-8.

Wishing you and yours God's abundant blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

P.O. BOX 36776, CHARLOTTE, NC 28236
PHONE: (704) 370-6299 FAX: (704) 370-3379

Diocese sells Home Health and Hospice Agency

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

HAYESVILLE — The sale of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency was completed July 30. The sale concluded plans for Murphy Medical Center to absorb Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice.

"I am very grateful to the staff of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency for their history of compassionate care to those in need in Clay and Cherokee Counties," said The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, bishop of the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte. Murphy Medical, the new owners of this agency, have committed to continuing the excellent service that the community has come to expect from this agency."

"It is a time for reflection as we witness this newest phase in the life of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice," said the Very Reverend Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte. "We have been proud to tend the home health needs of our brothers and sisters in the western counties of North Carolina."

When the agency was established in 1954 by the Glenmary Sisters, comprehensive health care in the region went beyond basic medical care. In many cases, it meant going into remote and sometimes difficult-to-access areas where the people lived. In those days, the Sisters could find themselves delivering babies, chopping firewood, hailing in fresh water, cooking meals and washing clothes — all the things needed to help patients in the home setting.

In the following decades, health care evolved into a highly trained, strictly regulated industry. Clinicians and practitioners from a variety of disciplines found an expansive array of licensing and certification from state and federal agencies.

With the changing pace of health care, one thing remained constant for the staff of Good Shepherd: the belief that their work was more than medicine alone — it was viewed as ministry. In many cases, it was just being there for people in need: Holding a hand, listening, sharing tears and the gift of an understanding smile.

"We know that to best serve the home health needs in this area of Western North Carolina, change in ownership to Murphy Medical will continue the good works established by our diocesan home health and hospice agency," said Father West.

Within the agreement, employees of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice will retain their jobs at the same compensation levels for one year [excepting cases of discharge for cause.] It was also agreed that employees would continue to receive the same or equal benefits during that period.

The diocese is retaining its commitment to serve the peoples' needs in the westernmost counties. The office of Justice and Peace is heavily involved in a western counties project that promotes economic justice. "This is our latest endeavor to reach an underserved population," said Father West. "We are excited to bring local religious, business, education, health care and charitable entities together to study and realize opportunities for economic development here in the western counties of North Carolina."

The project was commissioned in the fall of 1998 as Diocese of Charlotte officials sought ways to implement the goals outlined in "Of One Heart and One Mind," a joint economic justice pastoral letter written by North Carolina's two Catholic bishops, The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, and The Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman, of the Diocese of Raleigh. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

"Preparing for the Great Jubilee Year." Open to all and free to the public.

HOT SPRINGS — Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege is the leader of a women's retreat entitled "Jesus and the Syrophoenician Woman" today through Aug. 15 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Call (828) 622-7366 for more information.

14 LENOIR — A furniture and household item rummage sale for the new church fund of St. Francis of Assisi is today from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1006 Charlesmont Court, near the Caldwell County Library.

15 HICKORY VICARIATE — A Sunday Spanish Mass is celebrated beginning today at the following churches: St. Francis in Lenoir at 9 a.m., Holy Trinity in Taylorsville at 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph in Newton at 12:45 p.m., Our Lady of the Angels in Marion at 1 p.m., St Aloysius in Hickory at 2 p.m., and St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton at 5 p.m.

BREVARD — There will be a community-wide Open House at Sacred Heart, 4 Brian Berg Land, to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary. If attending, call the church office at (828) 883-9572 from 9 a.m.-12 noon between August 2-12 to RSVP.

19 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is celebrated today at Maryfield Nursing Home Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., at 7 p.m. For information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 Or (336) 882-9717.

22 HENDERSONVILLE — St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today at Immaculate Conception Church, 6th Ave. West, from 3-5 p.m. Call Chuck or Pat Cowan for information at (828) 884-4246.

REIDSVILLE — A Hispanic Mass and meal for migrant workers is at Holy Infant, 1042 Freeway Drive, sponsored by Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. Mass begins at 1 p.m. with the meal directly following at Lufty Hall.

SPRUCE PINE — An informational workshop, "General Directory for Catechesis," given by Peg Ruble is today from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Lucien.

Upcoming

BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, a non-profit, private organization for those experiencing Alzheimer's or dementia meets every Mon. and Wed. from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel. $35 covers snack, lunch, activities, and socialization. Those not affiliated with the parish are welcome. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 for information.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Assumption, 4207 Shamrock Drive, holds classes for people who wish to learn English or would like to improve their English. These classes are every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Classes are free and books provided.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Eternal damnation is self-imposed punishment, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Eternal damnation is never the initiative of God, it is the self-imposed punishment of those who choose to refuse God's love and mercy, Pope John Paul II said.

"God is the infinitely good and merciful Father," the pope said July 28 during his weekly general audience.

"But man, called to respond freely to God, unfortunately can choose to refuse his love and pardon definitively, removing himself forever from joyful communion with God," the pope said.

Pope John Paul's talk was a continuation of a series on God the Father and his love for all humanity.

Damnation or hell is the "tragic situation" of eternal separation from God, he said. "Damnation cannot be attributed to an initiative of God because in his merciful love he cannot want anything but the salvation of the beings he created."

Eternal damnation "is not a punishment inflicted by God from outside," the pope said. Rather, it is the further, final development of a denial of God which a person begins on earth.

The pope said people must be very careful in interpreting the biblical descriptions of hell, which are symbolic and metaphorical.

The "inextinguishable fire" and "the burning oven" which the Bible speaks of "indicate the complete frustration and vacuity of a life without God," he said.

"More than a place, hell is the situation in which one finds himself after freely and definitively withdrawing from God, the source of life and joy," the pope said.

The Christian faith teaches that some creatures already have given a final refusal to God; they are called demons, he said.

"For us human beings, their fate rings as an admonition; it is a continuous call to avoid the tragedy in which sin spreads and instead to model our existence on that of Jesus who lived under the sign of a 'yes' to God," the pope said.

Whether or not any human beings are in hell "remains a real possibility, but is not something we can know," he said.

Rather than being overly anxious and worried about the possibility of damnation, the pope said, people should focus on trusting in Jesus, who defeated death and guarantees access to heaven.

Pope sends condolences, representative to King Hassan's funeral

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised the late King Hassan II of Morocco as a great king who tried to lead his people toward "spiritual and material progress." The pope asked Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, dean of the College of Cardinals, to represent him at the July 25 funeral of the king in Rabat. The 70-year-old king died July 23 after 38 years of ruling the predominantly Muslim country in North Africa.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

A self-imposed luxury tax

Stuart and Ginger wanted to pay more taxes — not to the government — but to the poor. A certified public accountant, Stuart could afford a comfortable middle-class life, yet he and Ginger realized the seduction of material things. On vacation one year they heard a sermon on wealth and poverty.

The homilist proposed a simple and concrete way for comfortable folks to connect with the poor: whenever you treat yourself to a luxury, like an expensive car or an island vacation, compute the cost and add a 50 percent tax for the poor. A $30,000 car now costs $45,000 and a $4,000 cruise bumps to $6,000. In addition, giving away the self-imposed tax raises a new awareness about justice issues and puts people in solidarity with groups involved in addressing social problems.

This self-imposed tax counters the greed and conspicuous consumption rampant in the U.S. today. Although general consumption rose 29 percent in five years, adventure travel increased 46 percent, sales of gourmet chocolates grew 51 percent, luxury cars climbed 74 percent, and yachts jumped 143 percent. With the stock market booming the U.S. now boasts 189 billionaires. To be numbered among the 50 top wealthy people in America in 1998 required a minimum of $2.9 billion. Families worth only a million or two consider themselves simply middle class.

With such wealth and disposable income available, living an authentic life in light of the world's poor begs for guiding principles that distinguish between goals and means. Economic goods exist not for themselves, but as instrumental means for happiness.

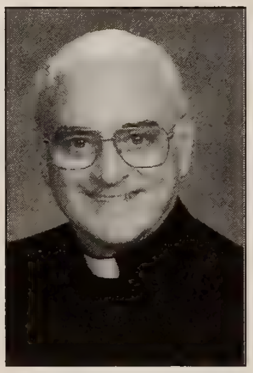
Lisa and Damon are raising their children in a rural setting. Damon, a contractor, and Lisa, a librarian, take turns going to work because they value one parent at home. They could have more amenities, but they have chosen a simpler life-style for the sake of their family. Both Lisa and Damon recognize the distinction between "being more" and "having more."

Denis Goulet, a philosopher of development, suggests a principle concerning material possessions that relates to all people: "To have enough in order to be more." On the lower side of material prosperity, every person has a right to the essentials of life — food, clothing, shelter, health care, education — in order to be fully alive, to become more deeply human.

On the upper side where many Americans find themselves, superfluous wealth seduces the spirit with justifications claiming the person worked hard for it, deserves it, should enjoy it. Economic goods subtly substitute themselves for human goods, and enough never becomes enough. Pope Paul VI reminds us: "The exclusive pursuit of material possessions prevents man's growth as a human being."

Few people give themselves totally to avarice, but many find themselves handsomely rewarded by the economic system. Stuart, as a CPA, possesses a valued business skill, and receives a good salary. He views his wealth, not with a burden of guilt, but as a liberating responsibility. Guilt looks backward at a past fault or injustice. It's passive, sometimes immobilizing. Responsibility looks to the present and future. It recognizes technology exists to eradicate poverty, and hence wealth becomes a trust. We humans are "responsible" for creating conditions that make life more human for others.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.



Spirituality Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

How God speaks to you

Take a moment, and imagine that God is speaking directly to you. The following is an anonymous prayer I often use for this purpose. I hope it helps:

"You do not have to be clever to please me; all you have to do is want to love me.

"Just speak to me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond.

"Are there people you want to pray for? Say their names to me, and ask of me as much as you like. I am generous and know all their needs, but I want you to show your love for them and me by trusting me to do what I know is best.

"Tell me about the poor, the sick and the sinners, and if you have lost the friendship or affection of anyone, tell me about it.

"Is there anything you want for your soul? If you like, you can write out a long list of all your needs, and come and read it to me. Tell me the things you feel guilty about. I will forgive you if you will accept my forgiveness.

"Just tell me about your pride, your touchiness, self-centeredness, meanness and laziness. I still love you in spite of these. Do not be ashamed; there are many saints in heaven who had the same faults as you; they prayed to me, and little by little their faults were corrected.

"Do not hesitate to ask me for blessings for the body and mind; for health, memory, success. I can give everything, and I always do give everything needed to make souls holier for those who truly want it.

"What is it that you want today? Tell me, for I long to do you good. What are your plans? Tell me about them. Is there anyone you want to please? What do you want me to do for them?

"And don't you want to do anything for me? Don't you want to do a little good to the souls of your friends who perhaps have forgotten me? Tell me about your failures, and I will show you the cause of them. What are your worries? Who has caused you pain? Tell me all about it, and add that you will forgive and be kind to him or her, and I will bless you.

"Are you afraid of anything? Have you any tormenting, unreasonable fears? Trust yourself to me. I am here. I see everything. I will not leave you.

"Have you no joys to tell me about? Why do you not share your happiness with me? Tell me what has happened since yesterday to cheer and comfort you. Whatever it was, however big, however small, I prepared it. Show me your gratitude, and thank me.

"Are temptations bearing heavily upon you? Yielding to temptations always disturbs the peace of your soul. Ask me, and I will help you overcome them.

"Well, go along now. Get on with your work or play or other interests. Try to be quieter, humbler, more submissive, kinder; and come back soon and bring me a more devoted heart. Tomorrow I shall have more blessings for you."

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A noble ministry

In his hometown of Wadowice, Poland, the young Karol Wotyla first experienced the wonder and beauty of the theatre. Acting in plays staged by a local amateur theatre group, he discovered a world where his creative impulse and religious faith mingled easily and fueled each other. These artistic experiences on the stage became for him, he would later observe, "moments of grace."

Some 60 years later, this past June, Pope John Paul II revisited Wadowice, repeating over and over again the importance of "looking to your roots." What was perhaps the most emotional and personal pilgrimage of his pontificate, the Pope confessed this visit was planned "to fill the needs of my own heart."

It is reasonable to suspect that the timing of the release of the pope's April 1999 epistle, "Letter to Artists," was born from the same heartfelt need to get in touch with his theatrical roots. Reading the document, you are immediately struck by the references drawn from the Polish authors and playwrights who had an early impact on the young Karol's imagination. He calls heavily upon Poland's illustrious literary and dramatic tradition to bring home his point that artistic talent is a vocation that must not be wasted.

"The artist has a special relationship to beauty. In a very true sense it can be said that beauty is the vocation bestowed on him by the Creator in the gift of artistic talent. And certainly this too is a talent which ought to be made to bear fruit, in keeping with the sense of the Gospel parable of the talents."

Citing such celebrated figures as the Polish poet Cyprian Norwid and dramatist Adam Mickiewicz, the Pope is unabashed in his enthusiasm for the rich national culture that informed both his life and his deep kinship for artists everywhere. For him, the theatre offered a synthesis between faith and life. "Humans are, in a certain sense, unknown to themselves. We look to works of art to shed light upon our path and our destiny. Art produces wonder at the sacredness of life and the human person. Wonder produces enthusiasm, which helps us lift ourselves up every time we lose our way."

Explaining the connection between the artist's gift and God as Creator, John Paul turns to his native tongue: "This relationship is particularly clear in the Polish language because of the lexical link between the words stworca (creator) and tworca (craftsman)." As craftsman, the artist receives "the spark of God's unique wisdom, calling him to share in His creative power."

John Paul's strong emphasis on how his roots came to dominate his perceptions is intriguing and thought-provoking. This is a most personal epistle.

By extension, all of us can recognize the importance of our origins and early influences on our own awareness and development. So many aspects of art, culture and environment play a part in the way we look at life. The more we comprehend the way in which we are affected by those around us and those who have gone before us, the more we can come to a fuller understanding of ourselves and our God-given mission in life.

Near the end of the "Letter to Artists" there is a quote from one of the great figures of Russian, indeed, world literature, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, "Beauty can save the world." So it can.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Biblical significance of 666

Q. Could you comment on the significance of the number 666 as it relates to the teachings of the Catholic Church? I am associated with a company that has used a prefix with these numbers on some records. Occasionally clients express concern about this.

I understand the numbers are from the Bible. After searching the Internet, the only stories I've come up with are pretty much fire and brimstone. What can you tell me?

A. As you may know, the Book of Revelation in the New Testament contains numerous fantastic visions and apparitions apparently experienced by the ascribed author, John, the apostle.

Briefly, the visions and predictions describe in veiled language the persecutors of the early Christians, particularly the Roman government, and proclaim the final victory of good over evil, of Jesus and his disciples over their enemies.

In the 13th chapter of this book, the author speaks of an evil beast who will cause extensive destruction and suffering, whose name, or the number that stood for its name, was 666.

Much controversy and speculation has taken place over the centuries about the meaning of this number. The most common interpretation refers it to the Roman emperor Nero, certainly one of the cruelest among the persecutors of Christians.

Unlike most modern languages, neither Greek nor Hebrew had separate symbols for numbers. Numerals were designated by appropriate letters: A for one, B for two and so on. Trying to find hidden meanings behind names in this way was not uncommon.

The Greek name for Nero Caesar is Neron Kaisar. Transliterating that into Hebrew, and then adding up the number equivalents of the letters, gives a total of 666.

Even though Nero had been dead for some decades before the Book of Revelation was written, he remained a notorious symbol of tyranny, so maybe there's something to it. But we don't know.

Interestingly, several ancient Scripture manuscripts and writings have the number 616 instead of 666. If the final "n" in the name of Nero is removed, which is possible, the total for the letter-numbers is 616.

In any case, the controversy and attention given to this particular verse in Revelation is far beyond its importance in this remarkable book.

Some of the spiritually unbalanced fascination with this number may lie behind the rest of your concerns. I have written several times over the years about a company, also based in Ohio, which was accused in the grossest false and libelous manner of collusion with the devil, based on some elements in its corporate logo. The fact that some of the bizarre "evidence" offered to support the charges were proven to be totally unfounded did not stop the talk and the rumors.

It's another proof that if people want badly enough to believe something, truth and the sinfulness of spreading falsehoods about someone else will not stop them. Perhaps something like this is happening in the situation you describe.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

History, celebrity and living your own life

If you're a teen, you may have been surprised by the amount of attention lavished on the recent, very sad death of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and sister-in-law. After all, it's doubtful he was a figure who loomed very large in your consciousness, except as a frequent figure on the front of a supermarket tabloid and the son of someone who was president almost 40 years ago.

So you might have wondered: Why was the television filled with images of the waters off the coast of Massachusetts for a week solid? What were all those people talking endlessly about on television?

The answer gives us a good lesson on two matters that are important for us to think about: symbols and celebrity.

For some people — not all, mind you, just some — the Kennedy family is a powerful symbol of everything from the American Dream to glamour and wealth to political idealism. A couple of generations ago — that is, when the people who produce the news were young — John and Robert Kennedy were powerful inspirations to be active in politics, to change the world, and as John said, to ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

For most of us, the decades have brought realism to that idealistic picture. We know that the Kennedys were as tough and sometimes even shady as any hardball politician.

But the symbolism remains, and just by bearing the name, JFK Jr. was a symbol too, to certain people.

The other aspect of this is celebrity, pure and simple.

Have you noticed that we seem to be living in a culture that's obsessed with celebrities? And I'm not talking about people who are famous because they actually accomplish great things, like producing great art, sustaining an impressive athletic career or bringing great change to society.

No, I'm talking about people who are famous for being famous, more than anything else.

It's Britney Spears and Ricky Martin, the celebrities of the summer, who are famous because they're hot-looking, not because they make great music.

It's Princess Diana, who engaged in some charitable work, to be sure, but was really famous for being the sad-spirited, beautiful, yet unloved royal.

And, said to say, it was John F. Kennedy Jr., who by all accounts was a nice guy and did start a magazine. But haven't there been people who have accomplished more who didn't rate a solid week of TV coverage and national magazine covers?

It might be a good idea to take a minute and think about the time you spend pouring over the lives and travails of celebrities, from Leo to Britney to the latest World Wrestling Federation goon.

Isn't there more to life as you're living it in your own home, your own town?

Aren't there people you actually know, talk to and even live with who deserve your attention and your emotional energy more?

Krokos named editor of The Catholic Spirit

By EMILIE AST
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL (CNS) — Mike Krokos, a staff writer at The Catholic Spirit since fall 1998, has been named editor of the weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Before moving to the Twin Cities in November, Krokos was editor of the Catholic News and Herald, the diocesan newspaper in Charlotte, N.C. He succeeds Bob Zyskowski, who was named associate publisher in February.

Krokos, 36, said he wants to help the paper reach more diverse age groups and ethnic populations — "to serve teens, seniors, married couples, singles and all ethnic groups."

A fluent Spanish speaker, he particularly wants to "reach out more to the growing Hispanic community through sharing their faith stories," he said. Krokos, who has edited the paper's opinion pages since he began at The Catholic Spirit, said the paper will continue to be a venue for discussion about issues facing today's Catholic Church.

Evangelizing and teaching about Catholicism is important to Krokos. He said he plans to encourage pastors to "be mindful of sharing (the paper) with people they think will benefit the most" from its contents. The Catholic Spirit goes out to 86,000 households.

Although most readers are practicing Catholics, Krokos said, a small portion "are not as familiar with the church and are yearning to gain that perspective. We want to nurture people's faith lives."

Krokos has been in editor and managing editor positions since 1987 at daily and weekly newspapers in South Carolina and North Carolina. Reared in a bilingual family in Miami, he received his journalism degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. ▼

Albright, Vatican foreign minister discuss Middle East, Balkans

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just returning from a visit to Asia and preparing to go to Kosovo, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met July 28 with the Vatican's foreign minister. "The cordial meeting, which lasted more than an hour, allowed for an exchange of opinions on various themes of international politics," the Vatican said in a brief statement. "Special attention was given to the Middle East peace process" during Albright's meeting with Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, head of the Vatican Secretariat of State's department for relations with other governments, the statement said.

Priest in new CRS post wants Catholics to know agency better

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Paulist Father John Geaney, new priest-director of church affairs for Catholic Relief Services, plans to use his 40 years of experience in media relations and marketing to help the agency with its ongoing efforts to connect the U.S. Catholic community with its programs. "The plan is for me to assist the very fine communications department in CRS — to work in radio and television to create materials to help people understand what CRS is all about," said Father Geaney in a telephone interview with the Catholic Explorer, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese. CRS, based in Baltimore, is the U.S. church's overseas relief and development agency.

Cardinal Sin warns of impending crisis in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Warning of an impending crisis in the Philippines and a perceived return of "crony capitalism," Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila called for charity, responsibility and mutual respect. Meanwhile, former President Corazon Aquino announced an Aug. 20 rally to help preserve the gains of the 1986 "people power" uprising she helped to launch, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In a pastoral letter, Cardinal Sin cited President Joseph Estrada's clash with two newspapers and a new move for constitutional reforms as sign of an impending crisis.

Bishop Ziemann resigns, admits sexual relationship with priest

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (CNS) — Bishop G. Patrick Ziemann, 57, who resigned July 22 as head of the Santa Rosa Diocese, has admitted to having a consensual sexual relationship with a priest who is suing him and the diocese, according to his attorney, Joseph Piasta. However, Bishop Ziemann denies sexually assaulting the priest, Father Jorge Hume Salas, as the lawsuit alleges, Piasta said. The lawsuit, Salas vs. Bishop G. Patrick Ziemann et. al., also accuses the bishop of "defamation and other violations," which he also denies, Piasta said.

CNS photo from Reuters

Mourning King Hassan

Mourners grieve the death of Morocco's leader King Hassan II in Rabat July 24. The monarch died of a heart attack a day earlier after ruling the predominantly Muslim North African country for 38 years. Pope John Paul II praised Hassan as a great king.

SHARE A GREAT COMPASSION

Christ, Himself, invites us to imitate the Good Samaritan who, on seeing a suffering man... "had compassion... bound up his wounds... and took care of him." Pope John Paul II

Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne

New York • Ohio • Pennsylvania • Massachusetts • Georgia • Minnesota

We live in community, take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and pursue a deep prayer life. Giving witness to the sanctity of life, we nurse incurable cancer patients in seven, modern nursing homes. All care is free. Many who enter our Community have no prior nursing experience.

Interested women are invited to visit throughout the year.
For more information: call or write, Sr. Teresa Marie, O.P.,
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532 • Tel: (914) 769-4794
Visit our WEB site – http://www.hawthorne-dominicans.org/dsh/dshmain.html

Name ____________ Phone ( ) ____________
Address
City ____________ State ________ Zip ________

Join us for breakfast this Sunday!

Recalling a time when the best things to eat were always homemade!

OLD FASHIONED SODA SHOP
PIKE'S

- Sunday breakfast 8-2
- Homestyle family atmosphere
- Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Enjoy ice cream on the patio
- Private dining room for meetings or parties

On the Trolley Line at Camden & Tremont

1930 CAMDEN ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC (704) 372-0092

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!

The LaPointe Dealerships

Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Youth "jog" toward new understanding

By **JOANITA M. NELLENBACH**
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — JOG is a vacation Bible school with a difference. The weeklong program, for middle school students, doesn't merely teach what the Bible says but puts that knowledge into practice.

"The whole purpose of the program is to introduce them to area agencies that offer assistance, to introduce them to volunteerism, and to learn more about the corporal works of mercy," said Mary Ann Poli, youth minister at St. Barnabas Church.

Poli and Kathie Stout, St. Barnabas' former youth minister, developed JOG (Justice, Outreach, and Growth), now in its fourth year. This year Poli and 14 St. Barnabas youngsters crammed a variety of activities into five afternoons one week in July, followed by a fund-raising cookie sale after Masses that weekend.

They concentrated on five of the seven corporal works: giving drink to the thirsty, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, and sheltering the homeless.

For giving drink to the thirsty, the JOGers did yard work and prepared a meal of pizzaburgers, chips, carrot sticks, cupcakes, iced tea, and fruit punch for five women and two children at Sojourner House, a single-women's shelter in Asheville.

"Not only were we bringing refreshment, but we provided a break for them so they wouldn't have to prepare a meal and do yard work after their work day," Poli said.

To feed the hungry, the JOGers spent two hours working at the MANNA Food Bank in Asheville. They opened boxes, sorted and grouped foods, checked cans and packages for damage, and swept the floor.

"We clothed the naked by sorting clothing for the Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) in Arden," Poli said. "We visited the sick at the assisted living floor at Givens Estates in Arden. We did a puppet show. The kids made the puppets and the brownies and iced tea they served."

"I think they did a good job," said Pauline Mainelli, who lives at Givens. "The people in that area relish things like that because they don't get out much." Mainelli, whose granddaughter, Adrienne Langlois, participated in JOG this year, is a St. Barnabas parishioner.

The cookies the JOGers made on Friday in the church kitchen and sold after Masses on the weekend were their contribution to sheltering the homeless. They donated the money to Habitat for Humanity. Aged 11-13, they couldn't work at a Habitat site, because workers must be at least 15, Poli said.

"They were all alone usually, and we felt like were being their friends," said JOGer Brandon Bates. "We did a puppet show and gave them brownies. One lady told us she had been a teacher and had done a puppet show and done it on TV."

Prior preparation is one of the most important aspects of the JOG program as a whole, because Poli said, she and Stout started the program "to help kids feel more comfortable doing service for others."

"The thing that I found was missing (in other volunteerism programs) was education — that they didn't know why they needed to do this or how to feel comfortable about doing it," Poli said.

Each afternoon began at the church with an icebreaker such as a game, followed by 15 minutes of prayer and Scripture reading related to the day's activity. Next was a presentation about the corporal work to be performed that day.

Then it was off to the day's work location, where someone from that facility briefed them on what to expect and why this ministry was important. After the work session, the group returned to the church for a debriefing, during which the JOGers told what they liked about the activity and discussed any problems. The day ended with a prayer.

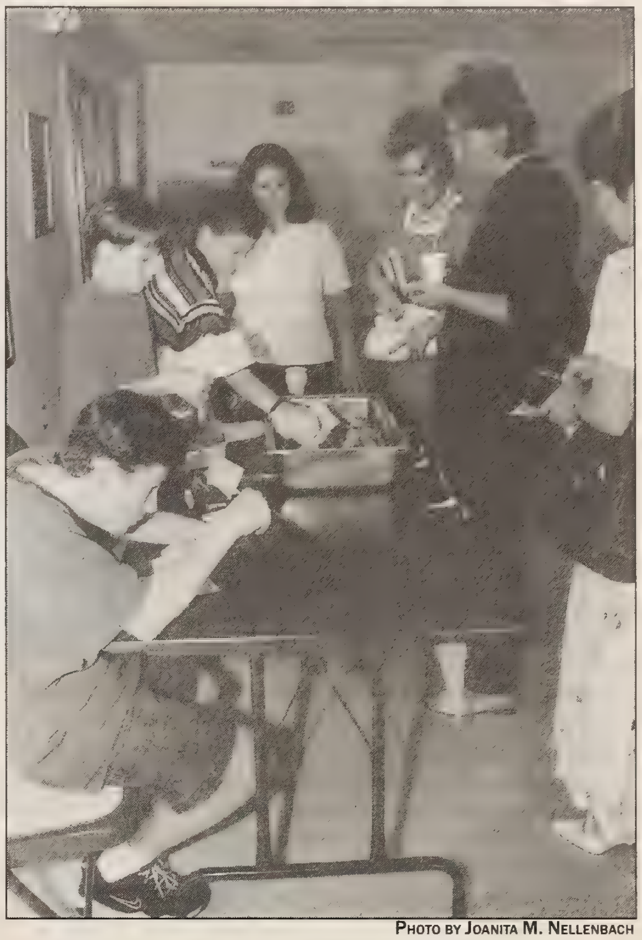
The JOG program has evolved over the past four years.

"The first year we had about 30 kids from churches all over the area, but we found that was way too many," Poli said. "Many of the places couldn't accommodate that many kids, and there weren't enough jobs for that many at any one place. Every year we've reduced the number, and we've found 15 is about the right number."

Some like the program enough do it more than once.

"I did it last year and thought I'd do it again," Kevin Mukosiej said. "We get to go to different places and meet different people. You're helping people — people who aren't as fortunate as we are." ▼

For details or how to adopt a similar program at your parish, call Mary Ann Poli at (828) 684-6048.



Members of this year's JOG program at St. Baranabas Church in Arden sell cookies after Mass to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. The JOGers are Brandon Bates (left), Justin Bates, and Kevin Mukosiej. Jennifer Pearson, adult facilitator at the church, watches.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

School Uniform Sale!

Lower prices!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.

Free shipping on orders over $75!

1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

Uniforms DIRECT 2U

RE/MAX®
Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320
Charlotte, NC 28277

Buying? Selling? Relocating?

- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
"Your Realtor for Life."

(704) 543-6680
(800) 726-1231
relocarolina@mindspring.com

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in **Custom Modular Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Decade of growth in mountain parish

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LINVILLE — In a picturesque town nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains under the watchful gaze of Grandfather Mountain lies a church with a long history but has only been in existence for 10 years. In July 1989, then-Bishop John Donoghue dedicated St. Bernadette, and it was that day that the current congregation celebrated on Saturday, July 28th, with Bishop William G. Curlin presiding.

In the early years, Catholics in Linville would travel to St. Lucien in Spruce Pine for Mass, while those in nearby Banner Elk would celebrate in a chemistry classroom at Lees-McRae College with Father George Kloster and Father Frank Connolly, who served at St. Elizabeth in Boone at that time.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Father Aloysius D'Silva distributes Communion to his parishioners at the tenth anniversary Mass of St. Bernadette Church in Linville.

When the Driscoll family built St. Patricia Chapel in Linville, they allowed for those in town to use it as their church only in the summer and fall because of no heat in the winter. For several years during the cold months, the people moved to neighborhood Episcopal and Presbyterian churches.

With the 1982 arrival of Father John Pagel, who was pastor of St. Lucien and St. Patricia, the move toward building a structure for worship, which would serve all of Avery County, began.

"Back in the early eighties, it was a hard road to travel with trying to bring everyone together from Linville, Land Harbor, and Banner Elk," related Father Pagel. "I had many dreams [for the existence of a church]. The people challenged me with the idea of building a church, so I pushed for it. I think the people have done well knowing what we have done to get to this point."

> "I give of myself 200 percent because of the love of my ministry. I try to be available for the people; moreover, I feel very enthused and grateful to the good Lord for being able to do what I can."
>
> — *Father Aloysius D'Silva*

Jim and Irene Maurice, who were in charge of fund-raising efforts, agreed that "Father John was very instrumental in the beginning with getting things started."

"My husband and I were attending church at St. Lucien, and we asked Father John about getting our own church. I volunteered my time for whatever they needed, and we were called to head up a committee soon after that. We were happy to do what needed to be done to build our church," continued Irene.

After the idea was approved and the land had been blessed, Father Pagel was asked to come up with a name for the church. He asked the parishioners for name suggestions, and Bishop Donoghue asked Father Pagel for his ideas. St. Bernadette seemed appropriate because it would serve as a constant reminder of Mary, the Mother of God.

Father Pagel also had the honor of celebrating the first Mass in the newly built church on New Year's Eve 1988.

Twelfth District Senator Virginia Fox, who has been a part of St. Lucien, St. Elizabeth, and St. Bernadette, stated that "she has always felt at home at St. Bernadette's because of the people."

In 1994, Father Aloysius D'Silva was named pastor of St. Lucien and its mission church, St. Bernadette, and continues to serve there today.

"The whole celebration was nicely woven together. I keep up good communication with the parish. I give of myself 200 percent because of the love of my ministry. I try to be available for the people; moreover, I feel very enthused and grateful to the good Lord for being able to do what I can," stated Father D'Silva.

So, ten years, and many parishioners later, Bishop Curlin was called upon to celebrate Mass.

As he spoke to the congregation, he reminded, "we are not celebrating a ten-year old building; we are celebrating Jesus' presence here in you."

"This parish is a success because it is reaching beyond the church walls. As a church, it is our job to change the world," he continued.

"Moreover, God continuously builds us into a church through His grace," he emphasized.

The members of St. Bernadette have had many years of ups and downs but has remained a strong and visible church community among the blue skies and spruce pines that surround the area. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedioceses.org.

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

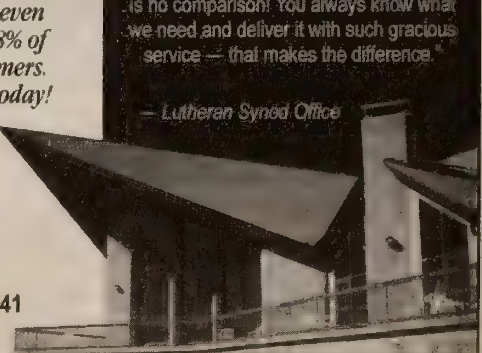
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Preparing for Retirement?
Saving for your child's education?
Just getting started?
We can help you identify and achieve your financial goals.
Call for an appointment or for Seminar information, dates, and times.
Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
110 S. Stratford Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
(336) 721-9221 or (800) 334-4401
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY
Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1998 Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
Member SIPC
A member of citigroup



Peace, Tranquility, Focus... in a place apart
A place to find everything you need with a little something extra: SERVICE. We've received honorable mention from numerous organizations around the southeast, even as far away as Dallas, Texas. Over 78% of our guests are satisfied, repeat customers. Call the Catholic Conference Center today!
"We've tried other places, but we keep coming back to the Center because there is no comparison! You always know what we need and deliver it with such gracious service — that makes the difference."
— Lutheran Synod Office
The Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free: (800) 536-7441
www.catholicconference.org

Diocesan commission reaches out to gay and lesbian Catholics

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Ministry to homosexual Catholics is a life issue that must be a part of the church's new evangelization, said two Charlotte priests involved in a diocesan commission that ministers to gays and lesbians.

The Diocesan Commission for Ministry to the Gay-Lesbian Community and Their Families is a consultative and advisory board of a dozen clergy, nuns, deacons and laypersons. The group keeps the bishop's office apprised of pastoral, spiritual and educational efforts on behalf of gay and lesbian persons in western North Carolina.

Msgr. Richard Allen and Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh are two members of the commission's board. Their pastoral ministry has included years of outreach to those who feel alienated from the church, and both agree that ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics is a vital opportunity for evangelization.

"Very clearly, we are teaching what the church teaches," said Father McCreesh, administrator of St. Peter Church. "The fundamental Catholic position is that being gay or lesbian is not freely chosen. They are different in that respect, but they are human beings, they are baptized and they have a right to take part in the church."

"Basically, it comes down to the same thing: living a chaste life," added Msgr. Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church. "We have always spoken of being chaste and understanding what that means."

The commission's mission statement further elaborates. "The Commission affirms and communicates without elaboration the perennial teaching of the Church on sexual morality, conscience and personal sin," it reads.

At the recommendation of the diocese's presbyteral council, Bishop William G. Curlin established the commission in the fall of 1996.

The same moral principles apply to heterosexual and homosexual persons, Bishop Curlin said, noting that the people he ministers to are trying to live good, chaste lives. "We must always hold to the ideal of trying to achieve perfect unity with Christ," he said. "Everyone is called to grow in holiness. No one is excluded."

In a February 1997 letter to diocesan vicars, the bishop detailed several concerns. "Sadly, acts of violence and hatred continue against gays and lesbians," he wrote. "Suicide is on the increase within the gay/lesbian community. Catholic gays and lesbians are turning to the Church for compassion and defense against injustice. Their parents and families also look to the Church for help."

Msgr. Allen and Father McCreesh said a primary goal of the commission is to welcome gay and lesbian Catholics back to the church. The group sponsors an annual diocesan-wide retreat for gay and lesbian Catholics, and has sponsored a listening session with Bishop Curlin and parents of homosexual persons.

Msgr. Allen and Father McCreesh said a primary goal of the commission is to welcome gay and lesbian Catholics back to the church. The group sponsors an annual diocesan-wide retreat for gay and lesbian Catholics, and has sponsored a listening session with Bishop Curlin and parents of homosexual persons.

While the commission does not sponsor gay-lesbian ministry work at the parish level, the diocesan group does support and consult on such efforts.

In the past 30 years, the Catholic Church has further distinguished between being homosexual and doing homosexual sexual actions. That distinction — of *being* as opposed to *doing* — is a key to educating people about church teachings on the matter, Msgr. Allen and Father McCreesh said.

The past quarter-century — most notably the '90s — has also seen an increase in welcoming gay and lesbian Catholics to have an active place in the church community.

Msgr. Allen's and Father McCreesh's comments come at a time when headlines are raising issues on the dynamics of Catholic ministry to gays and lesbians in the United States:

- In 1997, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family released the pastoral letter "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers," which they revised last year with Vatican support.
- A June 27 editorial in The Charlotte Observer titled "How would Jesus deal with homosexuals?" challenged people to remember the need for grace and forgiveness. The writer, the Rev. Leighton Ford, pointed out his understanding that "the Roman Catholic church has set as policy that the practice of homosexual sex is not approved, but that homosexual persons must be permitted to be part of the congregation of the faithful."
- In July, St. Anthony Messenger Press published "What the Church Teaches About Homosexuality" as that month's issue of its "Catholic Up-

See GAY, LESBIAN MINISTRY page 12

The Catechism addresses issue of homosexuality

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" offers three subsections (#2357-2359) on chastity and homosexuality. The following is the text of those sections, which draws from Scripture, sacred tradition and the magisterium, or teaching authority, of the Roman Catholic Church.

2357 Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complimentarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

2358 The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them it is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.

2359 Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection. ▾

[MODULARCORP]

*Specialists in Custom Modular **Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen – Audi South

John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Book Review

Book surveys the "homogenization" of Catholics into the electorate

REVIEWED BY ANNE BINGHAM
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Catholic Voter in American Politics"

By William R. Prendergast.
Georgetown University Press
(Washington, 1999),
260 pp., $35.

Time was, Catholics were a dependable vote for the Democrats. Oh, we flirted with the GOP in '52 and '56, but only because of the Red Menace. We came right back home in 1960.

But lately, well, we're not so Democratic anymore. First the grandparents moved uptown from the slums, then our parents kept on going. By the second generation of suburban living, a majority of Catholic voters seemed to forget our immigrant, marginalized roots and vote less like a bloc than a tax bracket.

But not entirely. Surveying the "homogenization" of Catholics into the electorate, "The Catholic Voter in American Politics" finds that the change hasn't been absolute. Although we're less Democratic than Jewish voters or secular voters, we're still less Republican than white evangelical Protestants.

In short, Catholics are now a key swing vote, our concerns ignored at a candidate's peril.

Author William R. Prendergast, whose career includes NATO and Department of Defense service as well as several jobs for the Republican National Committee, charts this development by examining Catholic voting habits from the 1840s through the late 1990s. Of special interest, given his evident political affiliation, are his observations concerning the recent boom in the numbers of young Catholics in mainstream society who vote Republican.

This is a group with no personal memory of either the Klan marches of the 1920s or the despair of the Depression. Their experience of war is limited to the "virtually bloodless" Desert Storm. They seem especially open to the GOP's generous use of religious rhetoric, including its opposition to abortion. In fact, much of the content of the 1988 platform "seemed crafted to strike notes that Catholics were hearing in their churches and schools," an observation that gains credibility because of Prendergast's service as an author of several Republican national platforms (the jacket notes fail to mention whether 1988 was one of them).

However, Prendergast cautions against assuming Catholics are moving to the Republican camp. As many are unattached to either party as can be classified Republican or Democrat. Factor in the "untapped potential" of Hispanic voters and the gender gap, which holds up across traditionalist-modernist lines, and the future seems to hold independence and volatility rather than predictability.

Subtitled "The Passing of the Democratic Monolith," this book would be of special interest to bishops, state Catholic conference directors and others with official responsibilities linked to the first Tuesday in November 2000.

For everybody else, the book might be a tad dry, although not to be missed is the spirited refutation in The Pilot, Boston's Catholic newspaper, of an attempt to tar Franklin Pierce with anti-Catholic legislation enacted before his birth (p. 44, for those desiring to sneak a peek in a bookstore). ▼

Anne Bingham is a Milwaukee writer and social commentator.

Bestsellers

Top 10 Hardcover

1. "Imitation of Christ." Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
2. "Inner Voice of Love." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
3. "Wounded Prophet." Michael Ford (Doubleday)
4. "Bread for the Journey." Henri J.M. Nouwen (HarperCollins)
5. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. "Catholic Book of Prayers." (Catholic Book Publishing)
7. "View From a Monastery." B. Tvedten (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
8. "Essential Monastic Wisdom." Hugh Feiss (HarperCollins)
9. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 2. (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. "Maurice and Therese." Patrick Ahern (Doubleday)

Summer reading selections, perfect for vacations!

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

474 ½ Haywood Road, Suite 5
Asheville, NC 28806-4261
Tel: 828.254.5905

Mon.-Fri. 9:00am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 3pm

Own a Home?
Have Equity?

Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL
MORTGAGE
STORE,
INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

Word to Life

August 15, Assumption of Mary Into Heaven, Cycle A Readings:

1) Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab
Psalm 45:10bc, 11-12ab, 16
2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
3) Luke 1:39-56

BY JEAN DENTON

We accuse our third-born child of "grandstanding" since Day 1. That's because he was born the day after Thanksgiving, and all his grandparents and nearly all his aunts and uncles and cousins happened to be in town on the day of his birth.

That evening the entire family crammed into my little half of a hospital room, 15 people all talking and laughing. It was quite a celebration. But one thing I know for sure: They didn't come to see and celebrate me. Nope. No one was talking about my good looks or my husky lungs or my resemblance to anyone else in the room. I wasn't thinking about anything I'd done that day either. I just knew that someone new and wonderful had come to us, and I had gotten to deliver him. The Lord had done great things for me, not vice versa, and I got to share in the joy.

The experience of giving birth and being a mother helps me to understand why we Catholics venerate Mary as we celebrate the life of her son Jesus.

The readings for today's feast of the Assumption provide the key. In the Gospel we see that Mary specifically was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus — a humble young woman willing to give herself totally to God for his purpose. She knows the Lord has done great things for her simply in being chosen.

In the passage in Revelation, after the child is safely delivered into the hands of the Lord, the mother goes to "a special place prepared for her by God." We believe this to mean that just as Mary nurtures her child and watches him become the savior of the world, she is assumed into heaven to share in God's utter joy in the fulfillment of his plan.

After bringing a child into the world, a parent sometimes gets to experience, at least for a moment, this sense of being assumed into the joy of God — such as when the child encourages a despairing classmate, or comforts a grieving grandmother, or teaches a person to swim, or takes a friend who has been a victim of abuse to get help.

As a Christian, each of us is chosen in some way to deliver God's saving grace into the harsh human world. Celebrating Mary's assumption reminds us of God's promised joy and gives us the courage to follow her example of self-giving. ▼

Questions:

What has God chosen you to do, through which he has done great things for you? How can you prepare yourself to be open to sacrifice when God calls?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Aug. 8 - 14, 1999

Sunday, 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9;1-5, Matthew 14:22-33; **Monday**, Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Wednesday**, Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 18:15-20; **Thursday**, Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17, Matthew 18:21-19:1; **Friday**, Joshua 24:1-13, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday**, Joshua 24:14-29, Matthew 19:13-15

Readings for the week of Aug. 15 - 21, 1999

Sunday, Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6,10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, Luke 1:39-56; **Monday**, Judges 2:11-19, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday**, Judges 6:11-24, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday**, Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday**, Judges 11:29-39, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday**, Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday**, Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

'Joan of Arc' miniseries racks up 13 Emmy nominations

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — The CBS miniseries "Joan of Arc" did well in the ratings and did well with the critics.

Now it's also done well with its peers. The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences gave "Joan of Arc" 13 Emmy nominations, tied for second among all programs and tops of any limited-run show.

In addition to a nomination for best miniseries, it also won honors for Leelee Sobieski in the title role as best actress, plus nominations for Peter O'Toole as Bishop Cauchon for best supporting actor, and both Jacqueline Bisset as Isabelle D'Arc and Olympia Dukakis as Sister Babette for best supporting actress.

The Emmy Awards will be televised live Sunday, Sept. 12, 8-11 p.m. EDT on Fox.

The miniseries, which aired in May, also garnered a nod for Christian Duguay for best direction, plus nominations in the categories of art direction, casting, costume design, single-camera picture editing, hairstyling, makeup and sound mixing.

"We thought five, maybe six" nominations, said "Joan of Arc" executive producer Ed Gernon, who is Catholic. "But 13? Honestly, we were blown away."

"When you get recognized like this, it's overwhelming," Gernon said.

Asked to theorize on why "Joan of Arc" secured so many nominations, Gernon was temporarily stumped. He finally offered, "It's a good story, well written, well told."

"I think it's because of the story," said Sunta Izzicupo, the CBS executive who gave the go-ahead to the miniseries. "It was historical, it was interesting, it was epic."

"It drew such an interesting cast. Once you draw such a cast," Izzicupo said, "it creates a kind of cachet — a big, epic piece. ... It makes you think, 'Look again, look again.'"

The May ratings "sweeps" are "when you trot out your biggest guns," she added.

The essentially religious nature of "Joan of Arc" "didn't scare away the network, it didn't scare away anybody," Izzicupo said.

The Emmy Awards will be televised live Sunday, Sept. 12, 8-11 p.m. EDT on Fox. While winning Emmys would be great, "being nominated really is enough," Gernon said. "It makes us feel validated. It really, really does."

Not all critics were totally enamored of the miniseries. Henry Herx, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting, wrote before "Joan of Arc" aired that Sobieski did not have " the dramatic experience to convey the interior emotions and spiritual depths of the role."

He added, "The result is a historical pageant, filled with colorful and energetic proceedings but it's all on the surface with little sense of the interior dimension of its adolescent heroine, St. Joan of Arc." ▼

THE PET HOSPITAL
Complete Veterinary

CNS photo from Walt Disney Pictures

"Inspector Gadget"

Dopey adventure comedy starring Matthew Broderick as a bumbling bionic policeman slowly learning how to use the various crime-fighting gadgets built into his body. Directed by David Kellogg and based on a TV cartoon series, this live-action Disney film offers an assortment of special-effects gimmicks. Comic violence and mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," Aug. 21, HBO

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The tragic life and unfilled promise of a talented African-American singer and actress is dramatized in "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," premiering Saturday, Aug. 21, 9-11 p.m. EDT on HBO pay cable.

The emphasis is on Dandridge's playing the title role in the 1954 movie musical, "Carmen Jones," for which she becomes the first of her race to be nominated for an Academy Award as best actress.

Though Grace Kelly wins the award for "The Country Girl," Dandridge signs a three-picture contract with producer Darryl Zanuck who promises to make her a star.

But her Hollywood career evaporates when she turns down Zanuck's first assignment on the advice of Otto Preminger who had become her lover while directing "Carmen Jones."

As seen here, Preminger is a real villain who leads Dandridge to believe he will marry her when "the time is right," then leaves her flat and later destroys her attempt at a movie come-back.

In the title role, Halle Berry is also credible both as singer and actress, though her performance fails to evoke the special appeal Dorothy Dandridge had for her contemporaries.

Partly this is the fault of the script by Shonda Rhimes and Scott Abbott which centers on the performer's personal life rather than her multisided career.

Her singing career is treated very superficially and her work in Hollywood is filled with unhelpful stereotypes instead of realistic details.

Directed by Martha Coolidge, the dramatization does better in recalling the historical period and the injustices of segregation than in probing the life of one of its victims.

Because of some sexual scenes with a flash of rear nudity, substance abuse and rough language, it is not suitable for young viewers. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Life . Term . Retirement . Annuities
Education . Mortgage . IRA
K of C
JAMES L. CROWE
(800) 852-2061
Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
(800) 852-2061 A.M. Best: A++ Standard & Poor's: AAA

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT
. 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
. Miles of white sandy beach
. Island's largest outdoor pool
. 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
. Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
. Retreats & reunions
800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!
Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.
HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

CCHD office welcomes summer intern

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For eight weeks this summer, the diocesan office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has an extra staff person working to address the root causes of injustice, oppression, alienation and poverty.

Maureen O'Connor

Maureen O'Connor, a rising senior at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, is this year's recipient of the Valder Social Justice Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually by Loras College to an upperclassperson able to demonstrate active commitment and leadership in advocating social justice.

It is named and funded in memory of Robert S. Valder, a graduate of the Catholic college in Dubuque, who was a devoted proponent of social justice issues. Before his death at the age of 42, Valder resided in the Diocese of Charlotte where he continued his legacy of activism. Valder was the husband of Jan Valder Offerman of Charlotte.

The national Catholic Campaign for Human Development was begun in 1969 by the U.S. Catholic Conference to combat injustice and poverty through funding self-help programs. A national collection is taken each fall.

The diocesan office is an entity of the Office of Justice and Peace, which falls under the umbrella of the Charlotte Diocese's Catholic Social Services. Dr. Barney Offerman, CCHD diocesan director, said the scholarship promotes the campaign's ideals while honoring the life of a man who lived them.

"The broad purpose of the scholarship is to acknowledge and encourage leadership in social justice projects which go beyond education and personal service, and is characterized primarily by advocacy in the face of institutional pressures," Offerman said.

O'Connor, a native of Joliet, Ill., is majoring in social work and psychology. She said the internship is providing valuable experience that will help her determine possible paths to take in her life and her professional career.

"The idea with this scholarship is that you get experience in working on systemic change — in getting at the causes of poverty and homelessness and things like that," she said. "I knew it was something that I wanted experience with."

O'Connor is assisting Offerman in a variety of areas. In parishes, she is working with community life and faith formation commissions, youth groups and other entities to integrate Catholic social teachings and justice education into parish activities. From her office at the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte, she assists in updating demographic information, distributing CCHD and Justice and Peace literature, and preparing for the fall collection. She is also helping to introduce a justice program and retreat at a Charlotte parish, and in planning for the semiannual CCHD diocesan committee meeting later this month.

O'Connor is getting acquainted with the grant-awarding process, CCHD-funded programs and the people who run them as well.

The intern said the experience is fostering a growing regard for justice initiatives — a concern that began in childhood as one of six siblings.

"Both my parents, when I was growing up, made it obvious that helping people was key in how I was supposed to look out for others," she said. "Through high school and college, I've developed even more of an interest in social justice." ▼

Contact Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or send e-mail to jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Gay, Lesbian Ministry from page 9

date" catechetical newsletter. The publication bears the imprimatur, or the official church approval to publish, of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

• Also in July, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ended a controversial U.S. gay-lesbian ministry after deeming that its founders, a Catholic priest and a Catholic nun, furthered "doctrinally unacceptable" assertions about homosexual acts and inclinations. In their reactions, several church leaders reiterated that ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics is to be encouraged and must clearly be based on the fullness of church teaching. "The bishops of the United States have heard the call to offer this Gospel-based pastoral assistance, as demonstrated by the various forms of outreach which exist in individual dioceses," said Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a July 13 statement.

> **"We've got to do something out of justice, out of love, out of Christ's presence for these people. It's both sensitive and necessary."**
>
> *— Father Gene McCreesh*

Msgr. Allen and Father McCreesh agreed that such stories are strong reminders of the need for doctrinally based ministry for gays and lesbians — ministry that also emphasizes compassionate pastoral response to pleas for outreach.

"We've got to do something out of justice, out of love, out of Christ's presence for these people. It's both sensitive and necessary," said Father McCreesh. "We never lose sight of who we serve, Christ the Lord, who said 'go out to the lost and bring them back.' There are many lost souls out there, and thus the work of the commission goes on."

Father McCreesh said the commission's work falls in line with the "new evangelization" called for by Pope John Paul II as the millennium approaches.

"The truth enunciated in Vatican II and preached all over the world by Pope John Paul is most clear (regarding) God's unconditional love for every person, the dignity of every person of whatever race, color or creed, and the sacredness of every individual life," he said.

Ministry to gay and lesbian persons is a pro-life issue, the priests contend, because pastoral efforts within the parish structure should have a place in which all people are included.

"What is life?" posed Msgr. Allen. "It isn't just the beating of a heart, but it's the beating of a soul and the whole being of an individual. Anytime we make that less than embraced by God and his community of faith in this world, we are not respectful of that life within these people." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Carolina Drivers wanted.

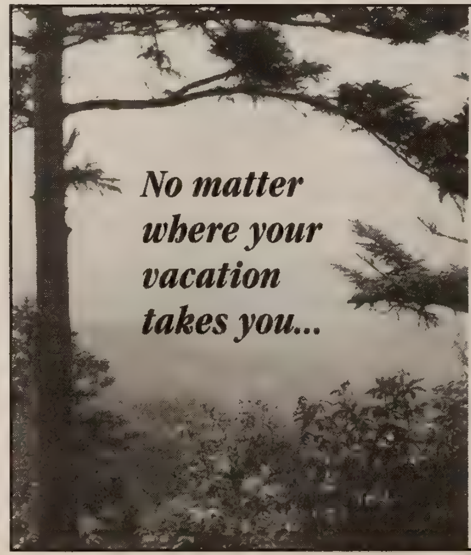
#1 Dealer In Charlotte

#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast

#2 Dealer In The United States

FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION

Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel



Don't forget

1-800 MASS-TIMES

(1-800-627-7846)

Locate a parish anywhere in the USA!

Or visit the Web site at
www.massintransit.com

Blending church and the arts

Former sanctuary becomes music studio

By NANCY NORTON
Correspondent

LENOIR — Thanks to a Caldwell County resident's lifelong dream and a growing parish's needs, the old stone St. Francis of Assisi Church will play host to the arts.

When the parish of St. Francis looked to sell its old church building as part of a project that includes the construction of a new facility, Nathan Pritchard got involved. Now, the sanctuary will continue a centuries-old tradition of blending church and art.

St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir was built in 1936 of hand-hewn granite and sturdy oak. As time passed, three weekend Masses could no longer contain the 200-family parish. The congregation was forced to be split into the basement, rectory and a choir loft with no view.

The building presented other challenges as well. Rustic steps, while adding to the charm, are everywhere. Wheelchairs were impossible and the elderly arrived white-faced after the steep climb. Coffins could not be wheeled in; they required sturdy shoulders navigating strong angles.

Renovation of the building while still maintaining the architectural integrity was impossible. The church stands landlocked. A decision was made to rebuild St. Francis with all the grace, feel and texture of the old church.

Hanging across the front of the temporary office, a sign reads "God Moves Mountains." The new church is scheduled to be completed some time next year, and the congregation is currently celebrating Mass in the parish's former elementary school building. Moving the crucifix, fonts, and Stations of the Cross from the old church into the new will keep the past tied to the future.

The church building went on the market in November 1998. Enter Pritchard, a Hudson native who has long been involved in the arts in Caldwell County. After recently selling the Pritchard's family business, Nathan had the capital and time to invest in another interest, something he always wanted to do: run a music production and engineering company.

Pritchard became the owner in January, and renovation began.

"I wanted a space that was creative, inspiring and comfortable to work in," explains Pritchard. "The size is perfect for recording."

A select number of music producers have been courted who would bring different musical genres in to record. With commitments from six producers and a final goal of 10, Pritchard feels confident of his investment.

The eight four-foot stained glass windows depicting the Franciscan saints will be removed to the new St. Francis building. At great expense, Pritchard is having the windows duplicated exactly.

"If you keep the producers happy, they will come," he says.

The church remodeling is taking a natural progression, with functionality in mind while maintaining the aesthetics of the building. Both Pritchard and architect Wes LaChot from Chapel Hill are devoted to keeping the unique structure. Pritchard understands the difficulty many parishioners have in letting go of this building — another reason he insists on maintaining integrity.

"They have been just great to work with," he says.

The eight four-foot stained glass windows depicting the Franciscan saints will be removed to the new St. Francis building. At great expense, Pritchard is having the windows duplicated exactly.

"The Statesville company doing the replacement assures me that after the oxidation process, you will not be able to tell the difference from the originals," he says.

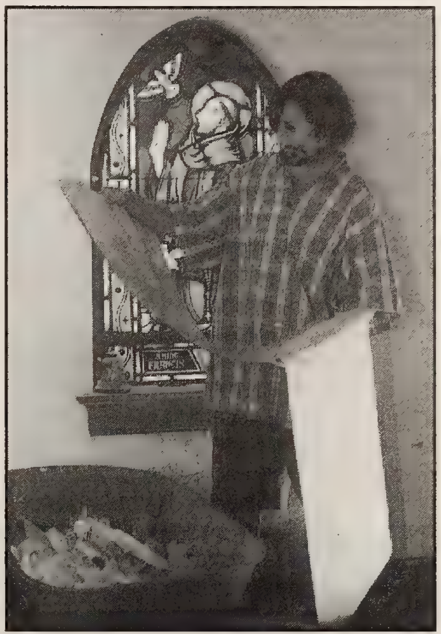


Photo by Nancy Norton

Nathan Pritchard studies plans for renovations of the old St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir. The former sanctuary will become a music production and engineering company.

When asked about the acoustics, Pritchard walked to where the altar used to stand, gave a large grin, and says he used a very scientific method common in the music industry. He clapped his hands.

"I count the number of seconds it takes for the noise to reverberate back," he says.

With no public address systems in the 1930s, churches were built with acoustics in mind. It is common for production companies to look for old churches because of their "live" sound that musicians seek. Pritchard knows of three churches in London and at least one in Nashville now serving that purpose.

From the choir loft, the control room will record the sounds. An additional control room and playing area will be in the basement. The rectory is also being renovated. Along with the current fireplace will be yet another recording studio, commercial kitchen, bar, TV lounge, billiard room, and dining room. Eventually guest rooms will be finished upstairs.

Feeling personally responsible for the care of such a fine building, Pritchard has intentionally kept the construction crew small. "Just a master carpenter and his helper," he notes.

Everyone working on the project just happens to be a musician, and they each have cut a record deal at one time. Insisting this was not planned, Pritchard does admit it has proven valuable.

"They do not question requirements imposed for sound recording," he says, like pulling up the wood floor in the church so that three inches of concrete could be poured. Then the floor will go back down. Three layers of foam insulation were added to the walls.

"The renovation is extensive, but what is funny," chuckles James Little, the foreman, "is when we are finished it won't look like we've done a thing."

Franciscan Sister Angela Inkrott, just returning from a Franciscan pilgrimage to Assisi, noted, "Music, architecture, painting all began in the church. The artist tries to get at the essence of man, the same as St. Francis did."

Her thoughts on the renovation of the old church are simple. "God is great and all embracing," she says.

Slated to be complete in January 2000, the studio recording company has already adopted its name. It's simply "Sanctuary." ▼

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Assuring Absolute Integrity and Freedom of Choice

Second location now open at
72 Long Shoals Rd., Arden, NC (828) 687-3530

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!

Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe

(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Six Simple Strategies For a Comfortable Retirement

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everybody's goal. Getting there requires a plan you can live with today and in the years to come.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has developed six simple, yet effective strategies to help you reach your goal.

To find out how to get started, stop by or call and ask for a free copy of our brochure entitled *"Six Strategies for a Comfortable Retirement."*

Susan G. King
Associate Vice President
Financial Advisor

380 Knollwood Street, Suite 500
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(800) 786-7860
(336) 727-8900

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER

Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is not a tax advisor. Investors are urged to consult with their personal tax advisors regarding the effects of the new legislation on their situation as well as the tax consequences of any investment decisions they may make.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., member SIPC.
©1999 Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.

African-American national gathering packs Philly church

By LOU BALDWIN
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — A packed St. Carthage Church in southwest Philadelphia fairly vibrated with the Spirit July 26 as participants gathered for Mass during the 1999 national joint conference of African-American clergy, religious and seminarians.

"Your theme of 'Oh Freedom' is an appropriate one because Philadelphia is the cradle of our nation's independence and freedom," said Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, who presided at the liturgy. "However, we know from a historical perspective that all people were not free when the Declaration of Independence was signed here in 1776."

The cardinal mentioned several men and women of faith in the African-American community who "responded to the freedom which God gave them through baptism and were inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve those who were denied their freedom by society."

Among those he noted were: Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore; Father Augustus Tolton, the first U.S.-born African-American priest and founder of the first black Catholic church in Chicago; Mother Mary Henriette Delille, who founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans; and Pierre Toussaint, 19th-century New Yorker known for his charity and piety and declared venerable by Pope John Paul II on Dec. 17, 1996.

Cardinal Bevilacqua also cited the work among African-Americans and American Indians by Philadelphian Blessed Katharine Drexel, whose cause for canonization is pending. She "inspires all of us to be open to God's Spirit working within us," he said.

The principal celebrant of the liturgy was Franciscan Father James E. Goode, who conducts Solid Ground Ministry in New York and is president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus; Reverend Mr. Curtis Todd of Charlotte, N.C., was the homilist.

Rev. Mr. Todd emphasized the need for African-American Catholics to have a concrete sense of the purpose of their freedom. Using biblical passages, he pointed out that Jesus is the catalyst for freedom. If one is truly led by the overall presence of God in his or her life, then he or she will be able to rise above all types of social and racial negativity.

People should dedicate their lives to God in order for positive change to occur: "Jesus has set us free...we must know that if we are to remain free, if we are to lead, then we ourselves must also be led...[by Jesus]" stressed Rev. Mr. Todd.

"It's a great get-together for the brothers, the sisters, the priests and the seminarians," said Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, Tenn.

"It allows them a chance to say we are all in this together. It gives them a chance to see and hear what others are doing and what they can begin to do in their own parishes and dioceses," he told The Catholic Standard & Times, Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper.

"It was a beautiful experience," Father Goode said, "a wonderful moment when we as black Catholic men and women get together to celebrate our faith, celebrate our history and who we are, celebrate our giftedness and share that with the greater church. Tonight was a culmination of that around the altar of the Lord; it was just powerful."

"It's wonderful; I'm losing my voice because of the joy and excitement," said Blessed Sacrament Sister Beatrice Jefferies, a member of the Philadelphia site committee. "It is so spirit-filled and spirit-lifting."

"The conference has done a lot of good and attracted a lot of people," said Auxiliary Bishop Leonard J. Olivier of Washington. "I think it's going to have good results."

Joining the 250 or so delegates from around the country were members of St. Carthage and neighboring parishes.

"It's been a long time since we've had the church as full, even the choir loft," said Father James R. Bajorek, pastor of St. Carthage. "I was happy to host this event, and it is everything we had hoped it to be."

The joint conference, which was holding daily sessions at the Adams Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, was scheduled to run through July 30. ▼

Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story.

Photo courtesy of Ken Lentz

Eagle projects dedicated to Holy Trinity Middle School

CHARLOTTE — Two Eagle Scout projects were dedicated July 10 to the campus of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School.

Daniel Lentz and Matthew Newey, both 1996 alumni of the school, installed their Eagle projects in the chapel courtyard of the campus.

For his project, Lentz completed a brick walkway through the courtyard. Embedded in the walkway are 14 granite memorial markers depicting the names of the patron saints of students' parishes. The granite used for the markers in "The Walk of the Saints" came from the facia of the original sanctuary of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Newey's project, the Stations of the Cross, are the 14 stations installed in cedar hutches along The Walk of the Saints. The stations were originally in the convent that once resided on the campus of the school.

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated Mass in the school chapel. In his homily, the bishop recalled his days as a Scout and praised the Scouting program as an extension of the Christian mission to make the world a better place.

After the Mass, an Eagle Court of Honor was held for Newey. Troop 174 Scoutmaster Joe Hitselberger presided at the ceremony.

The events closed with the dedication ceremony in the courtyard, during which Bishop Curlin prayed that the projects would be constant reminders of faith for the Holy Trinity community. ▼

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business Manager: Computer literate Business Manager wanted for local non-profit organization. Responsibilities include bookkeeping, accounts payable/receivable, payroll, taxes, financial reporting, budget preparation and supervision. Salary to the low $30's including full benefits and retirement program. Send resume to Search Committee, 708 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia, NC 28052 or stmich@bellsouth.net.

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith **Formation):** Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Western area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communications skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3291. Inquiries: (704)370-3244.

Director of Faith Formation: Our Lady of the Assumption parish seeks a full-time director for its faith formation programs. Candidates with experience in this parish ministry, or possessing a college background in theology or religious studies, are encouraged to apply. The competitive candidate will possess good organizational and interpersonal skills, and a vision of faith formation emphasizing grade school through middle school youth, but not excluding adults. Exemplary oral and written communication skills required, as well as basic computer skills. The salary range is mid to high 20's, commensurate with experience. Good benefits under diocesan coverage. Send resume with names of references as early as convenient to FF Search Committee: c/o Father Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

Classified ads bring results! Over 104,000 readers! Over 42,000 homes!
Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
How to order: Ads may be faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following part-time positions open: Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Faith Formation Director: Established 250 family parish in Asheville seeking Faith Formation Coordinator/Director. Salaried position responsible for catechetical ministries for children and youth, RCIA, sacramental preparation ministry training and adult formation. Experience appreciated, organizational skills and ability to work and communicate with all ages needed. Send resume with references to Fr. Pagel, St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC 28806.

Office Assistant: Personal financial planner needs responsible, articulate person interested in investments. Variety of tasks from customer service to filing to updating computer records. Part-time, flexible schedule of 25-30 hours per week in SouthPark office. Call Cynthia L. Anderson, CFP, at (704)643-7173 or fax resume to (704)556-0445.

REAL ESTATE

Beach Home for Sale: Ocean Isle Beach. 4 Bedrooms, plus sleep loft (or, den/5th bedroom). 3 1/2 baths. Furnished with style. Gated community - west end. Walk to beach. Pool. Tennis. Year-round enjoyment; fireplace; ample room to entertain. Lou Hayes Realty, agent Bill R. $294,500. (888)-398-7086. (Seller is St. Matthew parishioner.)

Bungalow for Sale: Taylorsville. Totally refurbished electrical and plumbing. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, laundry, dining, kitchen & living room. Cement block basement and attached shed. Fenced rear yard. Great for starter, retiree or rental. Close to town. $49,500. ReMAX, agent Linda B. (704)871-9882/1-800-467-9882. (Seller is St. Philip the Apostle parishioner.)

For Rent - Beach Condo: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 8/14, 8/28, all of September and October. Call (336) 924-2842.

Mercy Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon dies at age 99 in Belmont

BELMONT — Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon, RSM, died July 26, 1999, at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont, N.C. She was 99 years old and in her 76th year as a Sister of Mercy.

A vigil prayer service was held July 27 in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 28 in Cardinal Gibbons Chapel. Burial followed at the Belmont Abbey cemetery.

Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon was born in Davidson, N.C., on Aug. 5, 1899. Her birth name was Josephine Clare Nixon. She entered the order of the Sisters of Mercy on Dec. 8, 1922, and was received by the Sisters of Mercy on May 27, 1923. She took her temporary vows on July 19, 1925, and made her perpetual profession of vows on July 19, 1928. Her motto was "Jesus, Mary, Joseph."

Sister Mary Evangelist Nixon, RSM

Sister Mary Evangelist received an associate degree in secretarial and bookkeeping services in 1921 and attended Sacred Heart Academy prior to her entrance into the Sisters of Mercy. She also attended Belmont Abbey College and later graduated from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, receiving her R.N. degree in 1928. She received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Catholic University, Washington, D.C., in 1940.

Sister Mary Evangelist began her lengthy nursing ministry upon graduation in 1928, and she held numerous supervisory positions at both St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, N.C., and at Mercy Hospital, Charlotte. From 1948 through 1954 she served as director of nurses for Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, which included being director of nursing services and nursing education. During her tenure, she was saluted for her exceptional courage and commitment to the nursing profession.

She was a member and chairperson of a half-dozen state and national nursing committees. She received a federal scholarship to teach cadet student nurses at Catholic University.

Following her retirement from nursing at Mercy Hospital, Sister Mary Evangelist remained at the Mercy Hospital Convent, and for many years on a daily basis she would visit the sick at the hospital to distribute medals and prayer cards. She continued to be a vibrant, enthusiastic member of the community and remained active in her prayer ministry. In a December 1997 televised interview, she made it clear that children remained a high priority. "Be good to your children," she directed parents.

Sister Mary Evangelist is the daughter of the late Sydney Xavier Nixon and Katherine Lawing Nixon. She is survived by two nieces, Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams, RSM, of Salisbury, N.C.; Mrs. Mary Ferraro of Charlotte; three nephews, Robert Williams, Jr., and Kenneth Williams, both of Charlotte, and Bernard Williams of Wilmington; and 11 grandnieces and grandnephews.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 100 Mercy Dr., Belmont, NC 28012-4805. ▼

CSS draws on new resource

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Creativity and fresh ideas can allow a person to do a variety of things. When Brady Drummond-Ryan introduced the idea that the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives (NSFRE) of Charlotte should have their own "Executive Referral Service," his suggestion led him to the position as director of development for the Charlotte Diocese's Catholic Social Services.

The idea was for those interested members of the NSFRE to receive job announcements in the mail, and when Drummond-Ryan received information about CSS' new position, he felt that it was a "real blessing." With his blend of fund-raising, sales, and communications backgrounds, this native New Yorker brings an interesting mix of skills to his directorial work.

"[Being in] sales has made me a better fund-raiser; I have the type of assertiveness, business contacts, and community focus needed for this position," stated Drummond-Ryan.

In addition to his CSS job, he also divides his time among other endeavors like being on the board of the Perimeter South Area Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte and creating a leads exchange group called Fast Track, whose members pass along information and ideas about companies that may need certain goods and services.

Dissatisfaction with his career path caused him to make the transition back into development: "Looking back, I had lost touch with myself. I was able to make a good living in sales and networking, but at the time, I wasn't happy. So, I said 'O.K., God, where do you want me?'"

Drummond-Ryan continued, "I am glad to back in development and to contribute to a greater good and using my God-given gifts."

According to Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS, Charlotte, although this position is a new one for CSS, it has been several years in the making. Recommended by the CSS board, it was a part of a long-range plan that would require someone with experience in development to help with the growth of the organization.

Diocesan Support Appeal funds one-third of the CSS budget, and they have to gather the rest though a combination of federal funds, grants, fees, and donations. This is where Drummond-Ryan fits into the picture.

Brady Drummond-Ryan, *Director of Development for Catholic Social Services*

His objective is to build up the annual fund targeting several key areas: marketing and public relations, volunteer and intern recruitment, enhancing newsletters, direct mail, individual giving, corporate giving, and database management. A couple of his tools for success are "sticking to the fundamentals and keeping things simple."

"Development is developing relationships, and I am not shy about asking people to contribute their time or funds to something as important as the work of CSS," stressed Drummond-Ryan.

Jim Kelley, diocesan development director, agreed that "Drummond-Ryan has a good combination of social work and development experience. He has jumped in pretty quickly by putting plans together and meeting with the other area directors and the board."

"We are glad to have Brady on board; he comes to us with a great deal of experience and fresh ideas. He will be a real asset to CSS," complimented Thurbee. ▼

If you would like to know more or to become involved with CSS, call Brady Drummond-Ryan at (704) 370-3349 or e-mail at ryan@webserve.net.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over **700 Book Titles**, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org
For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

Living Water flows through a diocesan endowment.

Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again.
— John 4.14

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support
Every year, your "living water" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.

Ensure a Strong Future
Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.

Enact a Lasting Legacy
Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values: Your faith and the mission of the Church.

For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

Mighty Casey: Cincinnati ballplayer pondered priestly at bat

By MARK SCHMETZER
Catholic News Service

CINCINNATI (CNS) — As a student, Cincinnati Reds all-star first baseman Sean Casey entertained thoughts of becoming a priest.

"It crossed my mind," he said. "I have a good friend who became a priest, and he had a major impact on my life."

Casey, 25, grew up in Bethel Park, Pa., attending St. Thomas More Church there and St. Louise de Marillac in Pittsburgh. At St. Louise, he began playing organized baseball in a youth league. He also attended Upper St. Clair High School.

In an interview with The Catholic Telegraph, newspaper of the Cincinnati Archdiocese, he called Christ "the biggest part of my life."

That was never more true than in April 1998, when his baseball career looked as if it might end before it began. On his third day in the major leagues, he was hit accidentally in the right eye during batting practice at Cincinnati's Cinergy Field.

Casey suffered lacerations requiring 20 stitches, and six days later underwent surgery to repair four fractured bones around the eye.

"I just remember thinking that the Lord never gives you more than you can handle," Casey said. "Whether I would be able to play baseball again or not, I knew that I'd be all right. I knew the Lord would take care of me, and that was a comforting feeling."

Ironically, he emerged from the ordeal with better eyesight, which he has put to good use this season. Through June 15, he led the National League in hitting, and was among the top five batters in six other categories. As of July 28, he was second in the league with a .364 batting average.

He also was selected to play in baseball's 70th All-Star Game, held July 13 at Boston's Fenway Park.

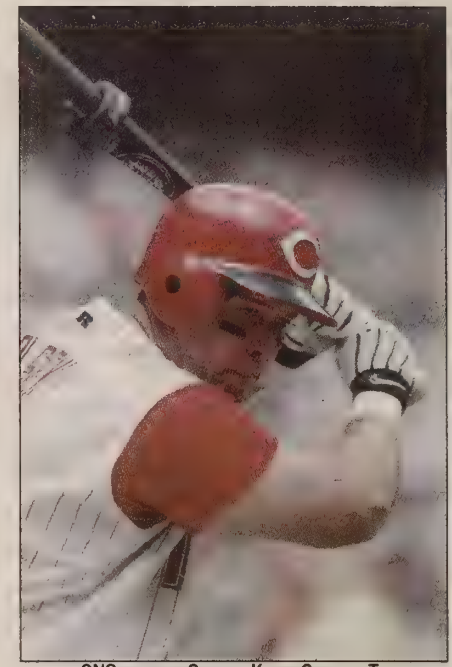
Despite being relatively unknown coming into this season, Casey was third at his position in all-star balloting, behind home-run king Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals and perennial all-star Jeff Bagwell of the Houston Astros.

Leading the Reds' offense made him popular not just with hometown fans but with fans around the country. He also has drawn universal praise for being among the most fan-friendly players in baseball today.

He is unfailingly outgoing and pleasant, accommodating autograph- and interview-seekers. Many observers of professional sports consider him a true role model.

"I think the greatest testimony you can give is the way you live your life," said Casey. Crediting the Lord, he added, "he helps me keep things in perspective, and he gave me the talent to play baseball."

The first baseman bolsters his beliefs by reading the Bible daily. One of his favorite passages is Matthew 6, verses 25-33, which ends: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."



CNS photo by Colleen Kelly, Catholic Telegraph

Sean Casey of the Cincinnati Reds takes some practice swings during a June game against the New York Mets. In a recent interview, the first-baseman said he once thought he might become a priest.

"I think it's talking about worry ... telling us why we shouldn't worry about tomorrow," Casey said. "Reading the Bible helps give me lessons on how to live life and approach different situations."

This approach comes from his upbringing, especially from his father, Jim.

"My dad instilled in me that I should always treat people the way I want to be treated," the ballplayer said. "He's a great influence. He goes to Mass every morning."

Casey practices what's been preached to him. After learning that a University of Evansville, Ind., ballplayer had suffered an eye injury similar to his, he phoned the player and talked for 20 minutes.

"I didn't even think twice about it," he said, "because it was an opportunity for me to really share my experience with a young kid who maybe had some doubts in his mind about his career."

Casey was a student at the University of Richmond, Va., when — on the advice of his sister, Beth — he began doing volunteer work with children afflicted with cerebral palsy.

He also has visited a Cincinnati hospital a few times, he said. "It's really amazing the impact you have just by the fact that you're a professional athlete or the fact that they know you've played baseball ... that you take the time to be with these kids."

"It really puts a smile on their faces," he added. "That's worth more than anything else you can give." ▼

Southeast FIRE RALLY is coming to the Carolinas!

Saturday, September 18, 1999
Wheeler Athletic Center, Belmont Abbey College
Belmont, NC *(15 minutes west of Charlotte)*
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. *(Doors open at 8:00 a.m.)*

A CATHOLIC ALLIANCE OF FAITH, INTERCESSION, REPENTANCE, AND EVANGELISM
FIRE

Events for the day include:
- Conferences on *Faith, Intercession, Repentance*, and *Evangelism* (F.I.R.E.)
- Eucharistic Liturgy with Bishop William G. Curlin
- Inspired music by Hearts of Fire
- Bookstore and Ministry Fair
- **High School Youth Breakout:** A newly-expanded dynamic session from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, T.O.R. and Lisa Militello. Music by ***Lion of Judah***. Students will join FIRE Rally for closing liturgy.

Registration Information
- Enclose names and addresses of each person. No refunds.
- Lunch available by pre-registration only. ($6 each)
- Confirmation packets will be mailed prior to the Rally.
- For further info and area hotels, please call (704) 519-0316 or visit our website at **http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews**

Last chance to save $10 with pre-registration before August 25th!

Make checks payable to: ***S.E. Fire Rally Committee***
Send to: 5121 Baker Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210

FIRE Rally Registration Form

Pre-registration deadline is August 25, 1999

NAME ____________ PHONE ____________
ADDRESS ____________ CITY/STATE ____________
PARISH NAME ____________ CITY/STATE ____________

#___Adult ...@ $15.00 each = $________ *($25.00 at door, upon availability)*
#___Clergy/Religious ...NO registration fee
#___College Student ...@ $10.00 each = $________
#___High School Student *(free lunch!)* ...@ $10.00 each = $________
#___Lunch *(hoagie, salad, chips & drink)* ...@ $ 6.00 each = $________

TOTAL ENCLOSED $________
☐ Disability seating needed (# of seats ____)

*****************************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S304 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 20, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 43

Inside

Understanding Ultreya: A grand gathering of diocesan cursillistas ...PAGE 3

Court halts Texas execution pope sought to stop ...PAGE 7

Raleigh Diocese offers safe 'Landings' for Catholics ...PAGE 14

Local News

Literacy project teaches faith, reading ...PAGE 13

Greensboro counselor promotes "creative aging" ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Faith Alive!

A look inside a permanent deacon's life ...PAGES 8-9

Catechists celebrate ministry at initiation conference

By JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HICKORY — In the environs of the North Carolina foothills, catechists from throughout the United States reaffirmed their commitment to the Christian initiation process as a vital church ministry the entire parish community can experience.

Some 135 catechists from nearly 20 dioceses gathered Aug. 1-6 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory for an institute of The North American Forum on the Catechumenate. The conference included tracks for new and experienced catechists, as well as a track for campus ministers.

"The initiation process is one of the most important pastoral activities of the church," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte. "This process deals with people who are at a crossroads. To accompany them through that crossroads is to live the mission of Jesus Christ."

Villapando said the Forum institute immersed catechists into the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and invited reflection on it. The experience, he said, yielded for them a deeper appreciation of the initiation process.

The North American Forum is a network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians who promote parish implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which men and women prepare for and are received into the Catholic Church.

The Forum has offered institutes and workshops since 1982. Its "initiation experience" institutes, hosted throughout the United States and Canada, teach the initiation process and the pastoral skills to implement it in a variety of settings.

This gathering was co-sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Commission for the RCIA.

"What the Forum wants to do at these institutes is provide people with both the vision of the Rite — what it really says — and the experiences to help people understand what that would look like in a local parish," said Sister of Charity Donna Steffen, a Forum team member, author and catechist who ministers in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Carlos Castaneda, from the Diocese of Charlotte, and Patrick Harney, from the Diocese of Richmond, prepare the "Easter vigil" fire during a catechetical institute in Hickory. The fire represents the risen Christ.

Sister Steffen noted that while the initiation process focuses on God's work within a person's life, the RCIA becomes a shared celebration of faith. "It does involve the entire church community," she said. "If a family welcomes a child into its home, each person in the family is affected. In a similar way, initiation is something the whole church community does. As we're bringing in new members, then we in the church are all affected by that."

At the institute, catechists had a firsthand experience of the initiation process and the discernment it includes. Liturgies each evening illustrated the rituals of the RCIA, and in-depth discussions offered time to review and reflect on specifics of the process. Participants recalled life experiences from their own faith journeys, which for many added a special touch.

"Coming here, even though I was thinking I would be learning to minister to the people, it has been a very personal experience," said Lynda Cody, coordinator of parish ministries at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. "It's a retreat and an education combined — which is a statement of what RCIA is. This has been a real enlightenment for me."

The institute also offered valuable insight about the breadth of initiation ministry, said one catechist new to the process. "After participating in it for a year, I wanted to get a sense of how all the parts fit together," said Ann-Marie Mack, an RCIA team member at St. Luke Church in McLean, Va. "I wanted to absorb the ambiance and get all the fine points ironed out."

Mack, who noted that the greatest reward of the ministry is the interaction with those entering the church, agreed that the initiation process can move an entire community. "The word around our parish is that if you're really interested in your faith, then the RCIA is a place where you might want to get more involved," she said. "It's a very exciting area."

Fostering the RCIA in the campus ministry setting brought Colleen McDermott to the institute. The director of campus and young adult ministries for the Diocese of Charlotte, McDermott said she heard much discussion among the 38 campus ministers attending about the variations of the initiation process in college life.

"People came trying to figure out how to do RCIA with students," said McDermott. "There were really a lot of questions about how we fit this in the academic schedule."

SEE THE FORUM, PAGE 14

Released S. Leone bishop says rebels desperate for food, medicine

ROME (CNS) — A bishop briefly detained with a group of hostages by rebels in Sierra Leone said the kidnappings showed disarray in the rebels' ranks and their desperate need for food and medicine. "It was an unfortunate incident which must not compromise the peace process," Bishop Giorgio Biguzzi of Makeni, Sierra Leone, said in an interview Aug. 5 with MISNA, a Rome-based missionary news agency. The bishop and a group of U.N. observers, reporters and representatives of aid agencies were taken hostage Aug. 4 by rebels who were supposed to hand over some 200 teen-age boys kidnapped earlier.

In Iran, kidnappers seize two priests with tourists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two priests were among the four tourists and a tour guide kidnapped in mid-August from a hotel in Iran. Franciscan Father Joaquin P. Fernandez, 70, and Dominican Father Cosme Puerto, said to be in his 50s, were seized by gunmen from a hotel in the southern Iranian town of Kerman at dinner Aug. 14, Vatican Radio reported. Both priests were from Spain, as was one of the other two tourists taken. Their guide, an Iranian man, was kidnapped with them, and an Italian man was seized from his hotel room.

Catholic men's ministries 'mushrooming,' says report

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three years ago a U.S. bishops' committee described the Promise Keepers phenomenon as a "wake-up call" for Catholics to form Catholic men's ministries. Now a new report says such Catholic ministries are "mushrooming." Catholic men "are meeting together in large and small groups, sharing their burdens, listening to each other's stories and celebrating the Eucharist," it says. The 10-page report, "Catholic Men's Ministries," was sent to the U.S. bishops in July. It is the joint work of the Committee on Marriage and Family and the Committee on Evangelization of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

CNS photo from Reuters

Women react to earthquake destruction

Two women cry as they look at their destroyed home in Golcuk, Turkey, Aug. 18. A strong earthquake the day before left thousands dead and tens of thousands injured and homeless in areas around Istanbul.

Thieves loot Rome church, leave legendary relic behind

ROME (CNS) — Thieves looting a Rome church grabbed a stone purported to hold Christ's miraculous footprint, but left it behind because it was too heavy. Police said the burglars, unaware of the significance of the marble relic, left it lying on the floor of the Church of St. Sebastian. Instead, they carted off a metal container in which it was displayed and other valuables Aug. 6. The alleged footprint marked the spot where legend holds that St. Peter, on his way out of ancient Rome, was said to have met Christ, asking him: "Domine quo vadis?" or "Lord, where are you going?"

Israel to open pilgrimage site where it says Jesus was baptized

JERUSALEM (CNS) — For the year 2000, the Israeli Civil Administration plans to open what Israel claims is the traditional baptismal site of Jesus along the Jordan River. The site, which is still dotted with land mines from a 1967 military conflict with Jordan, has until now been opened to the public only three times a year. Part of the area has been cleared of land mines, and barbed-wire fences clearly mark the path leading to the river.

Chicago parish's reward helps find suspect in child murder case

CHICAGO (CNS) — Publicity surrounding a Chicago Catholic church's offer of a $3,000 reward for help in finding an 8-year-old girl's killer has led to the arrest of a suspect. "The only thing worse than acts of violence in our community is the acceptance of violence as a normal behavior," said Father Michael Pfleger, pastor of St. Sabina Church, which offered the reward Aug. 2. The church's $3,000 was matched with $3,000 from Paul Vallas, superintendent of Chicago's public schools, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the July 31 shooting death of Paulette Peake. The Cook County state's attorney has since arrested Edward Mitchell, who has been charged with the murder.

Baltimore Mercy Sisters back Sister Gramick's ministry

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The Baltimore regional community of the Sisters of Mercy has declared its "support for and solidarity with Sister Jeannine Gramick and the School Sisters of Notre Dame." In a statement approved unanimously at their regional conference, the Mercy Sisters said they were "profoundly saddened" by the recent Vatican decision to bar Sister Gramick permanently from the gay and lesbian ministry she has engaged in for the past 28 years. "It is our hope and prayer that this action will be successfully appealed," they said.

SOA closure effort gets support of Catholic Daughters, AFL-CIO

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The national board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the executive council of the AFL-CIO have passed resolutions supporting the closing of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The resolutions note that the training school for Latin American military leaders at Fort Benning, Ga., has been connected to human rights abuses by some of its graduates. The Catholic Daughters and the AFL-CIO join 120 U.S. bishops, 19 Latin-American bishops and hundreds of other religious, labor, human rights, veterans and social concerns groups in urging that the school be closed.

No electronic sacraments, liturgy office says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — No sacrament can be received by electronic communication, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy has said. It said that liturgical celebrations "depend on the physical presence of the gathered faithful" and "require the physical presence of the bishop, priest, deacon or the approved presiding minister." "Electronic communication via telephone, television, video conference or Internet is not sufficient for the celebration of the sacraments," it said. The secretariat commented on the question in the May-June issue of its newsletter, saying it had received "several inquiries" on the topic.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
August 20, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 43
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Award Winner cpa Catholic Press Association 1998

Diocesan planner

August

24 ASHEVILLE — A four-week course entitled "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts" begins today at the social hall at St. Eugene, One Culvern Street, from 7-9 p.m. Upcoming start dates will be on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7 and 14. For details and reservations, call the church office at (828) 254-5193.

25 CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children, a support group for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth, or SIDS, meets tonight at the St. Matthew Conference Room, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, at 7 p.m. Call Lynn Schilling at (704) 831-9475 or Sister Jeanne Marie at (704) 543-7677 Ext. 43. for details

CHARLOTTE — Father Gene McCreesh leads the "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" group which meets tonight in the sacristy at St. Peter, 507 S. Tryon, at 7 p.m.

26 ASHEVILLE — Everyone is invited to a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc, 919 Haywood Ave., this evening at 7 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. For information, call (828) 252-3151.

ASHEVILLE — All families are welcome to the Catholic Association of Family Educators', Western NC's Catholic home-school support group, outdoor picnic potluck dinner this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. at the Carolina Power and Light Private Pavillion. For details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

27 STATESVILLE — At St. Phillip the Apostle, 525 Camden Drive, the Moms-n-Tots Playgroup begins its third year this morning and every Friday morning from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for moms, caregivers, and children ages 0-5. Expect playing, singing, snacks, and crafts for everyone.

MOORESVILLE — There will be a Christian rock concert featuring "Age of Faith" at St. Therese, 217 Brawley Road. $5 at the door. Concert starts at 8 p.m. For information, call Diana Hollenback at (704) 664-7762.

September

1 CHARLOTTE — For a quiet time to share in community prayer to heal spiritually, emotionally, and physically, there is a healing Mass at St. Peter's, 507 S. Tryon, tonight at 7:30 p.m.

HENDERSONVILLE — A series of natural family planning classes taught by the Couple-to-Couple League, will take place from 7-9 p.m. tonight. Call Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357 for location and registration.

3 HIGH POINT — Christ the King, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., celebrates a Latin Mass tonight at 7 p.m. The rosary

Understanding Ultreya: A grand gathering of diocesan cursillistas

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

STATESVILLE — Many have become involved with Cursillo Movement which serves as a way to grow in personal faith. Like many others, Miki Ortiz says it has changed her life profoundly.

A native of Brooklyn and a parishioner at St. Mary in Greensboro, Ortiz became familiar with the Cursillo Movement in New York. When she moved to Greensboro, she wanted to be more deeply involved with the process. Several months ago, she went through the three-day Cursillo event. Today, she has the desire to share the Word of the Gospel.

"Cursillo is another way of joining together in fellowship and getting the support that you need from the community; it is like an extended family. It is a journey to get closer to Christ and to keep Him in your life," explained Ortiz.

To celebrate the upcoming jubilee year, Ortiz and others attended a diocesan-wide Grand Ultreya at St. Philip the Apostle in Statesville on Aug. 8, a reunion of all of those who have gone through the Cursillo process.

Father Mark Lawlor, diocesan spiritual advisor for the English-speaking Cursillo Movement, explained, "This is a diocesan movement that has brought people together from various parishes. The Cursillo Movement is a renewal group within the Church."

However, there is still much to be learned about the Spanish-based movement known as Cursillo which has gained prominence in the diocese and all over the world

The word "cursillo" means "short or little course" in Spanish. In the years after the Spanish Civil War during the 1940s, the need for a recommitment to Christ and a type of renewal of faith arose among the men in Mallorca, Spain.

In 1957, the first Cursillo took place in Waco, Texas, founded by Spanish men who had arrived in the country and brought their knowledge of the Cursillo to the states. Now, there are English, Spanish and Vietnamese-speaking Cursillo Movements that have been formed for those of various nationalities. There are also Lutheran and Episcopalian Cursillos modeled after the Catholic program.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Cursillistas from parishes all over the diocese join hands during the Our Father at the Grand Ultreya Mass at St. Philip the Apostle in Statesville.

According to Lee Accettullo, diocesan lay director for the English-speaking Cursillo Movement, the experience in Christian community takes place over a weekend beginning on a Thursday. During those three days, people are exposed to the ideals of the Cursillo, centered on bringing Jesus to all aspects of society. People pray, listen to talks given by religious and lay people, attend Mass, and share their reasons for wanting to be a part of the Cursillo and their hopes for their spiritual futures.

Before this event, the pre-Cursillo is a preparation teaching candidates about their particular environments and how they can incorporate Jesus into all aspects.

The idea is that one's environment should be filled with His presence at all times, and one should inform others about how Jesus can positively affect one's life in all areas. The purpose of Cursillo is for people to live as better Christians, to attain spiritual and personal goals, and to spread the Good News.

Nam Le and her husband Trieu from St. Thomas Aquinas in Charlotte have been cursillistas for seven years.

Nam admitted, "I have received so much from the spirit of the Cursillo, I can hardly put it into words. Before I did the Cursillo, I did not know what the Gospels truly meant, and I didn't really know what being a Catholic meant even though I was born and raised in the Church."

The Cursillo is actually four days long with the fourth day being the "rest of their lives." The cursillistas, those who have gone through the three-day process and are guided by the cursillo way, go through the post-Cursillo which includes small-group meetings and larger reunions called Ultreyas.

"Ultreya provides a method for community and evangelization. Most of these people probably wouldn't know each other otherwise [without the benefit of the Cursillo and Ultreya]," said Jeanette Reavis, a parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem and a cursillista since 1991. "This provides an opportunity to be a community and to share our

SEE ULTREYA, PAGE 14

---

will be said at 6:30 before Mass. Benediction and adoration will follow.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Road, celebrates a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. After Mass, there will be the laying on of hands by the priest.

8 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, or remarried outside the Church meets tonight at St. Ann, 3635 Park Road, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center. For details, call (704) 376-1503.

9 CHARLOTTE — "Exodus from Strongholds," a 12-week Bible-based seminar focusing on overcoming personal strongholds, begins tonight at St. John Neumann, 8451 Idlewild Road, at 7:15 p.m. A free orientation will be held on Sept. 2 at the same location at 7:15 p.m. Cost is $88. For registration and information, contact Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

12 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass, celebrated by Bishop Curlin, will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East at 4 p.m. Prayer teams available at 3 p.m. with a potluck dinner to follow. For information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

14 CHARLOTTE — "Art from the Heart" is a workshop that uses scripture and art exercises to worship God that will take place today beginning with 9:30 a.m. Eucharist and ending at noon with lunch. Suggested donation is $20. To find out more or to register, call Joanne Longenecker, a registered art therapist at (704) 845-9163 or Father John Hoover at (336)699-4005.

16 HIGH POINT — There will be a charismatic Mass held at Maryfield Nursing Home in the chapel, 1315 Greensboro Road. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

17 HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be today through Sept. 19 at the Catholic Conference Center. For registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424 and for information, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

18 BELMONT — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a Catholic alliance of faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism, is Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Wheeler Athletic Center on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. Team members include internationally known Catholic clergy, religious and lay evangelists. A youth session is also featured. Early registration deadline is Aug. 25. Advance tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for high school and college students. Lunch is available with pre-registration for an additional $6. For details, call (704) 519-0786, or visit the Web at http://www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews/.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, a non-profit, private organization for those experiencing Alzheimer's or dementia meets every Mon. and Wed. from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel. $35 covers snack, lunch, activities, and socialization. Those not affiliated with the parish are welcome. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 for information.

HICKORY VICARIATE — A Spanish Mass is celebrated every Sunday at the following churches: St. Francis in Lenoir at 9 a.m., Holy Trinity in Taylorsville at 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph in Newton at 12:45 p.m., Our Lady of the Angels in Marion at 1 p.m., St Aloysius in Hickory at 2 p.m., and St. Charles in Morganton at 5 p.m.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope sends condolences to Turkey after deadly earthquake

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent his condolences after an earthquake in Turkey killed thousands of people and injured thousands more.

An Aug. 17 telegram in the pope's name signed by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, said the pontiff was "deeply saddened by the news of the heavy loss of life and injury" caused by the previous day's quake.

Pope John Paul was praying for those who were hurt or killed, the message said, and wanted to offer the victims' families the solace of his spiritual closeness to them.

Cardinal Sodano said he joined the pope in praying for the "gifts of courage and strength (to) all who are grieving."

The earthquake in northwestern Turkey struck at 3 a.m. local time Aug. 17, rocking some of the country's biggest cities and collapsing buildings with occupants asleep inside.

At least 3,500 people were killed and 16,000 injured, the Anatolian news agency in Turkey reported Aug. 18.

Casualty reports were heaviest near the industrial city of Izmit, where an oil refinery burst into flame, about 55 miles east of Turkey's largest city of Istanbul.

Local authorities in the earthquake-hit areas appealed for rescue equipment, food and volunteers to dig out the victims.

Izmir, about 400 miles from the quake's epicenter, also felt the powerful first shock.

Archbishop Giuseppe Bernardini of Izmir told the Italian Catholic daily Avvenire that the situation in the earthquake-hit region was "desperate."

"The television reports show frenetic (rescue) activity," the bishop said, "but the needs of the population are enormous. Who could ever count all those who have been made homeless?"

Archbishop Bernardini said many residents were worried about friends and relatives elsewhere, but were unable to reach the hardest-hit region by cellular phone or by phone lines.

Experts in the United States monitoring earthquakes worldwide placed the magnitude at 7.8 on the Richter Scale.

Pope, at audience, urges strengthening of Geneva Conventions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, Pope John Paul II called for stronger protection of civilians and prisoners of war in times of conflict. "The minimum protection of the dignity of every human being guaranteed by international humanitarian law too often is violated in the name of military or political needs, which never should have precedence over the value of the human person," the pope said. At the end of his weekly general audience, Pope John Paul told visitors that the Geneva Conventions were signed Aug. 12, 1949, after World War II "to assure the protection of civilians, prisoners and all victims of armed conflict."

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

The re-creation of summer vacation

Summertime is when many families escape from their regular routines to go away to distant (and not so distant) places to re-create themselves. Special bonding happens on these excursions that make it evident that God is in their midst. Only God could orchestrate the chaos of family summer vacations.

One of our family summertime rituals is our annual Michigan getaway. This year we spent a few days in South Haven, just a couple hours away. Our only expected outcome was to be someplace different where we could swim, ride our bikes, shop, dine, fish and be close to nature. This year we decided to forgo our traditional camping for the sake of Terri's back. We opted instead for a comfortable hotel where we booked two adjoining rooms — one for us, one for the kids.

Something about the unexpected things likely to happen when we make plans that depend on Mother Nature's cooperation make our summertime escapades more intriguing. And just like you can't plan the weather, you can't plan the movement of the Spirit that bonds us on these adventures.

Our "Lykes on Bikes" expedition on the wonderful Kal-Haven trail was cut short after only eight miles due to the oppressive heat that depleted our energy. espite the National Weather Service's severe thunderstorm warning, however, Mother Nature was kind to us and didn't present us with any challenges beyond that.

The expected separation of the guys and gals happened when Andrew and Marty went fishing while Terri and Andréa shopped. The guys got a good catch of Lake Michigan perch, and the gals hunted for lighthouses and visited a nearby university for a campus tour.

We left our Michigan rendevous feeling re-created as planned. However, with a deeper sense of gratitude for our family time together. For this summertime vacation is a mile marker in our family life. It is probably the last dance of our annual ritual with just the four of us. Next year Andréa will be away at college and will not likely be with us.

Yet, we don't traverse this ground with any sense of melancholy. In family life we know that change is inevitable. Otherwise, we'd still be up to our ears in diapers. When we accept change, learn from it and make use of it, we grow. At the cusp phases in family life, we know that the coming year will bring many such mile markers. It will hopefully make us more appreciative of our family life.

Resistance to inevitable change traps families in unworkable scripts. Openness to change allows for the re-creating of new, better scripts that stretch us beyond our imaginations. It helps us to allow God control of our happiness.

We thank God for each other and open ourselves to newness in life. Perhaps Andréa will attend a Michigan university and next year's getaway will be moving her into the dorm. Perhaps if the Spirit wills it. And we're open to it. She hasn't failed us yet!

The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Breaking in our young pastors

It is becoming increasingly clear that we — and by "we" I mean people who no longer snicker at the idea of padded kneelers — have to come up with a strategy to deal with the phenomenon of pastors being appointed who are so young they think they have to stay awake all the way through altar society meetings.

If you have been keeping up with the church vocations trends in America, you know we are going to be a few clergy short of filling the pastoral slots available soon. In some rural dioceses this is already the case. Priests are being asked to "cover" two, three and more parishes, which has destroyed more than a few limited-mileage lease plans.

As a result, the young priests coming out of the seminaries are being named pastors at an age when their predecessors were being assigned to coach CYO baseball and told to stop tracking potato chips across the rectory.

Yes, they are running around thinking they are grown-up priests at an age when many of them never once have been called on the carpet by the bishop for screaming in public about his parish assessment. Never once have they been awake 72 hours flying from the hospital to the funeral home to the chancery, then wondering what Sunday's readings were so they could do a homily.

This is destroying the traditional order of things in which a priest could languish as an assistant pastor for years, gradually growing in knowledge, experience, wisdom , grace, secrets and cunning until he too could be trusted with answering emergencies like the darn boiler going out at 3 a.m. Sunday morning.

This has been a venerable tradition. Veteran (also known as "crusty," "crotchety," "garrulous," "ancient," "dinosaur," and "pre-Cambrian") pastors could lord it over their assistants, thus providing the younger clergy with great hilarious stories they could tell to parishioners behind the pastor's back and at the same time lay down a pattern of behavior. and development that would serve them well when they were appointed a pastor in their own right with their own assistants to put in charge of the bulletin.

Surely you agree these young pastors are a threat to parish life as we have known it. And I think we have to do something about it. I am not talking about sinister things like loosening the brakes on their roller blades, or tacky things like slipping Clearasil coupons into the collection plate, although these could be considered later.

No, the key is to make them older and wiser faster. Having them live, even for a short time, with a family with teens is clearly too cruel. Likewise for making them listen to my table during the annual Men's Crab Feed and Beer Garden Festival.

Heck, maybe staying awake during the altar society meeting isn't a bad start after all.

Your comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Send your Letters to the Editor to jskeane@charlottediocese.org or mail to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Putting in a good word for optimism

"Don't you think you are being naively optimistic?"

The question came to me as no surprise. I was a member of a TV panel program, one of several I have appeared on over the last few months. And it was not the first time I was struck by how many social commentators seem preoccupied with the "blame game" for everything that is wrong with America.

I had just put in a good word for those who are making a positive difference in our society and our culture. Hence the wonder about my stance being "naively optimistic." I generally find myself in the minority in these discussions. Of course, there's nothing wrong with strong cautionary views. The mistake is to have nothing else, especially when solid evidence suggests that we have great reason to be hopeful.

There are countless individuals in public and private life who have opted to be doers and not merely complainers, people who are "for" something good and not just "against" something bad. As a result, many issues that affect the quality of our daily lives are being improved. Good neighbors — and good Samaritans — are making a difference in areas such as consumer protection, the environment, health care, crime, drugs, poverty, education and more.

And while a positive outlook may be unusual in some places, I am happy to say that on our nationally syndicated television series, Christopher Closeup, we have many guests who recognize and celebrate the human face of the progress we are making. One, Paul Loeb, author of Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time, says that "To fail to realize the power of our actions is to reduce the potential of our soul. It's to diminish the spark that burns within us."

I absolutely agree. If each one of us would only allow that spark to ignite the goodness, the courage, the holiness within our souls, we could create the kind of nation and neighborhood we all want to call home.

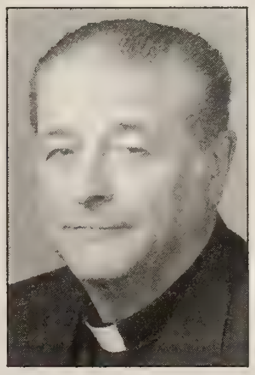
Wishful thinking? Naive optimism? There are many who do that much and more. Far more.

Mark Shields, the well-known political analyst on CNN's The Capital Gang and PBS's The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, talked with me about those people who go above and beyond. He said, for example, that "Because of the relentless negativism, the idea that everybody who works on the public payroll is some indifferent, sullen soul, it hit me that there are examples of just the opposite. For instance, Shannon Wright, the teacher from Jonesboro, Arkansas, who, when some students opened fire, used her own body to shield a little girl. And Dave Sanders in Columbine, Colorado, who, again, saved students at the cost of his own life. These are acts of enormous heroism."

We dare not ignore the overwhelming problems that threaten us, our homes and our communities, much less those heart-rending tragedies and mind-numbing evils that are all too real. But self-inflicted ignorance and apathy are truly the way to cynicism and despair. On the contrary, we need to appreciate and act on our deepest beliefs, trusting in God's eternal vision rather than our too often, too shortsighted point-of-view.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

When a former Catholic marries

Q. Could you please explain Catholic teaching about those who leave the Catholic Church? A family member has told me that I, as a Catholic, should not attend a forthcoming wedding involving a man, formerly Catholic, who has changed to another religion.

Others do not feel that way. I think if someone chooses another faith, it is something they must determine in their conscience.

I remember hearing when I was young that anyone who leaves the Catholic faith cannot be saved. I don't know about then, but can we possibly believe that now? Please explain.

A. Two points of Catholic teaching and policy are involved here. First, what is our understanding about those who depart from the Catholic faith? Second, what is the Catholic position about the marriage of someone who has left the faith?

As Catholics, we believe that the fullest abundance of those aids to salvation intended by Jesus Christ exist in our church. This includes the sacraments and other liturgical worship, unity of faith, the communion of prayer and teaching, and so on.

One would assume that members of other churches, if they take their faith seriously and conscientiously, believe something similar about their own church, or they would join another.

Catholic doctrine, however, is clear today about the relationship between membership in the church and salvation, and about individual responsibility. Both Vatican Council II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church phrase it very precisely.

In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (14), the bishops of the council put it this way. Whoever, "knowing that the Catholic Church was made necessary by God through Jesus Christ, would refuse to enter her or to remain in her, could not be saved." The catechism (846) repeats the same idea.

That sentence needs to be read carefully. It says in other words: Whoever knows, believes in conscience, that he or she has a responsibility before God to join or remain in the Catholic Church, must do so.

We know, of course, that generally people who are not Catholic have no feeling or conviction of such a responsibility. Because of lack of education or a variety of other possible reasons, the same can be true of some people who were born Catholic or who entered the church later in life. Ultimately, therefore, it is a matter between them and God, a matter of accountability to their conscience, if they turn away from the Catholic faith.

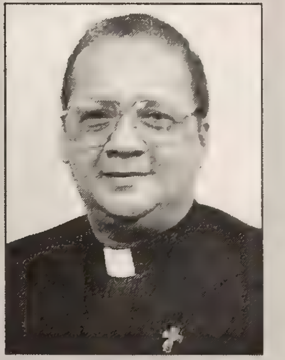
Now about the marriage. According to canon law (1117), those who have left the church "by a formal act" are no longer bound by the requirement that Catholics must be married before a bishop, priest or deacon. While the precise nature of such "formal acts" is not yet determined, it generally is assumed that it would at very least include those who have actually joined another denomination.

Thus, when former Catholics who have affiliated with a different religion marry "out of the church," that marriage is very probably valid, even in the eyes of the church.

Assuming there is no other impediment to the marriage, therefore, the former Catholic you ask about is apparently entering a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church, just as it recognizes any other marriage of people who are not Catholic.

I imagine these factors will significantly influence your decision whether or not to attend.

African-American Affairs



REV. MR. CURTISS P. TODD
GUEST COLUMNIST

Black Catholic clergy, religious celebrate freedom

As black Catholics, do we know the purpose of our freedom?

In this day and time, such a question may seem unusual. As milestones such as Vatican II opened up the Church to fully include the spirituality and heritage of black people, it would seem unnecessary to highlight freedom.

The sad truth is that too many Catholics continue to see the Church as a European Church, a Church in which the celebration or inclusion of African culture, tradition or celebration has no place in the liturgy. A Church that does not teach the contributions of black Saints nor the fact that there have been three African Popes. *Can you name one?*

Too many still say black spirituality — which includes shouts of amen, hand clapping, lively gospel singing and homilies that extend beyond seven minutes — has no place in the liturgy of the Catholic Church. Too many still do not promote vocations among blacks, clinging to the stereotype that blacks cannot handle the academic rigors of seminary. Too many people cling to old notions that are as wrong today as they have been throughout history.

Yet, "Oh Freedom" was the theme of the recent joint gathering of The National Black Sisters Conference, The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, The National Black Catholic Seminarians Association and The National Association of African American Catholic Deacons in Philadelphia. During the previous year's conference, we experienced 'How the storms of life continue to pass over us.' This year, some 400 members came together to celebrate the freedom that comes with being black and Catholic, and to discuss issues that face us in the Church, while praying, praising and thanking God for all of His Blessings.

The Congress discussed these and similar issues and ways in which black clergy and religious can continue to serve the Church in an atmosphere of less than total inclusion and acceptance. For five days of retreats, meetings workshops and through prayer, the nearly 400 in attendance found this to be a time of renewal, rejuvenation and re-affirmation. We would all return home with a true sense that serving God and His Church is what we are all about.

Yes, Jesus has set us free. But, as black Catholics, we know that if we are to remain free, we must have the spirit of God and know we belong to Christ. We can claim and proclaim, and sometimes defame our blackness, freedom and Catholicity, but if our words and actions don't reflect the Holy Spirit, we are deceiving ourselves.

It is not by power or might that we are set free, but by the Spirit. Thus, as black Catholics, do we know the purpose of our freedom?

Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd is Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and vicar of African-American Affairs.

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Children of Chiapas

Six-year-old Zenaida Perez Luna, left, and Geronimo Vazquez Perez, 4, kneel to pray with family and friends from Chiapas, Mexico, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Aug. 10. The children and one other boy injured in a 1997 massacre at their village church in Acteal were receiving treatment at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Catholic or not Catholic? That is the question about Shakespeare

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Catholic or not Catholic? That is the question being considered by Shakespearean scholars about the famous playwright. The renewed speculation that William Shakespeare was a Catholic emerged following evidence that he might have spent his youth with one of the great Catholic families of post-Reformation England. Many participants in a summer conference in Lancashire believe that for about 10 years in the late 1500s the playwright lived in Catholic houses in England, said Richard Wilson, one of the organizers of the conference and professor of renaissance studies at the University of Lancaster.

Bishop DiMarzio installed as sixth bishop of Camden

BLACKWOOD, N.J. (CNS) — With all of the pomp and pageantry of the Catholic tradition, Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio was installed as the sixth bishop of the Camden Diocese July 22 at St. Agnes Church in Blackwood. In his homily he said he was called "to minister to the Gospel of hope," and pledged to conduct his ministry with honesty, loyalty and charity. It took a full 15 minutes for the Knights of Columbus, three cardinals, 32 bishops, deacons and more than 200 diocesan priests to enter the church as the Camden Diocesan Choir performed "Entrata Pontificale."

Pope reorganizes Kazak church; U.S. priest apostolic administrator

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has reorganized the Catholic Church in Kazakstan, naming a Chicago-born Franciscan priest to head one of the new jurisdictions. U.S. Franciscan Father Henry Howaniec, 68, who has served in Kazakstan since 1993, was named head of the new Apostolic Administration of Almaty. Almaty, the ancient capital of Kazakstan, is in the southeast part of the country, where it borders Kyrgyzstan and China.

Church decries Dutch move to legalize euthanasia, lower age

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic authorities in the Netherlands and in Rome expressed immediate disapproval of a proposed Dutch law allowing euthanasia and giving patients age 12 and up access to it. "The church's reaction is very strong," Cardinal Adrianus Simonis of Utrecht, Netherlands, president of the Dutch bishop's conference, told Vatican Radio Aug. 11. "We completely disagree with this proposal." The cardinal noted that the bishops' conference had struggled against the process, started in the early 1990s, which eased restrictions on euthanasia in the Netherlands. Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, told Vatican Radio that the legal change would constitute "a worsening of the norms brought by a law which is already wrong."

Bethlehem mayor says checkpoint renovations divide West Bank

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Planned renovations at the Jerusalem-Bethlehem checkpoint, intended to ease traffic for the year 2000, is creating bumps on the road in the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians. Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser opposes the plans, saying the new construction would create, in effect, a physical border between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem, cutting off Jerusalem from the West Bank. Israeli Civil Administration spokesman Peter Lerner said the Bethlehem checkpoint refurbishing was to be a part of a general facelift they had hoped to give to several sites in cooperation with the Palestinians, noting that they had received initial approval from the Palestinians in July, though now it appeared that this as well as other projects had been put on hold.

Famed architect designs L.A. church center

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (CNS) — World-famous architects, as a rule, don't design parish centers for Catholic churches, but Frank O. Gehry has a special connection to St. Monica Church in Santa Monica. For one thing, both Gehry's wife, Berta, and one of his firm's principal architects, Terry Bell, are St. Monica parishioners. And, perhaps just as important, Gehry — who is Jewish — takes particular pleasure in visiting the 113-year-old parish. "This church has very good memories for me," he said. "I have always felt a spiritual connection to this beautiful place." Thus, as a gift to the parish, Gehry designed the new Duval Center at St. Monica's, which replaced an older building desperately in need of repair.

Chinese laity defy warning to bid farewell to underground priest

HONG KONG (CNS) — Despite a government warning, 4,000 Catholics in eastern China bid farewell to an underground priest who suffered from a tonic spasm for 13 years but kept celebrating Mass every day until he died. Father Matthias Chen Xizhi of Wenzhou Diocese died July 23 in a Catholic's home in Wenzhou at the age of 85, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The tonic spasm, in which rigidity persists for a long period, kept the priest's arms permanently crooked in front of his breast as though in an embrace, a local Catholic told UCA News.

Cardinal, housing advocates oppose HUD funding bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Domestic Policy Committee and housing advocates are opposing a House appropriations bill they say inadequately funds the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In a letter to House members, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, committee chair, urged representatives to vote against the bill, which also would fund the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and independent federal agencies in fiscal year 2000. "This appropriations bill presents the Congress with a genuine opportunity to let the Appropriations Committee — and the American people — know that the shelter needs of low-income families is a national priority," wrote the cardinal.

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
5505 Monroe Rd.
Charlotte, NC
28212
704-568-0023
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Please join us...
Catholic Heritage Society
Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.
Become a member by making:
- A bequest in your will
- A gift from a retirement plan
- A gift of life insurance
- A gift of an annuity
- A gift of a trust
- A gift of real estate
For information, call Cindy Rice at 370-3320 or Jim Kelley at 370-3301

Court halts Texas execution pope sought to stop

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Aug. 17 stopped the execution of Larry Robison, a paranoid schizophrenic whose life Pope John Paul II had sought to save.

The pope several days before the ruling had urged Texas Gov. George W. Bush to spare Robison's life.

"Killing people to show that killing is wrong is a striking contradiction, even more so when mental illness seems to be involved, as in this case," said the appeal sent on the pope's behalf by his ambassador to the United States, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo.

"Killing people to show that killing is wrong is a striking contradiction, even more so when mental illness seems to be involved, as in this case," said the appeal sent on the pope's behalf by his ambassador to the United States, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo.

In a 5-4 ruling, the state's highest criminal court blocked Robison's execution just hours before he was scheduled to receive a lethal injection. Robison was convicted of killing five people in a 1982 killing spree.

The court's four-paragraph opinion sent Robison's case back to the trial court to consider the question of insanity. The action effectively put off the execution for weeks, if not months.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he asked the pope to get involved after Robison's mother, Lois Robison, told him of her son's struggle with mental illness.

She said Robison was diagnosed as a chronic paranoid schizophrenic when he was 21, but he could not get long-term institutional care because he did not have a history of violence. After he was released from two hospitals to free up bed space, doctors, acting according to privacy laws, did not inform the family about his daily medication needs, so he didn't receive them, according to his family.

In 1982, Robison confessed to killing five people at two cottages near Lake Worth. He was tried and convicted for the murder of one of the five, his roommate, Bruce Gardner.

In his appeal Pope John Paul said, "A life sentence without the possibility of parole provides substantial safeguards for society and represents an adequately grave punishment."

The pope has appealed to the governments that still use the death penalty to ban it at least for the celebration of the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

He has intervened on behalf of several U.S. prisoners facing execution recently, especially since his visit to St. Louis last January, when his personal appeal to Missouri's Gov. Mel Carnahan led to the commutation of the death sentence for triple murderer Darrell Mease.

Bishop Fiorenza said the pope's appeals for Robison and other death-row inmates reflects his strong belief that the use of capital punishment is unworthy of civilized people when nonlethal means are available to protect society from dangerous criminals.

Under Texas law, the governor may commute a death sentence only on the recommendation of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. ▼

Salt Lake City residents count blessings after tornado hits city

By BARBARA STINSON LEE
Catholic News Service

CNS PHOTO BY JOAN PAINE, INTERMOUNTAIN CATHOLIC

A tornado strikes downtown Salt Lake City Aug. 11. The twister, seen from St. Catherine of Siena University Parish just east of the downtown area, barely missed the cathedral and two other Catholic facilities.

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Residents of Salt Lake City who survived a rare Utah tornado that ripped through the downtown area Aug. 11 were still counting their blessings days after the twister hit.

"In all my years in Salt Lake City, I've never seen anything like this happen," Mayor Deedee Corradini said. "The downtown area is definitely the worst. From the helicopter I saw homes without roofs, and people trying to salvage whatever they could."

With just enough time to catch their breath as the storm approached, members of different faiths swung open their church doors to let in frightened people from the streets.

"The storm came from the west and just veered by us," said Robert Mayo, director of the St. Vincent de Paul Center. Just moments earlier, people were standing in line, waiting to be served lunch when the wind began blowing dust and debris.

"We just opened the doors and everyone ran inside," Mayo told the Intermountain Catholic, newspaper of the Salt Lake City Diocese. "It was frightening. Then all we could do was watch it as it went by."

The violent swirl then headed up into a residential area where it damaged 127 homes, leaving 34 of them uninhabitable, according to Corradini, who put the preliminary estimates of the damage from the twister at $150 million.

Elsewhere in the city, the tornado left one man dead and more than a hundred injured. It demolished a bar and dance club only three blocks from the St. Vincent de Paul Center and the Catholic Community Services of Utah. Both buildings were untouched.

The storm had winds swirling violently between 113 and 157 miles per hour, also causing considerable damage to the Delta Center, home of the professional basketball team the Utah Jazz.

The only church property sustaining any kind of damage was the Church of the Latter-Day Saints assembly hall, still under construction.

When the twister turned north, it missed the Cathedral of the Madelaine and the Diocesan Pastoral Center by just a few hundred yards.

The violent swirl then headed up into a residential area where it damaged 127 homes, leaving 34 of them uninhabitable, according to Corradini, who put the preliminary estimates of the damage from the twister at $150 million. But, she added, "our first priority is the

See TORNADO, page 16

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

MODULARCORP

*Specialists in Custom Modular **Buildings** to meet your growing and changing needs*

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

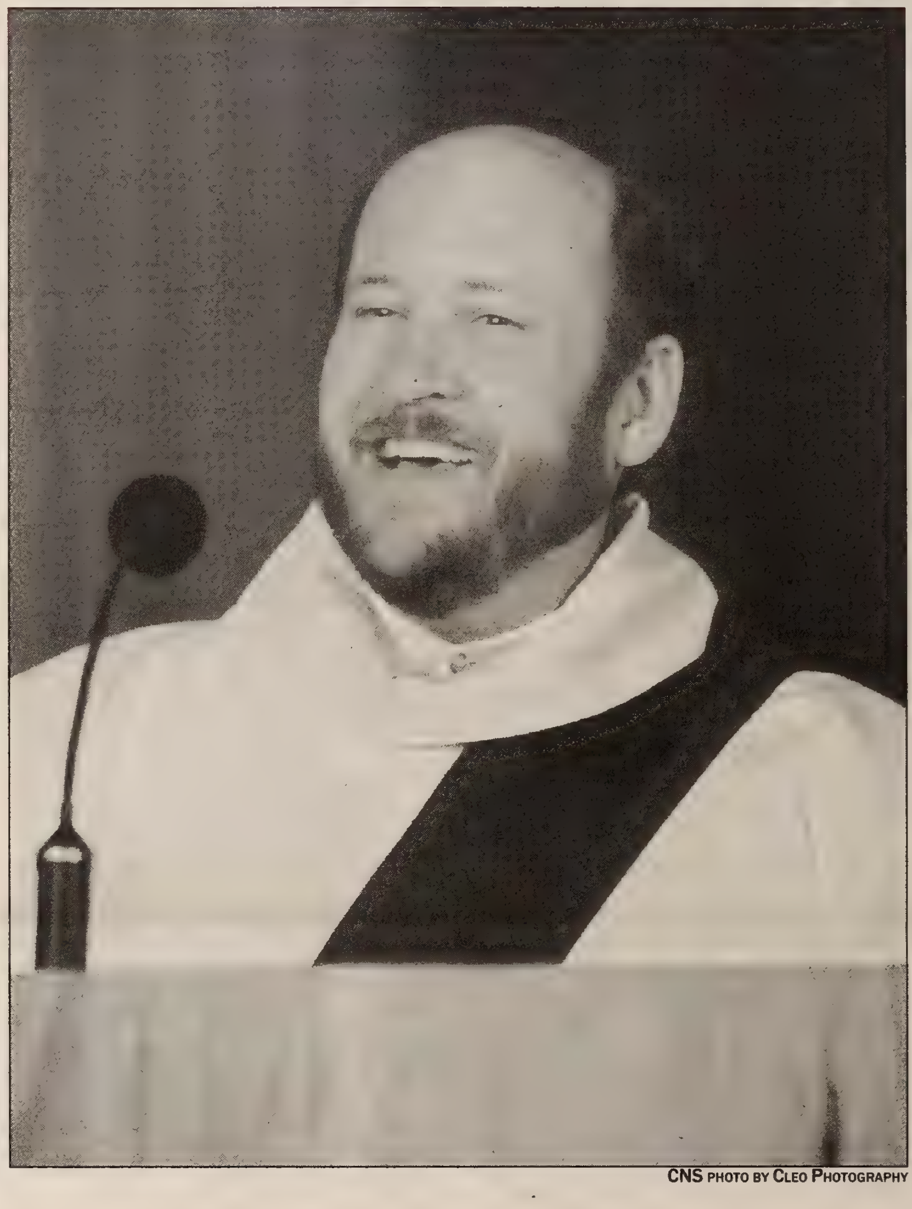
1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
modular@greensboro.com
www.modularcorp.com

Daniel L. Murray, President
St. Pius X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churches
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Getting acquainted with the permanent deacon's ministry

By MARY MILLER PEDERSEN
Catholic News Service



CNS photo by Cleo Photography

"Preaching is among the most valuable roles fulfilled by permanent deacons," all of whom aren't necessarily married, writes Mary Miller Pedersen. "Not all deacons are gifted homilists, but those who are bring their marriage and parenting experience with them to the task."

As Deacon Art welcomed family members around the baptismal font, his brightly colored stole caught my attention. His grandchildren created the design on the stole with their hand prints as a 60th birthday gift.

Accustomed to the fidgety and curious children around him, Deacon Art presided with a deep understanding of the significance of this moment in the lives of those present. This permanent deacon's words of instruction and blessing flowed easily out of a father's and grandfather's own experience.

Deacon Art is like many married deacons and their wives who serve families. When praying with a dying man, baptizing a baby or preparing a couple for marriage, the deacon brings his experience as a husband, father, and now widower to that moment.

"Deacon families have difficulties too," remarked one deacon, who was ordained 15 years ago. At times, simply surviving and growing through problems they have experienced with their own families has enabled permanent deacons to be of great help to families in similar situations.

Another deacon, Bill, recalled being advised during diaconate formation never to forget that he had received the sacrament of marriage before ordination. Such advice encourages deacons and their wives to work at their own covenant relationship as part of their commitment to serving the community.

It also enables them to say no to overcommitting themselves to tasks that lead to neglect of their own family life and eventually to burnout. "There is a tension there," said one deacon couple whose children still were living at home, "to spread ourselves too thinly and to neglect our own home life."

"We see our marriage as our first calling from God," said Deacon Bill and Dee, his wife of 47 years. "As Catholic Christians, we believe that marriage is a sacrament, a sign — always lit up in the community. That sign should read: 'This is how God loves us.' The way we relate to one another as a couple and how we are faithful to each other speak louder than all the programs and services we provide in the parish."

When asked where their support comes from, most deacons place wife and family at the top of their list.

When he was trained in 1979, Deacon Art received very little marriage and family life education. He regards his and his wife's experience in Evenings for the Engaged, Marriage Encounter and Cursillo as a continuing part of his formation for ministry. After recently completing a diocesan family ministry training program for lay and ordained leaders, he concluded that all deacons should have the opportunity for continuing education in marriage and family life.

"It has made a tremendous difference in how I can serve married couples and families," said Deacon Art. The skills and resources from such training also have helped deacons to invite other, sometimes younger, couples and single parents into roles of service to each other.

The Welcome Your Baby program in the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., is one example of deacons working with and empowering families to serve each other at life's critical turning points. Deacons and their wives work hand-in-hand with trained young couples who provide information and sharing sessions on marital adjustments to a new child, the baby's development and the Christian vocation of marriage.

Deacons in many areas are often the first visitors to families after a diagnosis of terminal illness or death. The deacon's ministry of compassionate presence and listening brings comfort and a sense of the Christian community's support to a family in difficult times.

"It's not really what we have to say or even what we do at those times of grief," said one deacon, who found himself completely speechless in the presence of a couple rocking their stillborn baby in a hospital room. He prayed with them and mourned with them as any father would mourn the loss of a child.

Preaching is among the most valuable roles fulfilled by permanent deacons. Not all deacons are gifted homilists, but those who are bring their marriage and parenting experience with them to the task.

"When our deacon preaches he relates the message of Scripture to my everyday life as a wife and mother," said one parishioner. With proper training, deacons can make the Scriptures come alive for people.

"The beauty of it," said Judy, whose husband Frank was ordained a permanent deacon 18 years ago, "is that you don't have to have a perfect marriage to be in ministry together. Whatever we do in service to the community, we have one another's support and wisdom to rely upon. We know that even when we are just socializing at a parish function, God is using our marriage as a way of enriching those around us." ▼

Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.

What is a permanent deacon?

Deacons fulfill a wide variety of roles in worship, preaching and service to people in need.

Deacons are ordained, but the majority are married. Thus, many emphasize the possibilities for deacons to serve in family ministry.

The permanent diaconate was restored by Vatican Council II. Today permanent deacons commonly are leaders in local-church ministries.

As a permanent deacon, what do you actually do?

"My major work is religious education. I work for the parish full time, which is different than the position of most deacons. I work as the religious education administrator.... Plus there is the liturgical dimension: baptisms, officiating at marriages, preaching on a regular schedule. I'm also involved in a prayer group."
— Deacon Arthur Candreva, Queens, N.Y.

"I do a lot of funerals, weddings and baptisms, and Communion services. I am responsible for the nursing home ministry, and I am the bulletin editor for the parish."
— Deacon Ed Bodin, Franklin, La.

"Basically what I do every week is serve at the altar. My ministry is with the men and children, to work for peace and justice. I work with United Power, an action for justice group, and we try to work in Cook County in Chicago to overcome poverty and injustice.... My wife and I also serve in the youth ministry at the parish.... We also do preparation for First Communion and marriage preparation."
— Deacon Joseph Lewis, Hillside, Ill.

The Deacon at Mass

By FATHER LAWRENCE E. MICK
Catholic News Service

Vatican Council II (1962-1965) called for the restoration of the permanent diaconate. A great many dioceses now have a number of permanent deacons serving in various ways.

It is difficult to define the role of a deacon, because deacons do many different things. Some people emphasize that the deacon stands as an image of the servant Christ, called especially to care for the needy, the sick and the imprisoned; in this way the deacon reminds us all of God's call to be servants.

The deacon also sometimes is described as a bridge between priests and the laity. Deacons are members of the clergy, but the majority of them are married, and often they support their families in nonchurch occupations. Thus, some people stress that deacons are close to the laity and can understand their struggles to live the Christian life.

My personal interaction with deacons suggests another way that deacons sometimes serve as a bridge. I am not assigned to one parish, so I regularly fill in for pastors who are ill or on vacation. When I arrive to prepare for Mass, it is generally a great blessing if the parish has a deacon who is there to celebrate with me.

The deacon knows the parish and knows how the parish celebrates the liturgy, which is a help to me. I suspect it is also helpful for the assembly to see a familiar face alongside this stranger who has come to lead them in worship.

Of course, I don't always celebrate with a deacon, so when a deacon is present I have to remind myself not to take his parts!

In the liturgy itself, the role of the deacon is clearly linked to the assembly. The deacon is the one who gives directions to the assembly: "Let us kneel"; "Let us stand"; "Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing"; "The Mass is ended — let us go in peace."

The deacon is the one who properly voices the petitions of the Prayer of the Faithful, leading the assembly in its ministry of intercession for their needs and the needs of the world.

The deacon also proclaims the Gospel at Mass, and some deacons are trained and authorized to preach the homily. The deacon gives Communion to the assembly, especially serving as minister of the blood of Christ.

The very extent of the deacon's role at Mass suggests the importance of his office. ▼

Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.

A look inside a deacon's life

By DARYL THURINGER
Catholic News Service

Permanent deacons in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, S.D., have become an important part of church life. Currently, 23 men are permanent deacons, and three more are expected to be ordained in 2000. The first man ordained a deacon in Sioux Falls, in 1977, was Jim Walden.

Walden attended a Cursillo weekend in 1973 and came home on fire for service in the church. His sister, a nun in Texas, planted the idea of becoming a deacon. So Walden applied, but no program existed in the diocese at the time.

It was several years before a program was developed, and Walden was the first man accepted into it. The early days of the diaconate formation program consisted of private instruction with a diocesan theologian and study at the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls. Walden graduated with a master's degree in religious studies and was ordained a deacon.

In the 22 years since, Walden says he's had "nothing but positive experiences." He started in prison ministry while preparing for ordination. He's been a parish administrator, premarital instructor, religious education coordinator, counselor with Catholic Family Services, advocate in the marriage tribunal, administrator in an outreach facility for the homeless and has served in two parishes. All this while owning and operating a business.

Walden speaks of the deacon's ministry in the marketplace. "Once it is known you are a minister, people come to you with problems. A deacon in the field has many opportunities to minister," he said.

For example, one of Walden's employees came to him for support when a family member attempted suicide. "Being a deacon needs to permeate everything in your life," said Walden. "But family must come first."

When Walden first looked at the diaconate program he admits he was a workaholic. He was in manufacturing, a land developer, restaurant owner, carpet store owner, and he owned a television appliance franchise. But he went on to sell all of his interests in the different ventures except the carpet store.

Walden Carpets has been in business in Sioux Falls for more than 30 years. Walden says, "It is not wrong to be a success in business as long as I share. Being a deacon is being a good steward of my business. If I sell carpet honestly and do a good job of installing the carpet, I am doing God's work."

Walden says that he has learned many things from those in prison, the sick and the homeless. "People will never give you anything if you cannot receive from them," said Walden. "The deacon is a servant."

A deacon is a member of the clergy, but Walden feels he has not been accepted by some priests. He feels that transitional deacons are better accepted because they later become ordained priests, while permanent deacons are ordained to be deacons.

All deacons can preside at certain sacraments within the church, such as marriage. And though deacons do not preside at Mass, they often do preach during Mass.

What Walden wants, however, is "to be with the people." He says the deacon's role "is to be an enabler, to keep replacing yourself" with laity who go on to serve others and share the good news of the Gospel.

Walden believes that permanent deacons must never lose the servant role. He also feels that a clearer definition of the permanent deacon's role in the church is needed.

For Walden, "permanent deacon" is not a title but a description of his commitment to the church. ▼

Thuringer is the director of communications for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

CNS photo by W.P. Wittman Limited

Daryl Thuringer focuses on the permanent deacons in his diocese of Sioux Falls, SD. He says the first man ordained there in 1977 believes that the deacon's role "is to be an enabler, to keep replacing yourself" with laity who in turn serve others.

Food for Thought

One U.S. diocese in the Northwest reported recently that its 80 permanent deacons do everything from marriage preparation to parish administration to hospital ministry. They preach, baptize and witness marriages, and most serve without pay.

Archbishop Harry Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis also commented recently on the activities of permanent deacons. "Today the presence of a deacon ministering to the people of God is certainly nothing out of the ordinary. Whether preaching at a Sunday liturgy or visiting the sick or elderly, the ministry of the diaconate has become an important part of the fabric of the church's life," he said.

As the century draws to a close, permanent deacons find themselves in the church's mainstream. In the century ahead, they undoubtedly will be recognized even more widely as leaders in local-church ministries.

In 1998, the Vatican issued two major documents on permanent deacons. Archbishop Francis Schulte of New Orleans said that the very fact that two Vatican congregations did this "is witness to the important position of the permanent diaconate in the church."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

Lend Us Your Voice:

An upcoming edition asks: What is implied when someone says that human life has "meaning" or is "meaningful"?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write:
Faith Alive!
3211 Fourth St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1100

FAITH alive!

Book Review

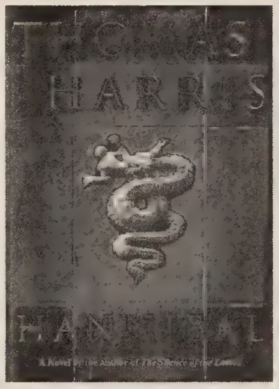
'Hannibal' is bizarre sequel that falls far short of greatness

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

A little less than a third of the way into his new book, "Hannibal," a sequel of sorts to "The Silence of the Lambs," Thomas Harris allows himself an introspective moment as he introduces an encounter between two of his principals at a historical exposition on instruments of torture.

"Now that ceaseless exposure has calloused us to the lewd and the vulgar," he observes, "it is instructive to see what will seem wicked to us. What still slaps the clammy flab of our submissive consciousness hard enough to get our attention?"

On the evidence of the rousing sales and promotional success of "Hannibal" (Delacorte Press, $27.95), it would appear that, if we accept Harris' premise about callousness, gore qualifies as one answer to his question. "Hannibal" is not only gory — it opens with a shoot-out during a failed drug bust in which FBI agent Clarice Starling, in a remarkable if less-than-credible display of gunnery, kills five people — it is often revolting. You might imagine as much, for Hannibal Lector, the central character, is also known a Hannibal the Cannibal.



"Hannibal"
by Thomas Harris
Delacorte Press
$27.95

Both Hannibal and Starling will be familiar to those who read "Silence of the Lambs" or saw the movie it spawned. In that book, the insane psychiatrist Hannibal, imprisoned for a series of 10 killings, fixates on Starling as she interviews him while tracking down another serial killer.

Hannibal subsequently escapes (killing five in the process) and now we encounter him in Florence where he has assumed a new identity and been named to a prestigious scholarly directorship which became vacant with the unexplained disappearance of the man who held the position.

Hannibal, however, having learned of the cloud hanging over Starling because of her marksmanship, feels compelled to write her an anonymous note and this reinvigorates the search for him. Among the baying hounds we find a traitorous and politically ambitious Justice Department official who hates Starling, and a bed-ridden almost faceless millionaire pervert, a former Hannibal patient bent on revenge because Hannibal induced him to peel off his skin and watch as it was eaten by dogs.

Some hired Italian killers, a strutting Italian police official, the revenge-minded pervert's muscular lesbian sister, and amoral male nurse, a voracious moray eel, and some ravenous specially-bred semiwild pigs are also among the grotesqueries in a story that leaves the door ajar for future horrors. And without giving away the ending, let it be noted that its overdrawn effeminate fantasy-world settling is in stark contrast to all that has gone before yet is shocking in its own way.

Although his characters are fully developed, Harris is sometimes carried away in his writing. However, his gift for metaphor is unique. In building "the engine of his revenge," for instance, Hannibal's disfigured victim is likened to "Stradivarius approaching the worktable."

Of interest too are the frequent religious references: metaphorical, historical, liturgical and even theological. In context, they are surprising, apt and accurate, providing a counterpoint to the grisly business at hand.

In a flashback, we find Hannibal Lector, as a 6-year-old, praying that he might again see his younger sister as she is led away to be cannibalized during the dreadful winter that marked the collapse of the Eastern Front during World War II. Hannibal sees instead only her teeth but takes this as partial answer to his prayer. Subsequently his own mindset is such that he believes "his own modest predations (pale) besides those of God, who is in irony matchless, and in wanton malice beyond measure."

As an exploration of the psychotic mind, "Hannibal" is chilling. As a horror story, it is about as ghoulish as such stories get. As a literary construction, it is often fascinating. ▼

Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Word to Life

August 22, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Readings:
1) Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalm 138:1-3, 6, 8bc
2) Romans 11:33-36
3) Matthew 16:13-20

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

I lately have found myself greatly enjoying and benefiting from the writing and music and life stories of three very differently handicapped individuals —sometimes almost simultaneously.

In my car I listen (almost incessantly) to a couple of tapes by Catholic musician Tony Melendez. Tony, the mid-30s singer, songwriter and entertainer whose mom took Thalidomide while she carried him in her womb, has no arms. Yet, he is a powerful musician, playing the guitar — enthusiastically — with his toes and composing much of his own popular, contemporary, faith-filled music.

At home, I have been reading about the life of Andre Dubus, a Catholic short-story writer whose life changed drastically when an auto accident put him in a wheelchair until his death a few months ago. Both those who know his writing and his life say that the quality of each improved greatly with his response to his physical limitations.

The third individual, Jean-Dominique Bauby, is the least Catholic of the three. His response to a crippling stroke of the cerebral cortex left him with "locked-in syndrome," an extreme form of paralysis.

Using his ability to blink his eyes through a series of "yes/no" questions to choose letters from the alphabet, this former editor of the French edition of the fashion magazine Elle was able to write a jewel of a book, "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," detailing his life of pain — and liberty — within his very physically limited universe.

Each of these took this "election by God" and circumstance, and squeezed something very precious, very essential from and of the human condition to create beauty for the benefit of others.

The power of God to choose and elevate the unlikely candidate to a position of influence and power is a theme of this week's Scripture from Isaiah. It is also familiar to us from the story of the choosing of the shepherd boy David to be king of Israel. Perhaps, too, it is part of Jesus' meaning when he tells Peter that the knowledge that he is the Messiah could only have come to him from the Father. Jesus, too, judging by surface appearances, was the powerless, the unlikely candidate — as was Peter in his turn.

It is a peculiar characteristic of our age that those who are by virtue of their disabilities apparently most powerless can exert such a great influence for good over the rest of us. Is this not a form of God lifting up and electing those whom he will, regardless of appearances?

Questions:

Have you questioned God about your own limitations, whether obvious or hidden? Could he have chosen to use these things for the good of others in unexpected ways?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Aug. 22 - 28, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20; **Monday**, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday**, Revelations 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Wednesday**, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32; **Thursday**, 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, Matthew 25:14-30

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Media Notebook

Children's television:

Who's paying attention?

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — The state of children's television seems a bit fragile these days. A lot of people are paying attention to it, but it is far from clear whether the attention will pay off in smarter and more well-adjusted kids.

There is no shortage of TV types out to capture the children's audience. The Fox, UPN and WB networks have weekday children's programming. Fox, ABC, CBS and WB show Saturday morning fare geared to younger children, while NBC goes after an adolescent crowd.

PBS is showing a new look to its children's programming, adding a show here and there and promoting shows more now than ever before.

On cable, Nickelodeon, the Disney Channel and Fox Family rule the roost. Toon Disney was recently added to the lineup to do battle with the Cartoon Network; Nickelodeon has added a more learning-friendly channel called Noggin, mostly available on satellite TV; and Fox will debut two channels, girlz Channel and boyz Channel, using thousands of hours of programming in the Fox vaults.

And specialty channels blossom in the 500-channel environment, including the Baby Channel, Discovery Kids Channel, and the subscription service WAM! America's Kidz Network.

But distressing signs are on the horizon.

When the nation's TV critics, 220 strong, nominated their favorite children's shows, one of the nominated shows was PBS' "Wishbone," which is aimed at grade-schoolers and stars a dog named Wishbone, who daydreams he's a character in scenes from classic works of literature. But "Wishbone" didn't make any new episodes in the past season. What's more, the choices were so many that "Wishbone" needed only three votes to become one of the five finalists.

Not that what the critics say are going to have any effect on young viewers. When asked how much sway critics hold, Fox Kids Network chief Rich Cronin replied, "I have only two words for you: Power Rangers."

The "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" series has appeared on Fox in some form or another for seven years. While the show does not generate the intense heat it once did, the concept carries enough pull for the network to keep it on the air.

The latest kid-TV steamroller is WB's "Pokemon," a Japan-originated cartoon which has pulled the network's ratings past more entrenched Fox and ABC during some weeks. When close to 30 percent of the kid population watches the same thing in this multichannel world, it leaves network executives hungry for more.

The U.S. version had to be toned down from the Japanese original, whose bright color displays were accused of inducing seizures in some children.

A study by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania reported in June that children's TV is getting better, but noted clear room for improvement.

The Federal Communications Commission not long ago mandated that broadcast networks show at least three hours of education and informational TV for children.

But the study found that more than 20 percent of all children's "E/I" programming had little or no education value. It cited the cartoons "Duck Tales" and "Hercules" as examples where local stations were counting them toward the three-hour requirement even though the syndicators and networks made no such claim.

"NBA Inside Stuff," a weekly NBC kid-oriented promotional piece for the National Basketball Association, also still claims the E/I designation but contains "very little in the way of educational content," the center said.

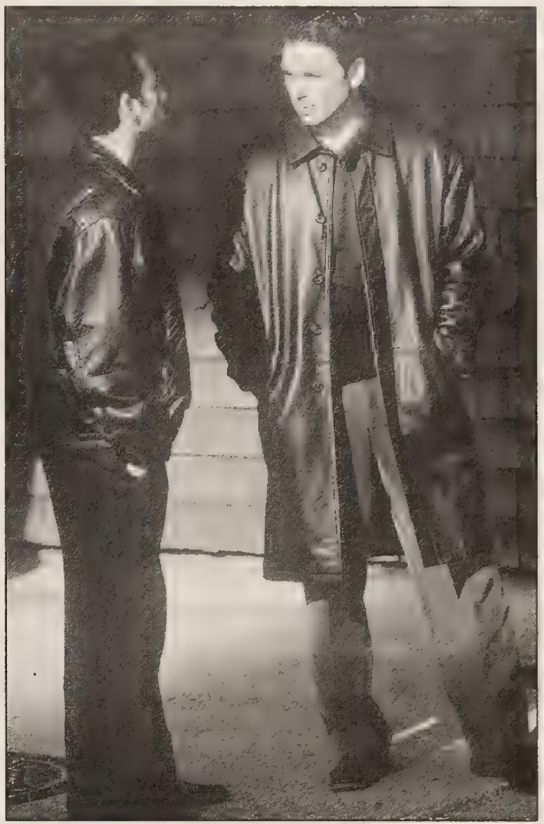
As for parents, only 35.4 percent are aware of the E/I labeling process, and, for three children's shows — ABC's "Squigglevision," "NBC's "One World" and WB's "Histeria!" — fewer than 15 percent in each case knew they were intended to be educational.

Where does that leave someone like Steve Burns, creator of Nickelodeon's educational "Blue's Clues," which took home the TV critics' award for best children's programming?

"We need to pay more attention" to children's programming," Burns said shortly after receiving his award for the show, which is for preschoolers and features Blue, a dog, and other characters using clues to solve a problem or make a decision.

"I feel very validated when I receive an award like this," Burns added, but said even greater validation comes when he hears children "using what they've heard on the show in the classroom and in their play." ▼

Pattison is media editor at Catholic News Service.



"Falcone" series Jason Gedrick (right) stars as Joe Pistone in the new CBS drama "Falcone." Gedrick's character is based on Pistone's actual life as an undercover FBI agent who infiltrated the Mafia. Pistone, who's story was the basis for the 1997 movie "Donnie Brasco," credits his strong Catholic faith with helping keep his marriage strong during 17-plus years leading a double life in the Mafia.

CNS PHOTO FROM CBS

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

We're Going To Make You Happy.

...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.

Volkswagen Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish

7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Vietnamese Catholics commemorate bicentennial of Marian apparition

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics in Vietnam commemorated the bicentennial anniversary of a Marian apparition at La Vang with an on-site Mass in mid-August.

More than 200,000 people reportedly traveled from throughout communist-run Vietnam to the Marian shrine at La Vang in the Quang Tri province to mark the sighting of Mary there 200 years ago.

Church services, traditional drums, gongs and choirs heralded the three-day event, which ended on the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15.

Vatican Radio reported the next day that it was the largest nonpolitical gathering of Vietnamese since the country's 1976 official unification.

A year ago, an estimated 150,000 Catholics launched a year of celebrations at the shrine.

Vatican Radio said that Buddhists, animists and others were also among those at this year's celebration — as well as police officers videotaping the crowd.

The report said the sanctuary at La Vang was half destroyed in the Vietnam War and has been deliberately left in disrepair by the government.

In an Aug. 16 interview with Vatican Radio, Father Bernardo Cervellera, a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions and head of the Vatican news agency Fides, said that despite tensions with civil authorities, Vietnamese Catholics have an easier time under their communist government than do Catholics in mainland China.

He noted that Catholics comprise roughly 10 percent of Vietnam's population, while an estimated 1 percent of the Chinese are Catholic.

"This means that in Vietnam, the church is (of) great importance and (is) a great influence, just because of the numbers," Father Cervellera said.

"This is being acknowledged by the government because the government has said that the church can help the Vietnamese society to overcome problems — moral problems, or drug problems, or education problems — while in China, religions are not seen at all as a means for progress in the society."

In late April, the Vietnamese government decreed that religious freedom would be guaranteed, but warned that using religion to harm the state would be punished.

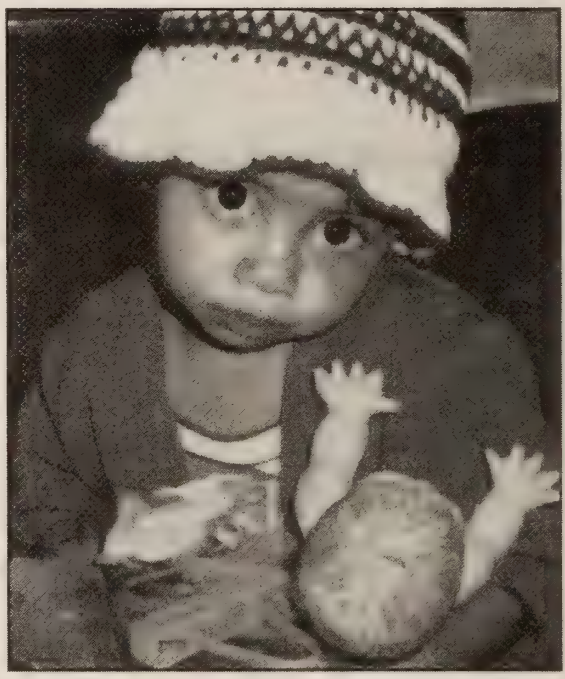
It allowed religious activities to be carried out as long as they are deemed to be in the legitimate and lawful interest of believers.

The same decree negated claims to church properties that had been seized by the present regime, or any previous one. ▼

"I'm delighted to be CFCA's 100,000th sponsor . . . and I invite you to join me. CFCA is a dedicated organization working on behalf of the poor at Catholic missions worldwide."

Most Reverend James P. Keleher
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas – Sponsors José Muños of Honduras

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's *Affordable!*



Many children in the developing world live in poverty with little hope for the future. Can you help a poor child? Become a sponsor today!

Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program,* can show you the affordable way to sponsor a child.

Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum $10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship helps provide a poor child with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school – whatever is needed most.

You receive a picture of your child, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important,* you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child!

CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship
420

Yes, I'll help one child:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Any in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ________
I'll contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
☐ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ________.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)
☐ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX
Card No. ____________________ Exp. Date ________
☐ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ ________.
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship.
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ____________________ (please print)
Address ____________________
City/State/Zip ____________________
Phone (_____) ____________________

CNH8/99

Send to:
Christian Foundation for
Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
or call toll-free 1-800-875-6564

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY

- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200

Members of St. Peter's

Own a Home?
Have Equity?

Ask Us About Our Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL MORTGAGE STORE, INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

Literacy project teaches faith, reading skills

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

NORTH WILKESBORO — Griselda Vaena smiled excitedly as she took her cue.

The 10-year-old was dressed as Mary, practicing the part she would play the next day in a performance for the parish. This was a rehearsal, though she beamed as if it were the real thing.

"I've never been in play," she said a few minutes later, still smiling.

Griselda was part of a group of a dozen Hispanic children who gathered at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro for two weeks last month to participate in the Catechetical Literacy for Children program. Designed by the parish's faith formation director and a local literacy agency, the program was filled with activities geared to improve the children's reading skills and understanding of their faith.

"In the religious education classes we have, we don't have Spanish religious education," says Mary Sorel, the parish director of religious education. "We noticed several of the (Hispanic) children are behind with their prayers and reading.

"Part of this idea is to help them learn their lessons better, and then they could also work with their brothers and sisters in their families."

Dr. Helen Latour assisted Sorel in the design of the pilot program, which included students in the second through sixth grades. The pair hope that the program will be expanded to include a broader range of participants in the future.

Latour, executive director of Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy and a parishioner at the North Wilkesboro parish, has worked with Hispanic populations for years. She said she knows firsthand of their dedication to religion and family. "There is a core of adults (here) who are really concerned about their faith, and they care about education for their kids," she said.

The catechetical literacy program included a study of scriptural and liturgical vocabulary, as well as English phonics. Through a variety of learning activities that included games, singing and craft-making, participants learned about their faith in English while having summertime fun.

"We learned some prayers, how to be nice, and how to be thankful to God for letting us live one more day," said Elizabeth Delgado. "He will never let us go."

"I like the reading," added Elizabeth, who is 10. "I like to learn more about God. He sacrificed for us so we could live for eternity."

Like her friend Griselda, Elizabeth said she looked forward to participating in the Mass the following day. She paused, searching her memory for more highlights. Her eyes lit up as she remembered what else was on schedule later that week. "On Friday, we're gonna have the coolest part because we're going to eat cake and ice cream," she exclaimed.

Summertime fun, indeed.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

"I can read *these* books," exclaims this participant of the Catechetical Literacy for Children program hosted at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro.

The area is rich with Hispanic peoples, who hail from such places as Mexico, Guatemala and Peru and who brought a variety of educational backgrounds, life experiences and dialects to their new homes in the United States. Many of them are U.S. residents, Latour pointed out, whose children and grandchildren will become the community leaders of tomorrow.

She added that while the parish hosts a standing-room-only, Sunday evening Spanish Mass, Hispanic peoples in the area have a need — and the capacity — to learn English to partake in liturgy and life in the rural foothills of western North Carolina.

"One thing we want to make sure is that they don't lose their culture in this," Sorel added. "We need to keep that alive. We need to find a way to combine everything."

The program concluded with a Mass, celebrated by St. John's pastor, Father Frank Cintula. The children led the congregation in song and Scripture, and performed the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in which a young Mexican peasant receives a vision of Mary.

Sorel hoped that the program — and this liturgical finale, which was to bring an entire parish together — would help different ethnic groups learn from one another while stressing the need for children's literacy education.

"With this kind of program, not only do we reach to the Hispanics, but they reach out to us," she said. "Religious education at St. John's has been the inroads to bring communities together. It's breaking down a lot of the barriers by going through the children."

Rachael Ashworth, 13, is one of several Anglo volunteers who helped with the program. She said she admired the devotion of these young people to their faith; not only did she "learn there are a lot of kids who need help learning," but also "what they are like and what things they like." ▼

Partial funding for the program came from an Operation Rice Bowl mini-grant, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services through Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

See RELATED CRS STORY, page 15

Buying? Selling? Relocating?
RE/MAX® Metro Realty
8035 Providence Road, Suite 320, Charlotte, NC 28277
- 27 years experience
- Member of St. Matthew Church
- Percentage of commissions donated to charities

Tom Dorazil,
GRI, CRP, ABR, Broker
(704) 543-6680 (800) 726-1231 relocarolina@mindspring.com *"Your Realtor for Life."*

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

School Uniform Sale!
BUY LOCALLY!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"
- Lower Prices

Uniforms DIRECT 2U
*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75! 1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese

BE PREPARED FOR Y2K
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.
Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Diocese offers safe 'Landings' for returning Catholics

By JOHN STRANGE
Catholic News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — The 46-year-old man and his family moved to Raleigh five years ago, and for some reason never got around to settling into a new Catholic church.

It just wasn't important to him and the family then, but now it's different. Today, when he drives by one of the city's Catholic churches on the way to work, he wishes he could just stop in, despite his nervousness at being away from church for so long.

Landings is a lay-run program, with little involvement from the clergy or professional staff. The aim is to organize a group of six to eight active Catholics and two or three Catholics just returning to the church.

To encourage the man and his family and others like them to take that step and stop at church, the Diocese of Raleigh has a new program to help them have a safe "landing."

The diocesan Office of Evangelization is sponsoring "Landings," designed by the Paulists to welcome back Catholics.

"It's meant to be a safe embrace," said Terry Jackson, director of evangelization. "It's meant to be an easy, joyful homecoming."

Jackson told the N.C. Catholic, diocesan newspaper, that while most people think Catholics who leave the church go away because they have been hurt or offended, the reality is that most "are people who simply dropped out. They just became inactive. And today they don't really know how to get back in gracefully."

In fact, he said, a move to a new area is more likely to separate a Catholic from the church. And because North Carolina is known for new arrivals, he said, "our assumption is that we have a lot of people in our diocese who haven't made the connection."

Many of these people come to miss that connection with church, and want to return, but don't know how.

"Many times it's a homesickness, a desire to come home," Jackson said. "Many times it's precipitated when they have children, and it becomes important to them to hand on something to their children. It was something that was very good when they were children."

Landings is a lay-run program, with little involvement from the clergy or professional staff. The aim is to organize a group of six to eight active Catholics and two or three Catholics just returning to the church.

The group meets weekly for about 10 weeks, following a formal structure that includes set times for prayer and "storytelling," where participants are invited to share stories from their faith lives.

"You don't have to be a theologian and have all kinds of answers. You just share your story," said Jackson, noting that the U.S. bishops have called such faith sharing "the primary way" to evangelize.

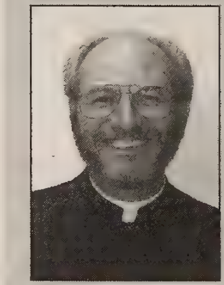
At the end of the series of weekly meetings, a weekend retreat or day of reflection is held, where there is opportunity for sacramental reconciliation and reflection. If returning Catholics want to actively learn more about the church, they are referred to a formal course of instruction.

"Landings recognizes that they're Catholic," Jackson said. "It's not a conversion process. It's a welcoming process; for some, it's also a reconciliation process." ▼

Faith Doing Justice conference set for October

BELMONT — The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace sponsors an October conference that will focus on linking faith to the social mission of the church.

Faith Doing Justice, a biennial conference, will be hosted at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., in Belmont from 8:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The gathering will bring diocesan, regional and national social justice leaders together to discuss a variety of issues pertinent to the life of today's church.



Father John s. Rausch

Parish leaders; educators; catechists; youth ministers; community life, Justice and Peace, and social concerns committee members; and parish social justice contact persons are all encouraged to attend.

The conference's keynote speaker is Father John Rausch, a Glenmary priest who lives and works in Appalachia.

Father Rausch is scheduled to speak on a popular scriptural passage — John 3:16 — which not only illustrates God's love for his people, but is a response in gratitude. The keynote will examine how a generous spirit, when lived in the public arena and the marketplace, has implications for justice, human rights and dignity in society.

The conference will include workshops on such topics as lay discipleship, Welfare to Work, social analysis and using the N.C. Catholic bishops' economic justice pastoral letter in parish settings.

The registration fee — which includes the conference, lunch and materials — is $25 per person. Group discounts are available, and donations for scholarships are welcome. The registration deadline is Oct. 9. ▼

For more information or for a registration form, contact the Office of Justice and Peace, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, or call Joanne Frazer at (704) 370-3225, or Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3231.

The Forum, from page 1

Many dynamics enter the process, she said, like whether students enter the RCIA in the campus ministry or the parish setting, and how modern technology like the Internet can assist in the discernment and inquiry phases of the process.

Advances such as e-mail can help expand the process into a year-round experience, McDermott said. "This was the first time that I really heard campus ministers talk about trying to do it longer than the school year," she added.

Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, is an 11-year veteran in the RCIA process. He said the institute brought people together to share fresh ideas and presented a full picture of how the RCIA is carried out in today's church.

"A lot of us in parishes still look at it as an an academic journey and not a spiritual journey," said Father Schratz of the RCIA process. "When we move away from the academic to the spiritual, what a difference it makes.

"The most exciting thing is to watch the faith grow in people, to see them blossom and be excited about their faith, and to see the change that takes place." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Diocesan Regional Coordinator (Office of Faith Formation): Charlotte diocese has an opening for the Western area. Diocese seeks a person with a Master's degree in Religious Ed/allied field, 5 years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communications skills. Salary range $24,000 - $28,000. Please send resume and 3 letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, Attn: Search Committee, or fax to: (704)370-3291. Inquiries: (704)370-3244.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following part-time positions open: Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Music Positions: Vibrant 3500+families parish in Alpharetta, Georgia has several openings:
Organist/pianist needed to play 3 to 4 liturgies a weekend, weddings, funerals and holy days. Must be knowledgeable in post-Vatican II liturgy. Must be able to lead and accompany an assembly that loves to sing!
Choral Director needed for Adult Choir. Responsibilities include one weekly rehearsal and one weekend liturgy. Must be able to lead the choir in a balance of supporting the assembly's song and singing anthems alone. Other responsibilities include conducting combined choral/instrumental efforts for parish-wide special events. Must be knowledgeable in basic principles of Catholic liturgical celebration. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgical repertoire as well as a variety of sacred choral music.
Children's Choir Director needed for active children's choir. Responsible for one weekly rehearsal and one monthly children's liturgy.
Any or all of the above positions may be combined for the person with the right qualifications. Send letter of interest and resume to: Kathy Kuczka or Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 535 Rucker Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004.

Classified ads bring results! Over 104,000 readers! Over 42,000 homes!
Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
How to order: Ads may be faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Office Assistant: Personal financial planner needs responsible, articulate person interested in investments. Variety of tasks from customer service to filing to updating computer records. Part-time, flexible schedule of 25-30 hours per week in SouthPark office. Call Cynthia L. Anderson, CFP, at (704)643-7173 or fax resume to (704)556-0445.

REAL ESTATE

Bungalow for Sale: Taylorsville. Totally refurbished electrical and plumbing. 2 Bedrooms, 1 bath, laundry, dining, kitchen, living room. Cement block basement, attached shed. Fenced rear yard. Great for starter, retiree or rental. Close to town. $49,500. ReMAX, agent Linda B. (704)871-9882/1-800-467-9882. (Seller is St. Philip parishioner.)

For Rent - Beach Condo: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 8/28, all of September and October. Call (336) 924-2842.

House for Sale: Dilworth, Charlotte. Walk to St. Patrick's. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Den with built-ins. Large fenced backyard. Gorgeous staircase, hardwoods. Near Holy Trinity and St. Ann Schools. Great neighborhood. Bissell-Hayes Realty agent Susan May (704) 367-6730. (Seller is St. Peter's parishioner.)

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for answer to prayer. H.M.

From related story, page 13

Catholic Relief Services diocesan committee awards mini-grants

CHARLOTTE — Nine projects illustrating international significance and ongoing commitment to Gospel teachings have been awarded mini-grants by the Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Committee from funds collected in the CRS Lenten Operation Rice Bowl project.

Catholic Relief Services in the Diocese of Charlotte is coordinated through the Office of Justice and Peace. Seventy-five percent of each year's CRS Operation Rice Bowl contribution is forwarded to national CRS for its worldwide programs, while 25 percent remains in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The CRS Diocesan Committee established the mini-grants program in 1997 to promote solidarity between local church communities and global communities. The 1999 Operation Rice Bowl collection totaled $52,965.20, a 50 percent increase over the 1998 collection.

This year's recipients are:

— Holy Cross Church, Kernersville, for materials to be used in a Hispanic ministry faith formation program;

— Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro, for a twin parish program the parish is engaged in with a parish in Kharkov, Ukraine;

— St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro, for the Catechetical Literacy for Children program, a two-week summer school for Hispanic children, with emphasis on church vocabulary and English phonics;

— St. James Church, Hamlet, for books and material for a Hispanic faith formation program;

— Sacred Heart Church, Wadesboro, for a Hispanic faith formation program;

— St. Barnabas Church, Arden, for Complementary Outreach, a cross-cultural orientation program and English-as-a-second-language classes for Korean immigrants;

— Catholic Social Services, Winston-Salem, for the Casa Guadalupe "Informacion a la comunidad," a program to purchase advertising to inform Hispanic/Latino community about Immigration and Naturalization Services;

— Catholic Campus Ministry at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, for Acorm Project, an after-school program for children of Hispanic migrant workers;

— St. Pius X Church, Greensboro, for promotiion and didtrivution of hand-knit sweaters made by women in Manazo, Peru, in the Artesenia Marketing Project. ▾

For additional information on these and other CRS mini-grants, contact the Office of Justice and Peace, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003; (704) 370-3231 (phone); (704) 370-3377 (fax); or justicepeace@charlottediocese.org (e-mail).

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

From left to right, Nam Le, Minh Bui, Amy Nguyen, Ky Do, Trieu Le, and Long Nguyen, all from Charlotte parishes, sing the prayer of St. Francis in Vietnamese after communion during the Grand Ultreya Mass.

Ultreya, from page 3

faith. I know that I have grown spiritually in a large way."

In order to keep the concepts of the Cursillo intertwined with the other aspects of their spirituality, the Ultreya, meaning "onward" or "going forward" in the context of the "journey to the God," helps people to share their experiences and to draw support from other cursillistas. People from various parishes get together for area Ultreyas, and there are Grand Ultreyas which include cursillistas from a larger area.

People from every corner of the diocese were in attendance at the Grand Ultreya at St. Phillip Church. The event consisted of the actual Ultreya, Mass with first and second readings in Spanish and Vietnamese to represent those Cursillos, a potluck supper, and fellowship.

During the Ultreya, people were placed into groups of three, preferably those who had not met, and they discussed the answers to several questions: What was the most help to my spiritual growth this week and why, when was I most aware of God's presence, how is my mentality changed to be more Christian, and similar questions.

The "witness," or the person who tells his or her personal experience with implementation of the concepts of being involved with the Cursillo Movement, John Brincefield, spoke to the group. Next, Reverend Mr. Art Kingsley, associate diocesan spiritual advisor for the English-speaking Cursillo, related scripture to the witness talk. A closing prayer and announcements completed the gathering.

Rev. Mr. Kingsley shared, "when I made my Cursillo 20 years ago, it was a turning point in my spiritual life. It was instrumental in my formation process in that it brought me closer to God. It eventually led me to my vocation in the permanent deaconate. It awakened my spirit and was a catalyst for me to come closer to Jesus." ▾

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail at amprice@charlottediocese.org.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Can you answer "YES" to any of these questions?

1. *Do you have a house or car to sell?*
2. *Do you want to rent/sell vacation property?*
3. *Do you need a good renter for a condo?*
4. *Are you looking for qualified employees?*

With OVER 104,000 READERS,
The Catholic News & Herald classified ads WORK for YOU!

For low rates, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 today!

Join us for breakfast this Sunday!

Recalling a time when the best things to eat were always homemade!

OLD FASHIONED SODA SHOP
PIKE'S

- Sunday breakfast 8-2
- Homestyle family atmosphere
- Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Enjoy ice cream on the patio
- Private dining room for meetings or parties

On the Trolley Line at Camden & Tremont

1930 CAMDEN ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC (704) 372-0092

Attention: CD Buyers

7.55%
Annual Percentage Yield (APY)*
Callable Certificates of Deposit

- FDIC insured to $100,000 per depositor, per institution**
- Interest paid semi-annually • Final maturity in 15 years - 8/19/14
- Non-callable for 2 years • Callable thereafter @100 par

Call: Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
(336) 721-9221
110 S. Stratford, Winston-Salem, NC 27104
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

The CD is non-callable for the first 2 years and then can be called every six months thereafter by the issuing bank. The final stated maturity is 8/19/14. Minimum deposit $1,000. Subject to change and availability. Although we are not required to do so, we endeavor to provide a secondary market so that CD holders can sell their CDs prior to maturity. The resale price in such a transaction may be less than the principal amount invested. (APY as of 7/29/99).

*APY interest cannot remain on deposit in the same CD; interest will be paid semi-annually.

**FDIC insurance covers a maximum amount of $100,000 per depositor, per institution (including principal and interest combined) in each insurable capacity.

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1999 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

Greensboro counselor promotes "creative aging"

By LARRY CHANCE
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — To some people, retirement is a sign of the approaching end of life's journey. For Richard Von Stamwitz, a counselor specializing in the psycho-social issues of retirement transition, retirement means more of a beginning.

Von Stamwitz, a parishioner at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, recently conducted a session titled "Creative Aging in a Christian Context: Teaching Seniors Their Own Uniqueness Under God" at the Second Annual Senior Adult Ministry Conference held in St. Louis in June. The conference was hosted by the Association for Senior Adult Ministry, which connects people who work with senior adults in churches of all denominations.

Von Stamwitz's talk at the conference stressed that " ... grace builds on the natural, and we must acknowledge that society's negative stereotyping of getting older (ageism) can adversely affect our awareness and commitment to continuing development, engagement and contribution in our own experience of retirement as a spiritual journey."

Von Stamwitz feels that people should view aging as an integral piece of their vocations — in essence, a call to completion in God's plan. In retirement, he believes that "we have to recapture a sense of wonder that we had as kids."

He refers to people of today's retirement age as the "young old," and his outreach encourages those in this category to tap into their creativity. His concept of creativity is defining what is most important to people, what is meaningful to them and what brings them the most satisfaction.

His involvement with elders stems from his own retirement at age 59. It was then that this former high school Latin teacher and job service officer turned his attention to gerontology, and became a certified gerontological counselor. When he began to put his certification into practice, he discovered that gerontology dealt mostly with the problems of aging.

"I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life to enabling creativity among people my own age," Von Stamwitz said.

Pointing out American Association of Retired Persons statistics which say that if you reach 65 you are likely to live an average of 15 years longer, Von Stamwitz feels that God calls retirees to continue to seek a mission in life. He sees the church playing an active role in helping to plant the seed by changing the focus of the role the church currently plays in the lives of senior citizens.

This can be done, he says, by focusing ministerial attention toward younger retirees and those considering retirement in the near future. While he feels the church does a good job in meeting the needs of people in their mid- to late-70s or above, he says there needs to be a focus on the idea that many senior citizens can continue to make contributions. This, in his opinion, can be done through ministries, such as small faith groups, for "third-agers," defined as people in their early 50s to mid-70s.

He formed his opinion for the need for such ministries from observing the trend of people retiring at an early age, well before the traditional retirement age of 65. He espouses " ... faith-focused programs that speak about God calling me to completion."

Such church-sponsored programs, he feels, could factor into strengthened faith among retirees. Elder ministries can foster the notion that "God doesn't stop calling me in my state in life. ... My missions can change and become new ones," said Von Stamwitz. He feels that church ministries for recent retirees should challenge them to ask themselves, "What is God saying to you, in terms of unfinished business?" ▼

CNS photo from Reuters

Nun views eclipse

A nun views the solar eclipse through a protective shield in St. Peter's Square Aug. 11. The sun was covered about 84 percent by the moon over Rome. In some areas of Europe it could be viewed as a total eclipse.

Tornado, from page 7

people."

Cars and trucks and tractor-trailers were overturned in the storm's wake, and trees along the storm's route were uprooted.

At the offices of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, anxious staff members waited in the darkened building for colleagues to return from lunch. Computers crashed when the power failed, and receptionists fielded calls from concerned family members and from people as far away as Wisconsin. The pastoral center closed early.

According to a fire department official, the death toll could have been higher than the single fatality, if not for private citizens who tend the injured before paramedics arrived.

At a press conference, Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt said that despite the chaos and the destruction, "it could have been a lot worse."

"We've been lucky," he said, but added he was sure no one who had been downtown during the surprise tornado "will soon forget what happened here." ▼

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...

Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT

- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

*****************3-DIGIT 275
42083 S302 P1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 27, 1999
Volume 8 ▾ Number 44

Inside

Meet Joe Blick
First Catholic appointed to eastern N.C. bench
...PAGE 3

Earthquake in Turkey
Pope, U.S. church officials urge prayers, aid for quake victims
...PAGE 8-9

Parish gatherings highlight Hispanics' faith, struggles
...PAGE 12

Local News

Living the Faith:
Parish honors past, celebrates future
...PAGE 16

S.C. religious leaders express concerns for video poker
...PAGE 14

Every Week

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 4-5

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

> **... My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work ... The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.'**
> — *John 4: 34, 36-37*

Modern-Day Florence Nightingale volunteers time and talents

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Refugees come to this country every day to begin a new life, and the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services in Charlotte is one organization that helps many of these people with food, housing, clothing, and medical care. One of the first smiling faces that many see is Lynda Stokes, a volunteer with the Refugee Office.

In her six years as a volunteer, Stokes has helped in almost every capacity — from assisting with medical exams to driving clients to appointments or stores to helping them fill out immigration forms and other applications.

Cira Ponce, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Office, said, "We are blessed to have Lynda as one of our dedicated volunteers to help our refugee community."

Stokes began working with the Montagnards, a group of people from the highlands of Vietnam. Although much of her work has been with them, she has worked with people from Somalia, Russia, Bosnia, and many other countries.

Sonia Hayden, Coordinator of Volunteer Services of the Refugee Resettlement Office, said that Stokes volunteered many hours with Dr. Lawrence Galea who heads the International Health and Community Services division of his clinic, staffed mainly by volunteers. She continues to volunteer part-time at the clinic. Dr. Galea and the Refugee Resettlement Office have been in partnership since the start of the clinic in 1992.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Lynda Stokes, volunteer for the Refugee Resettlement Office in Charlotte, types notes for the new case managers' manual from Barbara Douglas, Administrative Assistant for the Refugee Office.

"She established a rapport with clients and patients, calmed their fears, explained medical procedures, and learned the basics of various languages," said Hayden.

Stokes became a tremendous asset during medical exams because she is a registered nurse who went back to school to obtain her bachelor's of nursing degree from UNCC. Prior to that, however, she was a practicing nurse in several area hospitals after completing three years of training at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in the early 70s.

During 1993, while she was still attending UNCC and after suffering with serious medical problems, an instructor asked if she would like to help with the refugees in CSS. Stokes thought that it would be a good idea because she was on crutches at the time and wondered how she could still be a nurse to the fullest capacity while recovering.

What is even more remarkable is that Stokes, while in considerable pain,

SEE STOKES, PAGE 15

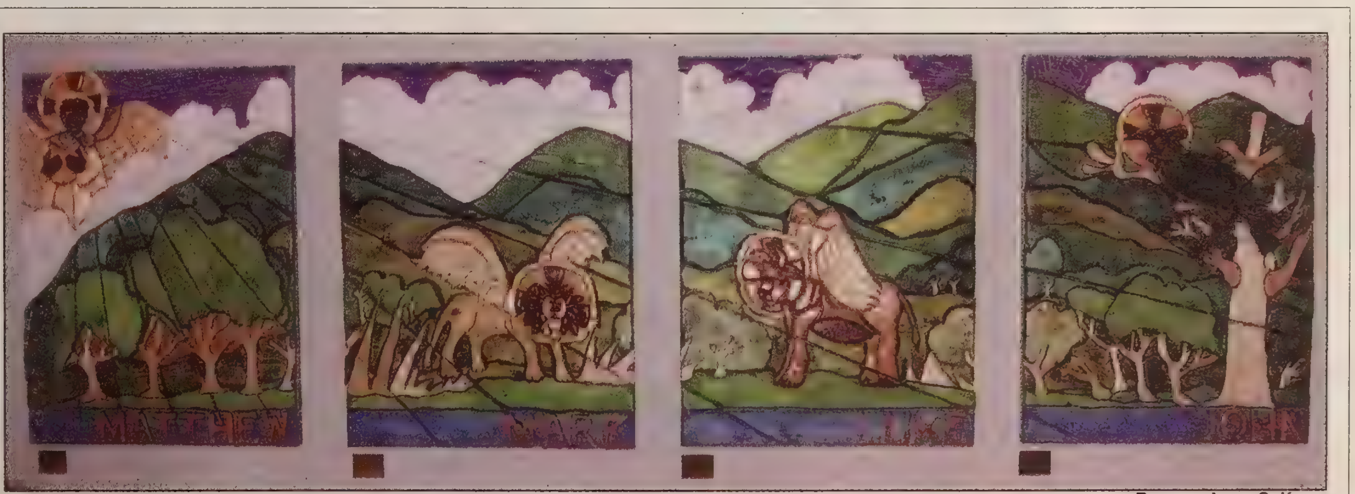


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

50th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard

Carved formations of the four evangelists are depicted in Sacred Heart parish in Brevard. The wood panels were specially commissioned. Local artist and professor of art at Brevard College Tim Murray completed the artwork, which was unveiled on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the mountain parish. See story, page 16.

The World in Brief

CNS photo from Reuters

Belgrade protest

An elderly man holds an image of President Slobodan Milosevic upside down during a massive demonstration calling for change in the Yugoslavian government. More than 150,000 people rallied against Milosevic Aug. 19 in Belgrade.

Pro-life walkers end cross-country trek in Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of youths who walked 3,400 miles across the country this summer to promote the pro-life cause ended their journey in Washington Aug. 14 by reciting the rosary at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, then walking one last leg from the court to the U.S. Capitol. They said they walked those last steps, covering 4,400 feet, to draw attention to the number of abortions performed each day in the United States. "(It's) our little way of being symbolic, of the 4,400 babies who will die today across the nation and that's why we do this every year," said Steve Sanborn, who is president and founder of the walk, called Crossroads. It is organized to protest abortion, euthanasia "and other assaults on human life."

Colombian bishop kidnapped by rebels; priest released unharmed

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Colombian rebels kidnapped a bishop and released a priest abducted with him. The bishop had also been held hostage by rebels in 1997. Rebels Aug. 15 blocked the truck of Bishop Jose de Jesus Quintero Diaz of Tibu as he was returning to his diocese in northern Colombia from the town of Tarra, where he visited a parish with Father Vianey Sanchez. Both were kidnapped, but early Aug. 16 the priest was released to inform the vicar general of Tibu, Msgr. Nelson Rozo.

Greek Orthodox Archbishop Spyridon resigns

NEW YORK (CNS) — After three years of growing turmoil and division in his church, Archbishop Spyridon resigned Aug. 19 as Greek Orthodox archbishop of America. The Associated Press reported that Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople appointed as a successor Metropolitan Demetrios of Vresthena, 71, — a bishop from Greece widely described as the only non-American capable of restoring peace. Archbishop Spyridon, in a letter announcing his resignation, defended his three-year rule and attacked his opponents, who by the end included all five metropolitan bishops of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States.

Seventh-day Adventists repudiate tie to anti-Catholic ad

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — The Florida church that sponsored a full-page anti-Catholic advertisement Aug. 10 in USA Today is falsely claiming affiliation with the Seventh-day Adventists, according to a spokesman for the North American office of the Seventh-day Adventists. The ad, paid for by the West Palm Beach-based Eternal Gospel Church, was headlined "Earth's Final Warning" and quotes heavily from the Book of Revelation. It asserts that Christian denominations which recognize Sunday as the Sabbath are in error. But Kermit Netteberg, spokesman for the Silver Spring, Md.-based North American conference of the Seventh-day Adventists — which claims 900,000 regional members — said the Eternal Gospel Church is not affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventists.

Lutherans approve full communion with Episcopalians, Moravians

DENVER (CNS) — Culminating 30 years of ecumenical dialogue, the churchwide assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America approved full communion with the Episcopal Church Aug. 19. Under full communion, the 5.2 million-member ELCA and the 2.4 million-member Episcopal Church will retain their own structures. But each will recognize the other's sacraments, clergy from either church can be accepted for work in the other, and the two can hold joint worship services. In a separate action earlier the same day, the assembly approved full communion with the Moravian Church in America.

Brazilian priest hopes to bring cry of poor to Wall Street, U.N.

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Brazilian priest campaigning against injustices in Latin America's economic system hopes Wall Street and the United Nations will ring with the cries of the poor on Oct. 12, 2000. New York City on that date — celebrated in the United States and in some Latin American countries as Columbus Day — has been chosen as the focal point of a continental campaign against the economic system that has come to dominate Latin America. Father Luiz Bassegio, an adviser to the Brazilian bishops' conference pastoral commission, explained that New York City was chosen as the protest site for the culmination of next year's campaign because of its symbolic importance as a financial capital and the headquarters of the United Nations.

Southern African bishops concerned over trial of Rwandan bishop

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Bishops in southern African expressed concern that the arrest of a Rwandan bishop on suspicion of genocide was politically motivated and denounced the Rwandan government for implicating the church in the genocidal attacks of 1994. Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro, 56, went on trial in Kigali, Rwanda, Aug. 20, charged with helping to organize the genocide and failing to offer protection to victims. His defense argued his detention was illegal and the trial was adjourned until Aug. 25 to allow the court to consider the complaints.

Pope calls Angola's civil war one of most serious in Africa

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called Angola's civil war "one of the most serious crises of the African continent" and urged the international community to take a greater interest in ending the conflict. Speaking at a Sunday blessing Aug. 22 at his summer residence outside Rome, the pope said the increasing violations of human dignity in Angola represent an "agony" that threatens the future of the region. Yet the conflict is being "consumed in silence," he added.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

August 27, 1999
Volume 8 • Number 44
Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Hispanic Editor: Luis Wolf
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $18 per year for all other subscribers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 29
1- 4 p.m.
LIMEX Mass
St. Aloysius Church
Hickory

September 3
7:30 a.m.
Mass for Knights &
Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral

Diocesan planner

September

1 CHARLOTTE — For a quiet time to share in community prayer to heal spiritually, emotionally, and physically, there is a healing Mass at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon, tonight at 7:30 p.m.

HENDERSONVILLE — A series of natural family planning classes taught by the Couple-to-Couple League, will take place from 7-9 p.m. tonight. Call Ann Dowling at (828) 696-2357 for location and registration.

3 HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., celebrates a Latin Mass tonight at 7 p.m. The rosary will be said at 6:30 before Mass. Benediction and adoration will follow.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, celebrates a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. After Mass, there will be the laying on of hands by the priest.

8 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, or remarried outside the Church meets tonight at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Road, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center. For details, call (704) 376-1503.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets today at 10:30 a.m. Mayor Pat McCrory is the special guest speaker. For details on the upcoming Florida trip, call Stephen Ferraro at (704) 455-2528. For other information, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

9 CHARLOTTE — "Exodus from Strongholds," a 12-week Bible-based seminar focusing on overcoming personal strongholds, begins tonight at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, at 7:15 p.m. A free orientation will be held on Sept. 2 at the same location at 7:15 p.m. For registration and information, contact Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

10 CHARLOTTE — Tonight from

Roman Catholic appointed to eastern N.C. bench

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENVILLE, N.C. — While Pitt County's newest district court judge must respect the separation between church and state from the bench, he says his Catholic faith instilled the strong sense of compassion and justice necessary for the job.

Joseph Blick Jr., a 16-year veteran of the Pitt County court system, is the first Roman Catholic to serve as judge in this eastern North Carolina district. He says his faith is inherently part of his daily life.

"It comes into play in dealing with people as individuals," says Blick, a daily communicant and an active parishioner at St. Peter Church in Greenville. "Catholic faith teaches that our job as Christians is to try to find the Christ in each person. When you're sitting up there on the bench, sometimes it's real hard to do that, and you have to strain a bit.

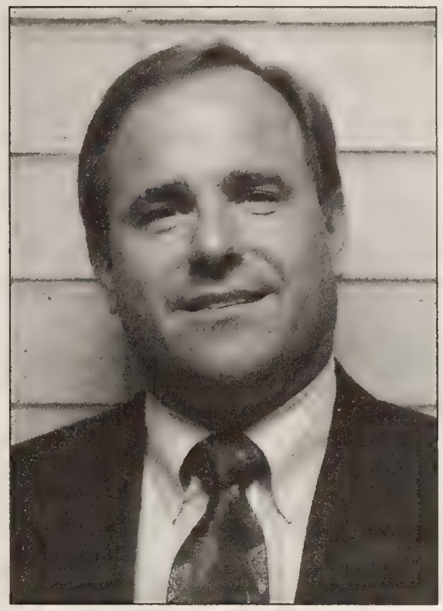
"But in the back of my mind, my faith is always there reminding me that this person was created in the image of God, and therefore I need to treat them with dignity and respect — regardless of whether or not they have treated people with dignity and respect."

Compassion in the courtroom can be difficult to come by, Blick says, but blending compassion with justice is a necessary task. "When I first hear a set of facts from the DA, a witness or a victim, my first response is probably justice — what does this person deserve," he says. "Then when I hear from (the accused), it seems like in the short time that I've been on the bench, that's where the compassion comes in.

"It's like a sliding scale. You try to be respectful, try not to lord over anybody, but try to effectuate justice. In my experience, justice and compassion blend well, and I'd probably be doing a disservice if they didn't."

Blick served as an assistant district attorney since 1983, and was promoted to chief assistant district attorney last April. He prosecuted sexual assault, child abuse and even murder cases, all too often encountering "lost kids and lost parents" who don't live by or teach "any formal sort of values."

Now, Blick is in a position that can have even greater impact on the lives of those who are "lost." It's not a role he takes lightly.


Judge Joseph Blick Jr.

"The judge does have a lot of power and control in the courtroom," Blick says. "Every day when I go to Mass, I ask God for the humility to do the job that he wants me to do. That's the way that I look at this judgeship — that our Lord has put me there for some reason."

The Mass is a gift that keeps him focused, Blick notes, especially when pressures in life and work build. "It's really easy when you sit there in the church and look at the crucifix," he says. "I always say to myself, 'You know, there's the ultimate public servant, and I've got to imitate him in some way.'"

When he's not hearing cases, Blick spends time with his family: wife Mary, and sons Jeffrey, 16, and Brian, who just turned 10. He's also an avid baseball and football fan, coaching kids each summer and fall.

For more than a decade, Blick has also spent a great deal of time with youth at local parishes, serving as a volunteer youth leader in the Greenville Catholic Youth Organization. He is involved in the Pitt County Schools Career Mentor Program, and serves as vice president of the NC Professional Society on the Abuse of Children as well.

"Joe Blick has a tremendous record of public service," said Gov. James Hunt in a written statement. "In addition to his years as a prosecutor, Joe has committed his life to improving the lives of children, not only in the courtroom, but through his volunteer work and dedication to his community."

"He is a man of utmost integrity," adds Passionist Father Justin Kerber, pastor of St. Peter Church in Greenville. "I think it's because he stays close to Christ in the Eucharist that he's able to do so many things for so many people. It all flows from that."

Hunt made the appointment on June 16. Blick was sworn in on July 9.

Blick's concern for young people has made its way into the courts, both during his time as a prosecutor and now as a judge. "When a young person comes into my courtroom," he says, "I find myself perking up a little bit more in hopes that maybe something I say to them will click.

"I might structure something that may encourage that person to take a different route."

He says he doesn't seek to change the world during his new judgeship, which is up for reelection in 2002. When thinking about his new position, he recalls the life of one of his role models.

"I think this is where Mother Teresa comes in," says Blick, who keeps a crucifix and images of the Blessed Mother and the beloved nun from Calcutta in his office. "Paraphrasing her, if I can just do little things great, then I'll be satisfied. If I can change just one person, I'll be happy. I think that's all you can hope for." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Williamson named to CSS Board of Directors

CHARLOTTE — Virginia Williamson, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church, has been appointed to the Catholic Social Services Board of Directors. She has been involved in many capacities, including the Task Force for Elderly Ministry, work in nursing homes and with the homeless, and Body Recall, an elderly exercise program.

Gerry Carter, Director of Special Ministries for CSS, asked her to be a part of the board, and after filing the application, she received a congratulatory letter from Bishop William G. Curlin. The CSS Board is interested in family life, prison ministry, disaster relief, and other areas; moreover, Williamson wants to focus on the elderly and the youth around the diocese.

"I want people to be aware of resources that CSS offers. I want to touch lives and make a difference. I knew it would be a commitment as well as a responsibility, but I feel it is something that God wants me to do," said Williamson. ▼

8-10 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Parkway, Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej is the facilitator of the "Nite of Joy," a time for sharing of faith and reflection through contemporary Christian music and reading the Gospels. Open to all and free to the public.

CONCORD — All are invited to a Mass for home-schoolers at 11 a.m. at St. James Church, 251 Union St. North. A potluck lunch follows in the church hall.

11 CHARLOTTE — There is a HOPE group meeting held tonight in the St. Luke Church Family Center, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Questions, call Sister Ann at (704) 537-3831.

12 CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass, celebrated by Bishop Curlin, will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East at 4 p.m. Prayer teams available at 3 p.m. with a potluck dinner to follow. For information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

14 CHARLOTTE — "Art from the Heart" is a workshop that uses scripture and art exercises to worship God that will take place today beginning with 9:30 a.m. Eucharist and ending at noon with lunch. To find out more or to register, call Joanne Longenecker, a registered art therapist at (704) 845-9163 or Father John Hoover at (336) 699-4005.

GREENSBORO — A "Day of Reflection" happens this morning at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church hall. Father Frank Connolly will be presiding during the program which includes Mass and the Rosary. Lunch will be provided. For details, call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099.

CHARLOTTE — Father Anthony Marcaccio will be telling the public about "Everything You Ever Wanted to Ask about the Mass but Were Afraid to Ask." The 7 p.m. sessions will be held in St. John Neumann Church parish hall, 8451 Idlewild Road, tonight and on Sept. 21 and 28. Babysitting will be provided, and for details, call Donna Rayle at (704) 366-3218.

16 HIGH POINT — There will be a charismatic mass held at Maryfield Nursing Home in the chapel, 1315 Greensboro Road. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

17 HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be today through Sept. 19 at the Catholic Conference Center. For registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424 and for information, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

Upcoming

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., will be holding six-week dance classes starting on Sept. 12, 19, and 26 and Oct. 3, 10, and 17. Classes held in the gym on Sun. evenings 6-7 p.m. for adults and 7-8 p.m. for children. Call the parish office for more details at (336) 722-7001.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, a non-profit, private organization for those experiencing Alzheimer's or dementia meets every Mon. and Wed. from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel. Snack, lunch, activities, and socialization are provided. Those not affiliated with the parish are welcome. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 for information.

HICKORY VICARIATE — A Spanish Mass is celebrated every Sunday at the following churches: St. Francis in Lenoir at 9 a.m., Holy Trinity in Taylorsville at 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph in Newton at 12:45 p.m., Our Lady of the Angels in Marion at 1 p.m., St Aloysius in Hickory at 2 p.m., and St. Charles in Morganton at 5 p.m.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Conversion means active return to God, pope says

By LYNNE WEIL

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Conversion comprises a return to God and liberation from evil, a process which each individual must actively undertake to be saved, Pope John Paul II said.

"While the struggle against evil is a significant part of the experience of personal and community life, we know that to overcome sin we must rely on the strength which God gives us in Christ," the pontiff told pilgrims at his Aug. 18 general audience.

Scripture emphasizes that conversion means making a sincere return to God as well as being freed from sin, he noted.

"In this process," he added, "the sinner recognizes his sin and returns to God, placing his confidence in God's mercy and forgiveness."

"As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ has definitively conquered the evil one," Pope John Paul said. "However, each one of us must freely accept this victory by undertaking the commitment and continual vigilance which the struggle against sin requires."

The pope said "our entire personal and community history presents itself in large part as a struggle against evil."

He said immorality, which arises from evil, provokes suffering that can be alleviated only by overcoming sin.

"We are called to conversion," Pope John Paul said, "that is, to return sincerely to God and to free ourselves from evil; these are the two aspects of a single path."

The pope added, "only Jesus makes us conscious of evil."

Pope John Paul pointed out that in the Gospel of Matthew's version of the Our Father, the faithful are meant to ask for deliverance "from the evil one" — an "adjective form," the pope added, "which can indicate a personification of evil."

"This is provoked in the world by the spiritual being, called the devil or Satan in biblical revelation, who deliberately opposes God," he continued.

"Human malignity caused by that which is demoniac or which is provoked by its influence," the pope said, is present "even in our time in an alluring form, seducing minds and hearts, in this way causing the loss of the sense of evil and of sin."

Pope John Paul noted that he had previously asked the faithful to consider the theme of conversion throughout this final year before the church's year 2000 celebrations.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO

CNS Columnist

Reflections on an orange crate

A friend called the other day and asked if we could have lunch together, adding quickly, "I know you're terribly busy, but I was hoping."

It was that emphasis on the word "busy" that made me a bit uncomfortable, for recently I had been thinking a lot about how almost all my conversations include that word. I'm busy writing, busy taking care of some family need or emergency, busy doing pro bono work with one of about a half dozen involvements I call my ministries, busy working to keep the grounds of my home neat, busy doing housework, busy, busy, busy.

I've become conscious of how often I preface conversations with "so-o-o-o 'busy.'" And guess what? I've gotten bored with the word.

Well, if I'm bored talking about how busy I am, then I must be boring everybody else too. That's an embarrassing thought.

It's not surprising that I have been busy all my life. My immigrant parents raised me to "run, don't walk" when it came to doing just about anything. It was important to prove yourself, and this was done best by embracing responsibility.

This was reinforced in Catholic school when the nuns would tell us we mustn't waste a minute because "eternity is in it." That was a heavy!

Years later when my marriage broke up, and I was left to raise and support six children, my responsibility training came in handy since I had to work about 17 hours a day to make ends meet. I suppose that's when the reality that I was a busy person — and a responsible one — really sunk in.

Yet, there were — and still are — times when I get what I call a "yearning for the orange crate." I remember visiting a couple back when I was a young mother with three little ones. I went into a mild shock when I went into their house. Their four little children were a mess, running around unkempt rooms with virtually no furniture. And there was their mother, sitting on an orange crate reading Shakespeare.

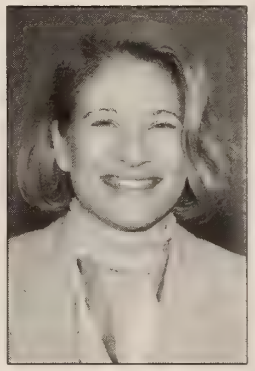
I felt a tremendous envy at that moment. I yearned to have the ability she had to let go of all responsibility and do something for herself. I asked her how could she read Shakespeare when there was so much to do. She gave no explanation. She only said, "I love Shakespeare."

I envied her all the more, even as I felt a revulsion that she could ignore all the work that needed to be done. How could she so completely shirk her responsibilities?

I went home and continued to work, getting and staying busier and busier for the next four decades of my life. But frequently and regularly I have visualized that mother, and I have yearned to sit on an orange crate and feel the inner freedom she had. Somehow I was never able to balance responsibility with that brand of freedom, and even now I know I would still put responsibility first, but maybe with less intensity.

My children say they're glad they had clean clothes and fresh, cooked meals. But they also suggest that the time has come now for me to lighten up and sit on the orange crate when and if I choose.

Now that I'm getting in charge of that four-letter word that begins with b and ends with y, I think I can do it. All I have to do is find an orange crate!



Planned Giving

CINDY RICE

Guest Columnist

Carefully saving, thoughtfully giving

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life through what we give." No where is this philosophy of generosity more evident than right here in the Diocese of Charlotte. I have been honored with the opportunity to meet with so many of you in the diocese who, having benefited from your own hard work and God's blessings, decide to help others through charitable gifts to the community.

Most of us who work to support our family and meet our financial commitments also diligently save part of our income for retirement years. Since such a large portion of your assets may be held in qualified retirement plans, you may want to consider these plans as additional "pockets" from which to make gifts to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese, or the diocesan foundation.

There are many simple ways you can use your retirement plan assets to fund charitable gifts. For example, if you are over age 59 1/2, making gifts from retirement accounts may be particularly appealing because of the benefits for you. When you make a withdrawal to fund a gift, you generally will not be subject to an early withdrawal penalty. In addition, though the withdrawal will be taxed as income, the charitable deduction you receive generally creates a "wash" for tax purposes for those who itemize their deductions.

On a more personal level, by using the retirement assets to make a gift, you have the pleasure of knowing that the funds you worked so hard to save will be used for the Lord's work in Western North Carolina.

Retirement plan assets may also be used to make charitable gifts in the future. One possibility that you may want to consider would be naming the Church to receive all or a portion of the funds remaining in your retirement account(s) after you no longer need them.

If you have family or other loved ones that you would like to benefit first, you can designate that a charitable gift from your retirement account be completed only if other heirs are unable to receive their portions.

A third option may be especially appealing to those who provide a loved one with an income for a certain period of time. You can direct that all or a portion of your retirement plan assets be used to establish life income plans that will help your loved one and then provide future support to the Church and our many life-changing programs.

In order to truly "make a life through what we give," good stewards know that responsible giving requires prudent planning. Making charitable gifts to the Church using retirement plan assets is simply another way you can enhance our community - physically and spiritually.

For more information on ways you can use retirement plan assets to make your charitable gifts, please feel free to contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, (704) 370-3320.

Send your Letters to the Editor to jskeane@charlottediocese.org or mail to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Take the plunge

When it comes to advice on how to find purpose in your life and work, there is clearly no scarcity of experts — just check out the racks of self-help literature at your local bookstore.

Our experience has been that the Bible is hard to top as a blueprint for living. And occasionally an author does come along who has a knack for making the Scriptures accessible in instructive yet novel ways. That is why we invited Australian writer and illustrator Andrew Matthews to be a guest on our Christopher Closeup series. His upbeat and concise book, Follow Your Heart, gets right to the heart of living a good life. With humor and insight, he offers ten common sense concepts to having a happy, meaningful existence.

One concept is that "God is never going to come down from a cloud and say: 'You now have permission to be successful.' You have to give yourself permission."

He goes on to explain that an individual of faith lives by acting, not thinking about acting. Even the most mundane experiences show us the truth of this. For example, has this ever happened to you? You are sitting at your desk — either at home or work - and you start searching for something and cannot find it. You start rummaging through stacks of stuff — junk mail, out-of-date brochures, insurance policies, and flashlight batteries. Immersed in your task you begin putting things where they belong, like airline ticket receipts under "travel" and used coffee cups in the dishwasher.

Matthews visualizes the scene: "Before you know it, you're on a roll . . . erasers into the top drawer, telephone books onto the shelf, pizza cartons into the bin. You even wipe the chocolate caramel off the telephone." Suddenly, you have a vision — a tidy office! You feel a surge of excitement and find yourself creating the world's cleanest workspace! You have taken the plunge, and then you feel the energy.

We often make the mistake of saying "When I get the energy, I'll begin jogging every morning!" No! You start first. "When I feel more enthusiastic, I'll do my homework." Wrong! "When I get the energy, I'll start this project." Mistake! Actually, you get the energy and enthusiasm for the job after you begin. You get the energy as a result of your involvement. The secret is to make a start.

I have always been impressed by my friends in the theatre community who fill the stage night after night with fresh energy, personal presence and conviction.

Jane Summerhayes, a veteran Broadway musical theatre star, told me recently: "People would be surprised to learn what drudgery it can become. You drag yourself to the theatre hoping you have enough stamina to even put on your makeup and costume. Then you hear the overture and take that first step onto the stage, and suddenly you are alive. Once you've actually begun the show, the energy supply is limitless."

Some of us say, "Give me some kind of guarantee that I won't fail. Then I'll start." Instead, commit to do something. Prepare as best you can, and then start without all the answers and without any guarantees. You get motivated by doing things, not by thinking about them. Action gets you excited and action reveals opportunity.

So take the plunge. Remember Saint Peter being summoned by Jesus to come to Him in the throes of a turbulent sea? Peter did not really show his faith — until he took that first step.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Jesus' genealogy

Q. My question concerns the lineage of Jesus. The accounts of his ancestors in Luke and Matthew do not agree. Which one is correct?

I heard one interpretation that the man designated as Joseph's father was probably his father-in-law, thus tracing Mary's ancestors.

Since he did not carry any of Joseph's genes, why do the evangelists bother to trace Joseph's lineage instead of Mary's? Joseph should not be called the father of Jesus. He was merely the stepfather, and the writers were well aware of this.

A. Genealogies in ancient times normally differed considerably, in nature and purpose, from the family trees we know today. Most obviously, for ordinary people, like Joseph for example, records going back even a few generations became extremely tangled.

Thus, among the Jews, except for the priestly families, almost no one could trace family histories back very far, let alone 2,000 years or more. Some rabbis held that all this confusion would be resolved only when the prophet Elijah returned.

Also, genealogies often were constructed for symbolic, instructive purposes, emphasizing the prowess or special significance of an individual, with no particular concern for historical accuracy.

These realities, among others, are relevant to the many differences between the ancestry of Jesus given by Matthew (1:2-17) and Luke (3:23-38). Obviously each of these evangelists had partially different sources as well. For example, Luke's list contains 36 names not found in Matthew or in the Old Testament.

This brief background can help us approach these interesting if puzzling genealogies a little more thoughtfully. Matthew's listing, from Abraham to Christ, is focused on David, in whom God's promise to Abraham seemed to be fulfilled. But that covenant was broken by David and the people, leading to exile and decline, until the true "son of David," the Messiah, arrived in the person of Jesus.

Luke's much longer list starts with Jesus and Joseph (whose father is different, by the way, in the two accounts) and extends back to "Adam, the son of God," which suggests perhaps the major interest of Luke in presenting his list.

Immediately before his genealogy, he reports the voice from heaven identifying Jesus as "my beloved Son." Immediately after it, the tempter in the desert calls him the Son of God.

The genealogy therefore places Jesus and his ministry in the context of human history, emphasizing his dignity and role as coming from, and acting as, God's Son.

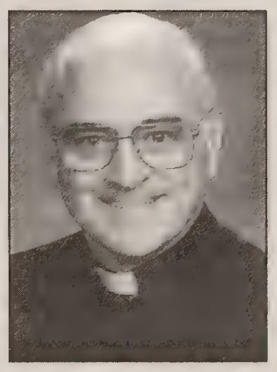
In Hebrew culture the number seven was the "perfect," and therefore somewhat sacred, number. Both genealogies play on that symbolism. Matthew himself observes (v. 17) that he has arranged his list in three sets of 14 (2 x 7) generations each, though in fact the list does not total exactly 42.

In Luke we find 11 sequences of seven "fathers," the final one God himself, No. 77, superperfect as it were. Thus Jesus begins the 12th (another number of special significance for the Jewish people) and final age of history.

The more accurate title for Joseph is the foster-father of Jesus. A step-father is the husband of one's mother by a subsequent marriage, which was not true, of course, in this case.

Mary herself, incidentally, calls Joseph the father of Jesus (Lk 2:48), so it can't be too bad, as long as what we mean is clear.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

The problem with anger

If you are full of repressed anger, it could cause serious depression. You won't be able to shake free by just willing it. You will have to change your thinking.

Your will has no direct control over your feelings. However, you do have control over your thoughts, and the thoughts you think control the state of your emotional life.

Thoughts are like seeds. Just as well-selected seeds produce flowers, so too do poorly selected seeds produce tangled weeds. In the same way, the thoughts we think produce the emotions we feel — for better or worse. Wholesome, positive thoughts produce good feelings, whereas dark, angry thoughts reap a harvest of painful feelings.

Your anger may be totally justified. You have every right to be angry if you were abused, but anger can become toxic. It can hurt you more and more as time goes on. If you repress or deny your anger, you will use up enormous energy and become depressed.

Some people enjoy being angry, but they do not see that anger begets depression. They want to get rid of the blues, but do not know how.

How does one let go, and let God?

The will cannot turn off the anger, but the will can say yes or no to a different mindset. You can decide to let go and forgive even if the guilty party hasn't asked for it. A true Christian forgives before he or she feels like it. You "foregive." Let go of it, and God will handle the rest.

When I feel anger toward someone, I immediately begin to pray for that person. I see my prayer as a sign that I want to do the right thing and forgive, even though I might not feel like it at the moment. I don't forgive because the person deserves it. I forgive because Jesus asks it of me. When I obey him, the toxic effect of my anger dissolves, and I feel much better.

There is no part of creation that is separate from God, but union with God is more intense for the baptized Christian. We are part of the mystical body of Christ. "In him we live and breathe and have our being."

This means that we are called to open ourselves to the Spirit of Jesus. We are supposed to think the way he thinks. Do you remember his words in the Sermon on the Mount? "Return good for evil.... Turn the other cheek.... Bless those who persecute you.... Forgive seventy times seven."

Either you accept this teaching and act upon it, or you do not. The choice is yours. But I ask you, why carry excess baggage around with you? Let go of anger, jealousy, fear and anxiety. Let joy return to your soul. Let go, and let God. Turn your resentment over to him. Keep turning it over, and be patient. Let go, and let God deal with the justice issue.

If you do this, your anger will slowly evaporate. Throw away the pills, and begin again. Through the grace of God you can become a new creation.

Always remember the words of Julian of Norwich: "The greatest honor you can give to almighty God is to live joyfully because of the knowledge of his love." Honor God with your trust. Let go, and let God.

Last Supper sculpted in butter for Iowa state fair

DES MOINES, Iowa (CNS) — Norma "Duffy" Lyon exudes warmth, which is a good thing considering that she spent nearly two weeks working in a walk-in cooler in the middle of August. She has sculpted cows, the heads of famous people, and more from butter that is recycled and used in future projects. But this year, she decided to tackle what may be her largest project — the Last Supper in butter. It was on display during the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines.

CNS PHOTO BY ANNE MARIE COX, CATHOLIC MIRROR

Butter sculpture
Christ is seen at the head of the table in an unusual butter sculpture of the Last Supper by Norma "Duffy" Lyon of Toledo, Iowa. The sculpture was on display at the Iowa State Fair this summer. The entire piece took 2,000 pounds of butter to create.

Rescued U.S. Catholic kept praying for help in Australian desert

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — A U.S. Catholic adventurer rescued after more than three weeks in an Australian desert said he never stopped praying he would make it back to civilization. Robert Bogucki, a volunteer firefighter from Fairbanks, Alaska, was found Aug. 23 in the middle of the Great Sandy Desert by an Australian TV news helicopter searching with a search and rescue team from the United States. Bogucki told Msgr. Paul Boyers, vicar general of the Diocese of Broome, that he never gave up praying and felt a continuous sense of the presence of the Lord.

Priest once held captive in Sierra Leone plans to return

WAYNE, N.J. (CNS) — Xaverian Father Vittorio Mosele won't soon forget the two months he spent as a captive of rebel forces in Sierra Leone. But that won't keep him from returning in September to the West African nation where he has worked as a missionary for the past 28 years. "At certain points, it shook my faith and made me wonder if I ever wanted to return to the mission," said Father Mosele of his experience. "But I did observe the wonderful solidarity of the people who helped me with medicines and food when they themselves lived in misery." The Italian priest talked about his experiences with The Beacon, Paterson diocesan newspaper, while he recuperated at the Xaverian Provincial House in Wayne.

Protesters oppose company's human cloning experiments

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — A Catholic priest who took part in two days of demonstrations outside a Worcester biotechnology company called for a ban on human cloning and said it is a pro-life issue that should concern all Catholics. "We are here to speak out in defense of the unborn babies who have no way to speak out for themselves," said Father Daniel J. Becker of St. Stephen's Parish. The priest was among 85 pickets taking part in a protest Aug. 9-10 against Advanced Cell Technologies Inc., which is conducting human cloning experiments.

Irish president addresses pilgrims at Our Lady of Knock Shrine

KNOCK, Ireland (CNS) — Irish President Mary McAleese, in an address to pilgrims at Ireland's national Marian shrine, cautioned that secular anticipation over the new millennium has "drowned out" the importance of marking the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth. The president noted that many people were already suffering from "millennium overkill," partly because "most public attention seems to have focused on festivities and monuments — on the face rather than on the substance of the event." Pilgrims who had gathered for the annual novena at Our Lady of Knock Shrine packed the basilica Aug. 18 to hear McAleese's address on "starting the new millennium with a clean sheet."

Erie bishop prohibits gun raffles on church property

By GARY LONCKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie has announced a ban on gun raffles on church property or by church-sponsored institutions, effective July 1, 2001.

In a letter to pastors, the bishop urged parishes to seek alternative sources of funding to gun raffles as soon as possible.

"The Diocese of Erie deplores the violence in our society that arises from the misuse of guns," the bishop wrote. He said the policy was introduced, discussed and then unanimously approved by the Presbyteral Council, a consultative body of priests, this spring.

"I am well aware of the delicate and controversial nature of this recommendation," he wrote. "Let me assure you that this matter was not taken lightly by your brother priests on council or by me.

"We're not so naive to believe a policy of this sort is the answer to the problem of violence in our society," Bishop Trautman added. "For sure, it's only a beginning, but begin we must. The root problem is in us, in our hearts, in the way we buy into a culture that markets violence in countless different ways."

While the bishop said the diocese joined the rest of the country in mourning the "horrendous loss of life" brought about by the misuse of guns, he acknowledged that some parishioners would not be pleased with the new policy.

"So angry and upset at this policy as some of our parishioners may be, let them and us call to mind the magnitude of the agony felt by families who have lost loved ones in such tragic ways," he wrote.

"We live in the most violent century in history," Archbishop Chaput said. "Nothing makes us immune from that violence except a relentless commitment to respect the sanctity of each human life, from womb to natural death.

"The civility and community we've built in this country are fragile," he added. "We're losing them. In examining how and why our culture markets violence, I ask you not to stop with the symptoms. Look deeper. The families in Littleton (Colo.) and throughout the country deserve at least that much." ▼

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530
Assuring Absolute Integrity
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

JOHANNUS CHURCH ORGANS
America's best value in sound & price.
SYNTHIA MUSIC SYSTEMS
Catholic Hymns at the push of a button.
SOUND SYSTEMS
Totally wireless systems and hearing impaired devices.
CHURCH PIANOS
Quality pianos for affordable prices.
ELECTRONIC ORGAN SERVICE ON ALL MAKES
Music & Electronics, Inc.
Corner of Oak & Broad Streets, Mooresville, NC
(704) 663-7007 — (800) 331-0768

Come find out about...
Natural Family Planning
Introductory Classes: 2nd Tuesday of every month
Next class: September 14
Upcoming classes Oct. 12 & Nov. 9
Fee: $10
Classes held at 7pm at the
Charlotte Diocese Pastoral Center
1123 South Church Street
(4 blocks from Ericsson "Panther" Stadium)
For information, other class locations and methods, please call (704) 370-3230.

We welcome mail orders and special orders!
Special Gifts
Religious Articles
Cards
Carolina Catholic Book Shoppe
(704) 342-2878
Fax (704) 334-3313
4410-F Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28205
Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sat. 9:30am - 3:00pm

Labor Day statement calls on Catholics to transform world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — American Catholics are being encouraged this Labor Day to take their faith into the world by helping transform business and politics, factories and offices, homes and schools.

In an annual statement issued by the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee for Labor Day, which this year is Sept. 6, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said Catholics are called to examine economic relationships through the lens of Catholic social teaching principles.

"The church asks Catholics to think about public policy proposals not only from the perspective of their individual or family self-interest, but also from the perspective of average and low-wage workers and their families," he said in the statement.

Americans have much to be grateful for — economic freedom, low inflation and economic growth, Cardinal Mahony wrote. "But our prosperity is not being widely shared. Too many have been left behind and the gap in family income continues to widen.

"The top 5 percent of the population takes a larger share of personal income today than similar people did 30 years ago — a 16 percent share in 1968, 24 percent in 1996," he said. Meanwhile, the share of income going to the middle 60 percent of the population has declined by nearly 10 percent over the same period. The decline was even sharper for people in the bottom 20 percent of the income scale, he said.

"This trend is part of the reason why we need a strong, active, democratic labor movement," he said.

Cardinal Mahony notes that the labor movement has given much to the United States over the last cen-

See LABOR DAY, page 15

Italian carver oversees final adjustments to shrine sculpture

By RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Franco Cervietti's Italian studio carved "The Universal Call to Holiness" sculpture for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

When Cervietti arrived at the shrine in early August to oversee "field adjustments" to the massive stone artwork, he said he was "impressed and very happy."

"I am proud that my work is in this church, and it fits in very well here," he said. "It is almost as if it was always here, and that is the feeling I want people to have — that it was always a part of this church."

Cervietti told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese, that nearly two dozen artisans worked for 11 months on the shrine sculpture.

Three teams worked in succession on each of the 16 tablets comprising the sculpture, he explained. The first team roughed out the marble, the second added definition and the third added minute details.

This past spring, the Italian Botticino-Classico marble tablets were installed on the rear interior wall of the shrine's great Upper Church by a team of stone contractors, engineers and architects.

In place, the sculpture measures 50 feet by 15 feet and weighs more than 38 tons.

The Cervietti Studio, Italy's largest, is in Pietrasanta, in Tuscany. It is a family business, begun by Cervietti, now 57, and his father. His father taught him sculpting as a child. Today, he works with his two sons and two of his brothers.

Other Cervietti works can be seen in public centers, private museums and churches in Japan, Brazil, Australia, East Germany and Taiwan.

Once the shrine installation was complete, Cervietti's job was to make sure each of the pieces was calibrated to form a seamless artwork and to make minor adjustments. It took him about a week.

"This is the largest project we've ever done," Cervietti said. "And I am proud that it is in the largest (Catholic) church in the United States, and in the most important city in the world."

The high-relief sculpture was created by artist George Carr of Silver Spring, Md. Carr told the Standard it was "humbling" to see his massive work installed in the shrine. "The reaction I have received (to the sculpture) has been positive," he said.

"I want people to see this and be inspired by the message. I want them to identify with the figures and have a sense of wholeness with the piece," he said.

"The Universal Call to Holiness" features the Holy Spirit — represented as a dove — descending to all members of the human family and uniting them to God. Mary stands beneath the dove, serving as a guide and model.

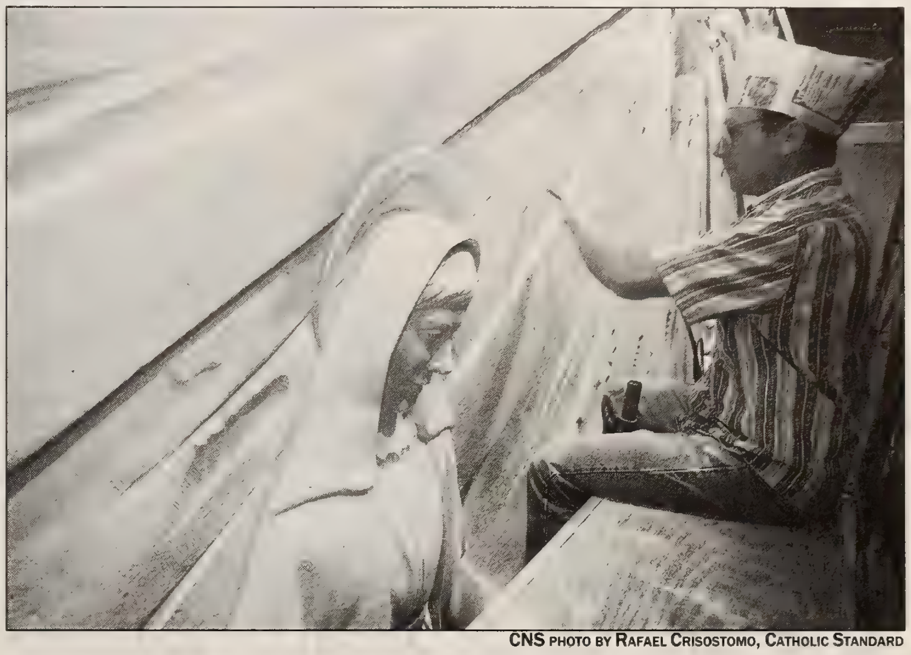
Carr said models for the figures included his mother, family and friends, Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey, neighbors, and even a teller at his bank.

"This is the sculpture of a lifetime for me," Carr said. "I don't expect to do anything like this or even anything close to it again in my lifetime."

Cardinal Hickey chose the sculpture's theme to evoke a central message of the Second Vatican Council, stated in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, that "all in the church ... are called to holiness."

Msgr. Michael J. Bransfield, shrine rector, has called the sculpture "a unique work of Catholic art."

"This pursuit of holiness, a fundamental theme of the Gospels and Second Vatican Council, remains our lifelong objective," he said when the last marble tablet was put in place. ▼



CNS photo by Rafael Crisostomo, Catholic Standard

Italian sculptor Franco Cervietti puts finishing touches on "The Universal Call to Holiness" relief at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Cervietti and a team of about 24 artisans created the 50-foot long relief that covers the back wall of the shrine's upper church.

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Quality Personal Care.

For half a century, Maryfield Nursing Home has provided outstanding nursing care in a Catholic environment. When you need more care than is available at your home, come visit us. We invite you to discover for yourself our many stimulating daily activities and services which make Maryfield the best possible choice for long-term care.

Maryfield
Nursing Home
1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC
(336) 886-2444
Visit our website at
http://www.greensboro.com/mnh

How you can help

The Diocese of Charlotte will consolidate all donations received through parish relief efforts and those made directly to the Diocese of Charlotte, and send all funds to Catholic Relief Services.

On August 17th a massive earthquake struck the northwest region of Turkey. The quake, measuring a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale, was centered between Izmit and Bursa, about 56 miles (90 km) east of Istanbul.

Catholic Relief Services is currently assessing the situation and will work closely with its local Catholic partners on the ground to respond to the crisis. The most urgent need is reported to be water distribution. Fifteen metric tons of water has already been ordered for distribution to local victims. Furthermore, the agency's immediate assistance to the victims will include covering needs for sanitation, shelter and health.

CRS was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country.

Your contributions may be sent to:
Diocese of Charlotte
Turkey Earthquake Relief
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Woman prays

A woman reads the Koran beside her parents' grave in a hastily created cemetery near Golcuk, Turkey, Aug. 23. Turkish authorities were expecting a final tally of more than 40,000 dead from last week's devastating earthquake.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Searching for survivors

A man searches for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed apartment building in Istanbul. Archbishop Giuseppe Bernardini of Izmir told the Italian Catholic daily Avvenire that the situation in the earthquake-hit region was "desperate."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Boy carries bread

A boy carries an armful of bread in downtown Izmit Aug. 23. Turkish authorities and aid workers are attempting to get food and water to hundreds of thousands of people left homeless from the Aug. 17 earthquake.

"Our Specialty Is Loving Your Pets"
Pineville Animal Hospital
10833 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC
(Near Carolina Pavilion/AMC 22 Theater)
(704) 552-2005
In addition to our complete medical care facility, we also offer:
Boarding Kennels
Professional Grooming
Thomas N. Buckley, DVM, owner
Member of St. Ann's

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

We're Going To Make You Happy.
...with ***honest pricing, honest financing, and honest service*** on Europe's most exciting new cars. From the incredible New Beetle, to the all new Jetta IV and luxurious new generation of Audi, we have the right car for your pocketbook...and your lifestyle.
Volkswagen —Audi South
John Diederich, Owner
Member Saint Gabriel Parish
7401 South Boulevard . Charlotte . 704.552.6500 . 800.426.5347 . www.vwsouth.com

Pope, U.S. church officials urge prayers, aid for quake victims

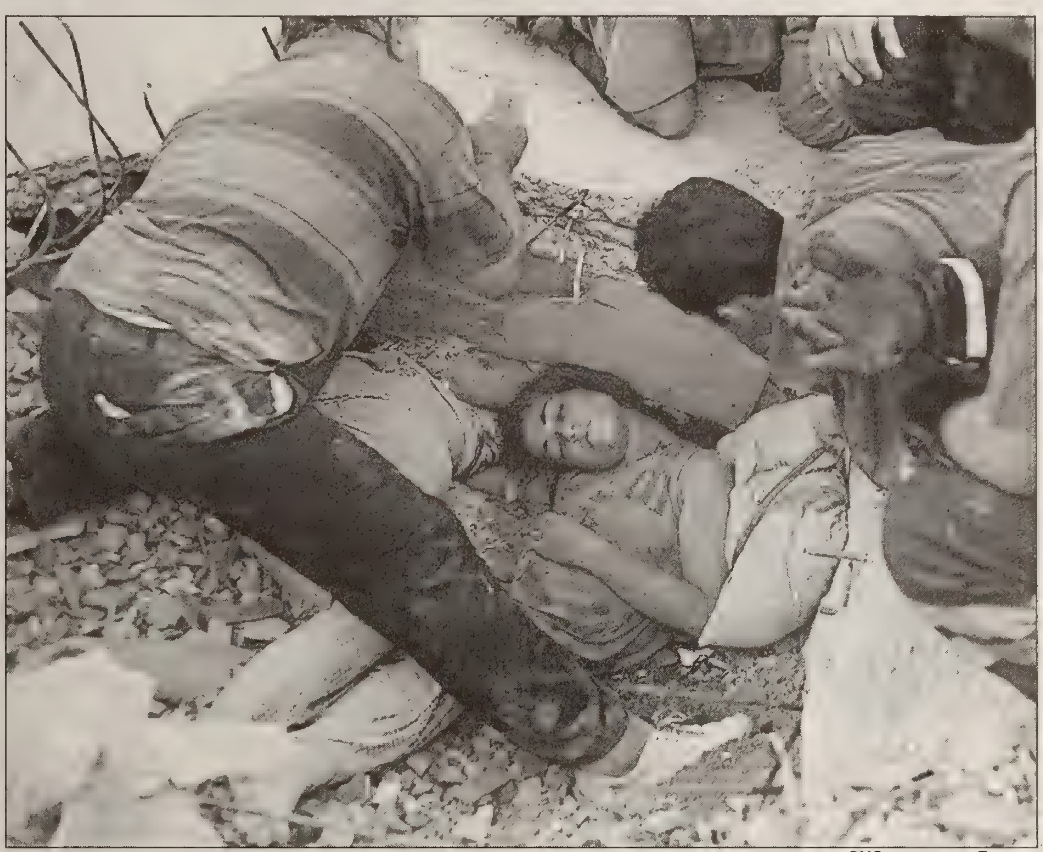
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the death toll mounted with tens of thousands feared dead from the earthquake in northwestern Turkey, Pope John Paul II repeated his solace to the victims and their families.

U.S. church officials also expressed their condolences and urged Catholics to pray for and send aid to victims of the quake.

During his noon prayer Aug. 22 at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Pope John Paul said, "The news that continues to emerge (from Turkey) describes a situation that goes beyond the contours of a catastrophe."

Noting that official sources said the quake killed tens of thousands of people, Pope John Paul said the mounting numbers of casualties "augment little by little the rescue work currently under way."

"The injured and homeless are innumerable, many are the buildings that have been destroyed, and many homes razed to the ground," he added.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A woman lies trapped in rubble as rescue workers attempt to free her from a collapsed house in Istanbul Aug. 17. A powerful earthquake hit the region early that morning killing hundreds of people.

The pope, whose remarks were published at the Vatican that day, said he was following events in Turkey "with constant apprehension and profound feeling for these brothers and sisters who have been tried so terribly."

He expressed his condolences for those who died and prayed that God would show them mercy.

The pope also prayed that the suffering of those who had lost houses and property might be alleviated.

He concluded by praying for those who were coordinating and undertaking relief operations, from state authorities to soldiers to volunteers. All were enduring "great pain," the pope said, amid comforting and helping others.

Just after the earthquake occurred Aug. 17, Pope John Paul sent his condolences.

The earthquake, measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale, occurred about at 3 a.m. local time, rocking some of Turkey's biggest cities and collapsing buildings with occupants asleep inside, hitting hardest in a belt of industrial cities east of Istanbul.

> **High temperatures combined with garbage, corpses and sewage waste have compounded the risk of typhoid, cholera and other infectious diseases.**
>
> — *Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York*

Local officials said Aug. 23 that more than 12,000 people were killed, 33,000 injured. A senior U.N. disaster relief official said Turkish authorities requested help in obtaining 45,000 body bags, because they feared the death toll could rise dramatically.

Some 200,000 survivors were being housed in tents at sites lacking basic facilities.

Izmir, about 400 miles from the quake's epicenter, also felt the powerful first shock.

Archbishop Giuseppe Bernardini of Izmir told the Italian Catholic daily Avvenire that the situation in the earthquake-hit region was "desperate."

"The needs of the population are enormous. Who could ever count all those who have been made homeless?" he said.

Catholic Relief Services, the Baltimore-based overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, said it would work with local Catholic partner organizations to provide water, food and shelter.

A statement from Kenneth F. Hackett, CRS executive director, said water distribution seemed to be the most urgent need in the northwestern region most affected by the earthquake. Sanitation, shelter and health needs would also be immediate priorities, he said.

Meanwhile, Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., asked for prayers for the dead and survivors.

"News of the devastation is especially painful for the thousands of Turkish immigrants in our city who are cut off from information about loved ones in their homeland," Bishop Daily said in a statement. "Many of the newly arrived are our neighbors, living in various communities of Brooklyn and Queens."

Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of Lafayette, La., asked that special collections be taken up at weekend Masses Aug. 21-22, with the total forwarded to CRS. Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., announced he had authorized an emergency collection to be taken up at all parishes to assist in relief services.

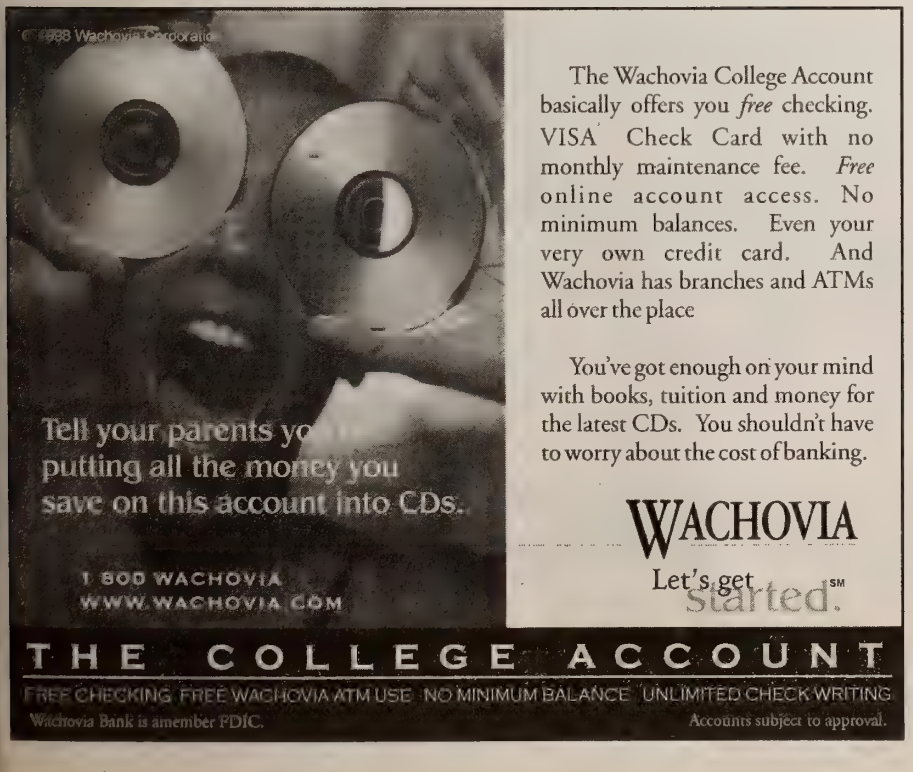
In Philadelphia, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua asked Catholics to pray for the victims, the survivors and their families and those "who are still missing," and he pledged the archdiocese's support "to the people of Turkey."

"The immensity of this tragedy grows every day," he said.

In New York, the Catholic Medical Mission Board announced Aug. 23 it had committed an initial $35,000 in emergency response funds as part of a joint effort with Caritas Internationalis donors worldwide that totaled more than $1 million.

CMMB will continue working closely with its Caritas partners in Turkey and "is prepared to send medicines and medical supplies as onsite emergency teams request," the announcement said.

"High temperatures combined with garbage, corpses and sewage waste have compounded the risk of typhoid, cholera and other infectious diseases," it said. ▾



© 1998 Wachovia Corporation
Tell your parents yo
putting all the money you
save on this account into CDs.
1 800 WACHOVIA
WWW.WACHOVIA.COM

The Wachovia College Account basically offers you *free* checking. VISA Check Card with no monthly maintenance fee. *Free* online account access. No minimum balances. Even your very own credit card. And Wachovia has branches and ATMs all over the place

You've got enough on your mind with books, tuition and money for the latest CDs. You shouldn't have to worry about the cost of banking.

WACHOVIA

Let's get started.℠

THE COLLEGE ACCOUNT

FREE CHECKING FREE WACHOVIA ATM USE NO MINIMUM BALANCE UNLIMITED CHECK WRITING

Wachovia Bank is a member FDIC. Accounts subject to approval.

Own a Home?
Have Equity?
Ask Us About Our
Monthly Debt-Free Program

UNIVERSAL
MORTGAGE
STORE,
INC.

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

- DEBT CONSOLIDATION
- LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
- CASH OUT

(828) 253-8705 • (800) 520-8511

Members of St. Lawrence parish

BE PREPARED
FOR Y2K

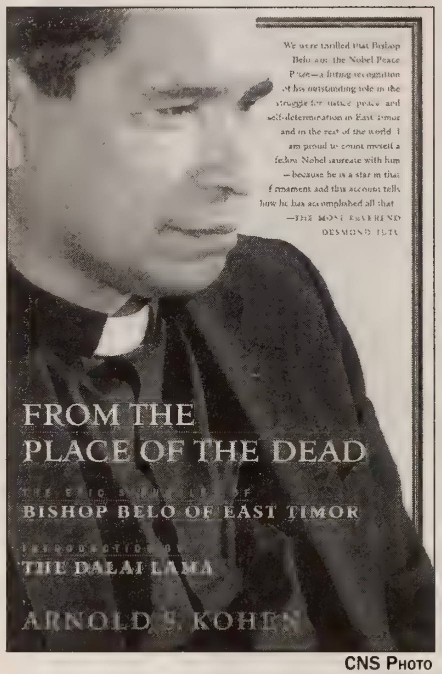
Complete non-hybrid vegetable garden kits. Grow your own perpetual food supply. Gardening Manuals, Storable Food Products, First Aid Kits and Radios. Discount for church and Y2K preparedness programs.

Manufactured and distributed by
MOUNTAIN MISSION
PRODUCTS
Boone, NC USA
(828)265-0107
www.nwps.org/mission/products.htm
A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Book Review

Book offers definitive account of the struggles of East Timor's Bishop Belo

REVIEWED BY THOMAS E. QUIGLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE


FROM THE PLACE OF THE DEAD
THE EPIC STRUGGLES OF BISHOP BELO OF EAST TIMOR
INTRODUCTION BY THE DALAI LAMA
ARNOLD S. KOHEN

We were thrilled that Bishop Belo won the Nobel Peace Prize—a fitting recognition of his outstanding role in the struggle for justice, peace and self-determination in East Timor and in the rest of the world. I am proud to count myself a fellow Nobel laureate with him—because he is a star in that firmament and this account tells how he has accomplished all that. —THE MOST REVEREND DESMOND TUTU

CNS PHOTO

"From the Place of the Dead: The Epic Struggles of Bishop Belo of East Timor"
By Arnold S. Kohen. Introduction by the Dalai Lama. St. Martin's Press (New York, 1999) 331 pp., $27.95.

Like Northern Ireland, East Timor is a tiny speck on the globe that has captured the attention of much of the world. Each has had the spotlight of a Nobel Peace Prize shone on its troubled land — in 1998 with Ulster's John Hume and David Trimble for overseeing a peace process that at present remains stuck, and in 1997 with East Timor's exiled resistance leader, Jose Ramos-Horta, and the diminutive, wiry and relatively young bishop of Dili, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo.

At the moment, East Timor may have a better shot at achieving the peace and freedom many thousands have died for in recent decades. Shifts in the Indonesian leadership and the constantly growing international pressure on Jakarta to recognize the cultural, religious and political rights of this largely Catholic area may soon bear fruit. When it happens, no single person can take greater credit for the achievement and especially for its nonviolent and peaceful realization than this quietly dynamic bishop.

Those of us at the national Catholic jubilee justice gathering in mid-July in Los Angeles watched him answer reporters' often probing — sometimes provocative — questions after his talk there. On full display was the refreshing combination of the man's profound spirituality, his warm and spontaneous sense of humor, his sophisticated though seemingly effortless handling of politically sensitive issues, and his disinclination to suffer fools gladly. Tell us about why you were not allowed to board the Jakarta flight to Los Angeles, they demanded. He smiled, "I'm here, that's enough," and on to the next question.

Bishop Belo is both a deceptively simple man — a deeply pious Salesian with a passionate concern for the young that Don Bosco made the touchstone of his congregation — and a fiery but realistic nationalist who would, like Archbishop Romero, gladly lay down his life for his flock, if that is what the times and circumstances call for, if that would bring peace and true freedom to his people.

He is fortunate that threats against his life have not materialized; he is fortunate that the Nobel Prize and the sustained advocacy and support of people and organizations across the globe, including the bishops' conferences of the United States and many other countries, have offered a shield of protection and encouragement; and he is wonderfully fortunate in having as his biographer an investigative reporter from Queens by the name of Arnold S. Kohen.

Full disclosure: Arnold Kohen is a close collaborator of the U.S. Catholic Conference, where I work, a friend, and a valued consultant. But because he has written an absolutely fascinating, thoroughly researched, totally accurate and, thus far, the definitive account of the personal and public struggles of one of the truly great figures of our time, I have no compunction in calling "From the Place of the Dead" a work of signal importance. It's also a great read. No Westerner has had greater access to the bishop over the last several years and I doubt anyone else could have written a more compelling account of "the epic struggles of Bishop Belo" and the people of East Timor. ▼

Quigley is adviser on Asian affairs at the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Word to Life

August 29, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A Readings:
1) Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9
2) Romans 12:1-2
3) Matthew 16:21-27

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend Chuck has embraced the cross as lovingly as anyone I know. His pro-life work has brought him, across the span of two decades, as much persecution and grief as I have seen anyone suffer and, to my mind and by my observation, all unjustly.

But his passion for the unborn, for the babies, for the moms, for the church, for Christ, and the joy his embrace of all of these brings him seem to more than sustain him.

The worst persecution came in the form of a lawsuit brought by the attorney general's office of the state of Texas, a suit which Chuck and his organization, Mother and Unborn Baby Care (whose work has saved, in the literal sense, thousands of babies' lives), lost.

Through it all, Chuck's and his wife Pat's focus has always remained on bringing babies, however conceived, lovingly into our world.

When Jesus told Peter, "You are not judging by God's standards, but by man's," in today's readings, it was after Peter had tried to dissuade him from going up to Jerusalem to suffer and be put to death.

Each of us knows that our duties to God and family and whatever mission God has set before us, will, at times, require more from us than we get back in return.

Without this sacrifice, without this valuing the eternal above the immediate, life would be, as an anthropologist 100 years ago characterized human life in primitive cultures, "nasty, brutal and short."

Life without sacrifice is life without beauty, life without accomplishment, life without love.

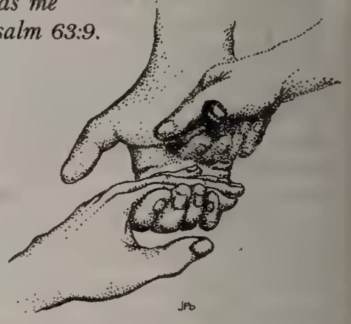
One of the central tenets of our popular culture is to simply do what pleases us. It is the culture of the long-term good sacrificed for the short-term gain. But Paul admonishes us in the Scripture from Romans for this Sunday, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect."

Only Christianity has made an implement of torturous death a symbol of ultimate good. Without Jesus choosing to go before us as sacrifice and example, the cross would be a hollow mockery. But it is not.

Question:

Where does God call you, that it is difficult to go? Think how he has sustained you in past situations.

"My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me"
— Psalm 63:9.



Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Aug. 29 - Sept. 4, 1999

Sunday, Jeremiah 20:7-9, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 16:21-27; **Monday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday**, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday**, Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday**, Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday**, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday**, Colossians 1:21-23, Luke 6:1-5

The Franciscan Center
Catholic Gift & Book Store
Over 700 Book Titles, plus Bibles, Rosaries, Statues, Medals, Tapes, CD's, Plaques, & much, much more!
Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday
(336) 273-2554 233 N. Greene St. Greensboro, NC 27401

Carolina
Drivers wanted.
#1 Dealer In Charlotte
#1 Dealer In The Whole Southeast
#2 Dealer In The United States
FOR CUSTOMER SALES & SERVICE SATISFACTION
Carolina Volkswagen
6625 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC
(704) 537-2336 ⊙ (800) 489-2336
"Nothing Could Be Finer" Members of St. Gabriel

Out on video

"Frank Capra's American Dream" (1997)

Feature documentary about the Italian-American director of "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) and many other movies celebrating the democratic character of American society and the human dignity of ordinary people. Written and directed by Kenneth Bowser, with actor Ron Howard serving as host and narrator, the result presents a complex picture of Capra (1897-1991) as both social populist and cultural elitist, as seen through interviews of his friends and colleagues as well as choice excerpts from a variety of his movies. A few scenes depicting violence and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Psycho" (1960)

Classic thriller from the Robert Bloch story in which a private detective (Martin Balsam) tracks a missing person (Janet Leigh) to a lonely, backroads motel whose affable but high-strung manager (Anthony Perkins) seems strangely preoccupied with the demands of his invalid mother in the eerie Victorian house atop a nearby hill. Director Alfred Hitchcock starts the proceedings with an impulsive theft, then smoothly switching gears, turns the ordinary into a scary, sinister nightmare with a compulsive murderer on the loose at the motel. Strong adult fare with much suspense, brief but shocking violence, most notably in the motel shower scene, and some sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Comedy veterans Murphy and Martin shine in "Bowfinger"

By GERRI PARE

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Eddie Murphy and Steve Martin play wild and crazy guys trying to survive the insanity of making it in Hollywood in the screwball comedy "Bowfinger" (Universal).

The two are at opposite ends of the success spectrum: Martin's bankrupt Bobby Bowfinger is desperate to make a movie but can only get studio financing if he signs top action star Kit Ramsey (Murphy).

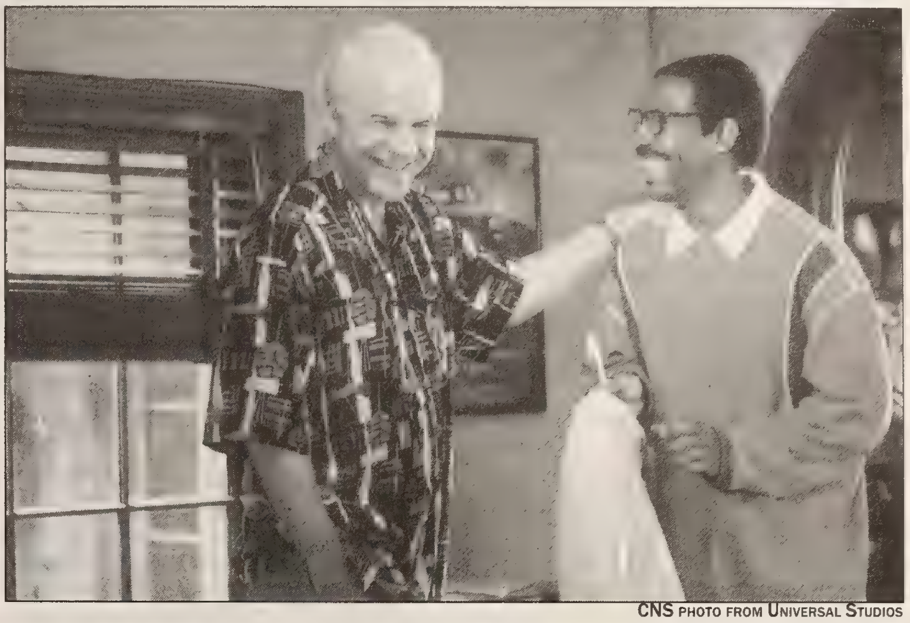
When Ramsey declines, Bowfinger decides to bluff it, telling his gullible cast of three (Christine Baranski, Kohl Sudduth and Heather Graham) that they must work around Ramsey since he never wants to see the camera or be introduced to any of them.

Working from a loony sci-fi script written by his immigrant accountant (Adam Alexi-Malle), Bowfinger secretly shoots footage of Ramsey in restaurants or on the street reacting to cast members approaching him with dire warnings of alien pod people on the loose. As Ramsey actually fears an alien invasion, it plays right into Bowfinger's hands as Ramsey flees from the crazy people who keep accosting him, thereby providing action footage.

So alarmed is Ramsey he hides out with a cultlike guru (Terence Stamp), bringing the film shoot to a standstill — until dimwitted look-alike Jiff (Murphy again) shows up to fill in the blanks. The film might actually get finished if they can just lure Ramsey out and onto a rooftop to face down a knife-wielding psycho-alien for the wacky climax.

Both Martin and Murphy are in tip-top comic form, working from Martin's script and energetically directed by Frank Oz.

A goofy movie that never gets mean-spirited, it lampoons all manner of Tinseltown pretensions, but Martin does it with wry affection for all the affectations. His throwaway lines include Bowfinger impressing his cast by describing his first meeting with superstar Ramsey. Claims nobody Bowfinger: "By the way, he knew who I was. Big fan."



CNS photo from Universal Studios

Comic actors Steve Martin and Eddie Murphy star in "Bowfinger." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Even the running joke about starlet Daisy (Graham) seducing anyone she thinks can expand her role in the movie is treated in a humorous fashion and is not to be taken seriously.

Baranski's arch performance as a has-been stage actress who wonders why she can't introduce herself to fellow cast member Ramsey has its comic moments as well at several points in the frenzied story.

While not filled with belly laughs, the movie captures the little nuances of life in La-La Land, and teamed with two fine performances from these enduring comedy veterans, "Bowfinger" hits the bulls-eye for screwball shenanigans.

Due to its comic treatment of a promiscuous starlet, a few crude expressions and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. ▾

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE
1-800 311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC
COMMUNICATION
CAMPAIGN

Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Serving Charlotte with integrity for over 38 years!
The LaPointe Dealerships
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

HONDA
7001 E. Independence Blvd.
535-4444

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Built For Living.™
6951 E. Independence Blvd.
531-3131

Enjoy 7 nights of fun...
Hilton Head Island, SC
OCEANFRONT CONDOS AT HOTEL PRICES!
AFFORDABLE, COMFORTABLE, OCEANFRONT

- 1 & 2 bedroom fully-equipped condos
- Miles of white sandy beach
- Island's largest outdoor pool
- 10 lighted tennis courts & pro shop
- Family fun activities galore, including bike & rollerblade rental
- Retreats & reunions

800-475-2631
or
843-842-4402
Ask for a Family Fun Special!

Weekly rates starting
As low as $629
plus tax.
Rates vary based on location, unit type & season. Reservations subject to availability. Not valid with other discounts.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BEACH & TENNIS
RESORT
40 Folly Field Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Parish gatherings highlight Hispanics' faith, struggles

By NANCY NORTON
Correspondent

Photo by Nancy Norton

Rev. Mr. Matthew Kauth, a transitional deacon, and Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, chat with Francisco Risso at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton. A discussion following Mass focused on rights and concerns of workers at a local poultry industry.

MORGANTON — Children play games in the hall at St. Charles Borromeo Church while a young man meticulously combs his hair in the mirror. Despite the sweltering heat, dresses and jeans are crisply pressed. The pews quickly fill while a Latino beat adds rhythm to the hymns.

The Hispanic Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton brings together families with needs and wants similar to most Americans. The church fills mostly with young men who have come to the States for work. They come to earn money, sparse in Mexico.

Much of what they earn travels home to help even poorer families. Many work for Case Farms, the local poultry industry, and fight a battle familiar across America: cheap foreign labor that keeps consumer costs low while raising shareholder profits.

Father Whittington, pastor of the Morganton parish, is a vocal supporter of the workers, their rights, and the need for social justice. In his homily during the Mass, Father Whittington points out the several meals that Jesus shares to illustrate that faith is necessary to feed the hungry. "Jesus said to make what you have available to (him)," he adds.

Continuing the struggle

The poultry industry is big business in North Carolina and the United States. In 10 years, sales of poultry products have increased almost 400 percent, and profits have risen 325 percent to $2.1 billion a year. The industry includes growers, catchers, plant workers and transporters who all must adhere to company standards, contracts and rules.

A longtime leader in the union movement, Juan Ignacio Montes works to gain contractual rights from his local employer. Not only a leader in the Hispanic community, he is also a dedicated member of St. Charles Borromeo Church.

In February 1996, Montes began the long fight for workers' rights as a union activist. He gave up several promotions to stand with the workers. "The company offers leaders promotions to distance them from the workers," he explains, admitting their plan often succeeds.

The workers want minimum rights: a salary increase, additional vacation time and friendlier work conditions. They want the company to pay for gloves, hairnets, and other supplies required for the job. Eighty percent of the workforce is non-English speaking, and the fear of losing jobs is strong. Still, 65 percent of the workers remain in the union.

"We do not have a lot of education, but we know how to respect others," explains Felipe Lopez, from LIUNA Local 700.

Unfortunately, as negotiations between management and labor slowed, a forced lock out has begun on Mondays. This management strategy forces the workers to survive on four days' pay. A fact-finding delegation formed to investigate this and other tactics.

Allegations include the firing of three Hispanic workers who complained of intolerable line speeds, lack of bathroom breaks and arbitrary supervisory treatment.

After signing his fourth contract, one 10-year grower relents, "I have no say in my contract. We have become slaves on our own farms".

"Many do not realize what is happening to their brother," adds José Ramirez. "Blood runs through our bodies too, and we have the rights that all people have. We are brought into the world to struggle — not stand here with our arms crossed."

A gathering of support

Following the Mass, parishioners gather to share their concerns. Deborah Young from the N.C. Poultry Justice Alliance leads the meeting to rally support and gain information. "We bring this battle to faith communities because worker justice is an issue of conscience," she explains.

Miltoria Bey from the National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice suggests, "The problem is spiritual and will be solved spiritually."

The director of the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Justice and Peace, Joanne Frazer, is present, too. She reminds everyone of the link between faith and justice.

"Justice is at the heart of the Catholic faith," says Frazer, who voiced support of the workers on behalf of the diocese. "The economy exists to serve the people — not the other way around."

Regaining momentum

Juan Montes continues to remain a leader in this struggle despite a diagnosis of multiple melanoma. Originally from Durango, the 34-year-old Montes has worked three long years

See HISPANICS, page 13

Attention: CD Buyers

7.55%
Annual Percentage Yield (APY)*
Callable Certificates of Deposit

- FDIC insured to $100,000 per depositor, per institution**
- Interest paid semi-annually • Final maturity in 15 years - 8/19/14
- Non-callable for 2 years • Callable thereafter @100 par

Call: Jeanne O. McCulloch
Financial Consultant
(336) 721-9221
110 S. Stratford, Winston-Salem, NC 27104
SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

The CD is non-callable for the first 2 years and then can be called every six months thereafter by the issuing bank. The final stated maturity is 8/19/14. Minimum deposit $1,000. Subject to change and availability. Although we are not required to do so, we endeavor to provide a secondary market so that CD holders can sell their CDs prior to maturity. The resale price in such a transaction may be less than the principal amount invested. (APY as of 7/29/99).

*APY interest cannot remain on deposit in the same CD; interest will be paid semi-annually.

**FDIC insurance covers a maximum amount of $100,000 per depositor, per institution (including principal and interest combined) in each insurable capacity.

Salomon Smith Barney is a service mark of Salomon Smith Barney Inc.
©1999 Salomon Smith Barney Inc. Member SIPC
A member of citigroup

MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Providing quality education in a Catholic tradition.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

All Saints Catholic School
7000 Endhaven Lane
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
4225 Shamrock Drive
St. Ann Catholic School
600 Hillside Avenue
St. Gabriel Catholic School
3028 Providence Road
St. Patrick Catholic School
1125 Buchanan Street
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
3100 Park Road
Charlotte Catholic High School
7702 Pineville-Matthews Road

For more information,
call the Admissions Office at
(704) 370-3273

offers
tian values
emic
diverse
boys and
s K-12

Monkamp offers campers a look behind monastery walls

By JEAN M. SCHILDZ
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — "Would you like your car washed?" a monk dressed in shorts and shirt asks the monastery visitor. Nearby a crew of 11 young men spray soap suds at a car and each other.

Welcome to Monkamp at the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis.

Each summer the abbey offers two Monkamp sessions. They run Sunday through Thursday, and each session can handle up to 13 boys, generally eighth-graders through high school sophomores.

The program begins Sunday evening with orientation, vespers and benediction, followed by supper, an introduction to the Divine Office and music practice, then it's off for some recreation before lights out at 10 p.m.

During the week, the youths, dubbed "monklets," do service projects, perform manual labor, pray, take field trips, go swimming, eat, spend time out in the countryside, listen to lectures and practice the art of silence.

The Benedictines have been offering Monkamp for some 23 years, said Benedictine Father Luke Rigby, current novice master who originated the program in 1976 when he was the abbey's superior.

The camps have grown so popular in the past several years that the monks have had to offer two weekly sessions each summer. Both have waiting lists of some 30 monklet wanna-bes.

What makes Monkamp so popular?

"We scratch our heads. We can't imagine why they enjoy it so much," joked Benedictine Father Bede Price, the program's director for the past eight years.

Camp veteran Nick Salinas, a 1999 graduate of nearby St. Louis Priory School, who worked as a camp assistant this summer, said the camp's attraction is in part from pure curiosity.

> **"The boys sense, perhaps, that monks are normal people, that we can have fun and are normal so far as frail human beings go."**
>
> *— Father Luke Rigby*

"During the school year, no one really enters the monastery," he told the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis Archdiocese. "So part of the whole mystery is, what goes on in the monastery."

In addition, Monkamp "is a great way for boys to learn about another way of life," said Salinas, who will enter Kenrick Seminary this fall. "Why would they pursue religious life if they had no idea about what it was like? It's a great way to learn about it."

Participants are exposed to the monastery's history and the variety of people there, said Tom Tuthill, a Latin teacher at St. Louis Priory School who helps shepherd the monklets.

The community aspect of monastery life also is an important attraction, Father Rigby said. "The boys sense, perhaps, that monks are normal people, that we can have fun and are normal so far as frail human beings go."

Father Rigby said the camp's main goal is not to attract vocations. "I don't see it and never have seen it as exclusively about vocations," he said. "This is what we can offer to our boys to help them be good Catholic Christians."

A.J. Zucchero, a senior at the priory school and 1999 camp assistant, said he never would have imagined before coming to the camp "how much fun it would be getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning, and running around doing manual labor and the whole bit."

"It's a surprisingly good time," he said. "We all have a blast here, and that's why we're out here five years later still helping out."

Monkamp "is sort of like leaven" in the life of St. Louis Priory School, said Father Price. Students who have participated and learned "what's going on the other side of the wall" have an effect on their school and other students who haven't been to Monkamp, he said.

"And I hope it teaches them something about one way of learning about God," he added.

The monks spend most of their time in the morning in church, where they don't talk, Father Price said. They remain silent in parts of the building, including the second floor of the monastery, when they go to and from church, when it is mealtime, and at night after compline, the last prayers.

Silence "just allows you to focus on other things," the priest explained. "And our life is very busy with the boys, so silence is kind of nice."

When you see the boys washing cars or hauling mulch or praying, they are imitating the life of a Benedictine monk, Salinas said.

Their motto is "Ora et Labora," which is Latin for prayer and work, Tuthill said. That's what the monks try to teach the boys.

Camp traditions include telling the story of a well-known St. Louis exorcism and ghostly tales late at night while visiting a graveyard, Zucchero said.

The monklets also invariably change the sign in the monastery hallway that spells out "paz," or "peace" in Spanish. "It's always been the tradition to move the 'z' and the 'p' so it reads 'zap,'" the 17-year-old added.

"I always have the tradition of putting it back," said Father Rigby with a smile. ▼

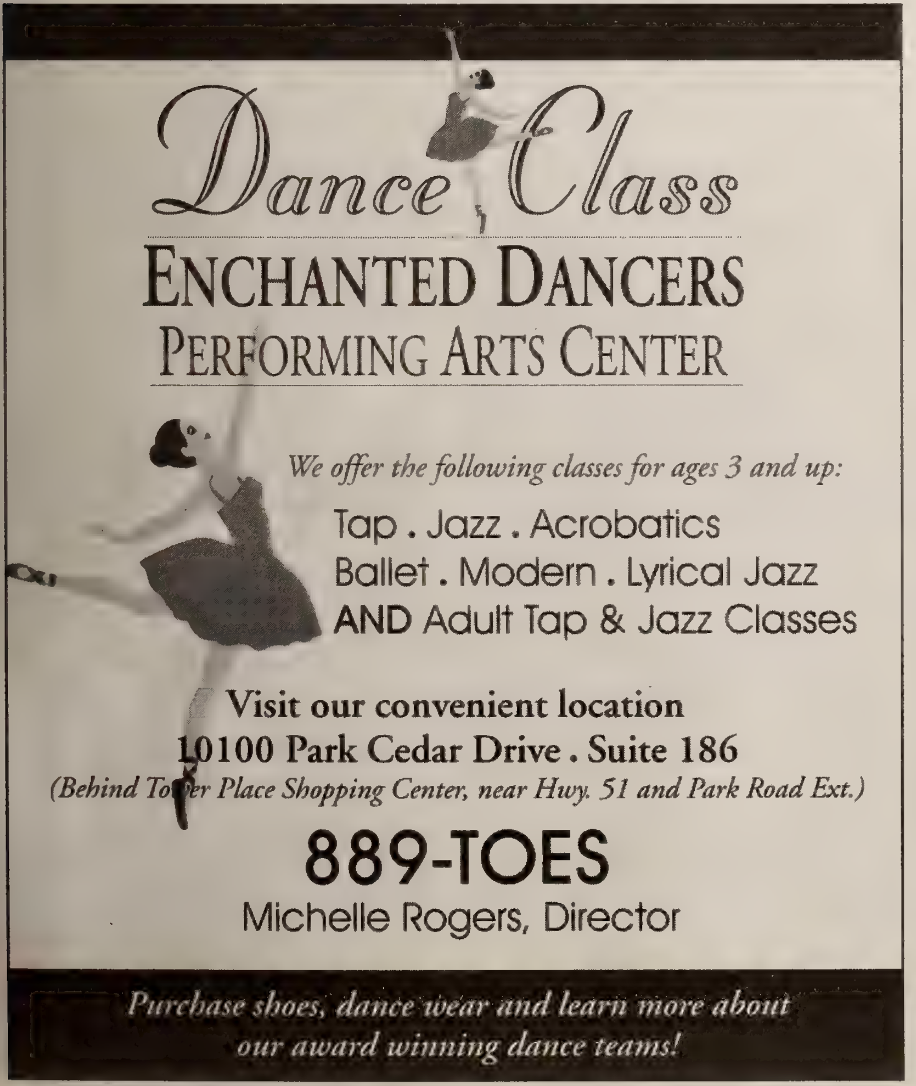
Hispanics, from page 12

to achieve a union contract. He still believes in the union. "This is historic for Latino people to organize in a foreign country," he says.

Montes has been away from work two months while receiving treatment. Insurance pays most of the medical bills but his wife, Maria, has now gone to work in a factory. A benefit supper held at St. Charles helps to care for Juan's daughters, eight-year-old Anna and Naomi, 6.

Juan remains optimistic. "I know many people are praying for me and my family," he says.

As the community of St. Charles Borromeo seeks to regain the momentum that Juan Montes began, they close with a focus on a verse from Scripture, Micah 6:8: ". . . to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with my God." ▼



Dance Class
ENCHANTED DANCERS
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
We offer the following classes for ages 3 and up:
Tap . Jazz . Acrobatics
Ballet . Modern . Lyrical Jazz
AND Adult Tap & Jazz Classes
Visit our convenient location
10100 Park Cedar Drive . Suite 186
(Behind Tower Place Shopping Center, near Hwy. 51 and Park Road Ext.)
889-TOES
Michelle Rogers, Director
Purchase shoes, dance wear and learn more about our award winning dance teams!

School Uniform Sale!
BUY LOCALLY!
- Quality A+ School Apparel uniforms in stock
- 9-month "School Year Warranty"
- Lower Prices

*Mention this ad for 10% off your next $75 purchase.
Free shipping on orders over $75! 1-888-895-0071
Member of St. Therese
Uniforms DIRECT 2U

The Diocese of Charlotte
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org
For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries
Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3377 fax
Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Geri King (704) 370-3232 (704) 370-3377 fax
Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Sr. Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146 (828) 253-7339 fax
Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
(336) 727-9333 fax
Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

South Carolina religious leadership

Concerns expressed regarding video poker

In concert with other members of the South Carolina Christian Action Council (SCCAC), Bishop David B. Thompson and Bishop Elect Robert J. Baker issued the following statement concerning the gambling industry on Aug. 16. Below is the full text of the statement, however, excerpts from the following will be printed along with other statements by the SCCAC.

The Roman Catholic Church is not in principle against games of chance being played occasionally in family and social gather ings within reasonable limits. At this time, as gambling becomes big business in our beloved state, we are concerned about the detrimental effects it is having on the fabric of our society, particularly on our poorest citizens and those prone to addictions. They are likely to be the primary victims as gambling continues to become more popular in South Carolina. If gambling is to have legal status in our state, we urge legislation that will keep it strictly controlled and minimize its opportunities to expand.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY, CHARLESTON

We stand opposed to the major financing of any of the essential functions of our society from the proceeds of gambling. In particular, we offer our own sad experience with the game of bingo. For a time, some of our educational institutions allowed bingo to be enjoyed on their premises. Soon, there developed a tendency to depend on its profits as a major source of revenue to underwrite the ministries of these institutions. In allowing this to happen, we fell short of our responsibility as good stewards. We now have banned such regular and large-scale gambling at, or for the sake of, any of our institutions. We offer this experience for the benefit of all who now consider the future of gambling in our state.

We are pleased now to join the South Carolina Christian Action Council and its members, representing the great majority of Christians in our state, in an effort to regulate the gambling industry in South Carolina. In particular, we add our voices to that chorus of churches urging all our citizens to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1999, and to vote "NO" on the question: "Shall cash payoffs for credits earned on video game machines continue to be allowed after June 30, 2000?" ▼

Labor Day, from page 7

tury.

"Through their efforts the great American middle class was born," he said. "Yet American unions never capitulated to the concept of 'class' struggle that found such fertile ground in the rest of the industrial world. Union leaders instead saw their organization as part of the American experiment in democracy and urged their membership to seek social justice for all instead of class struggle."

Many of the labor movement's values reflect the church's own faith values, Cardinal Mahony said, such as the drive for public policies "that protect and promote strong families, expand a stable middle class, create decent jobs and reduce the level of poverty and need in our society."

> **"This Labor Day, we need to reflect as Christians on the values we seek to advance in our economic and public life. We need to assess how often the principles that we believe are vital to maintaining our national commitment ensuring a life of dignity for our parents, ourselves and our children are reflected in the national dialogue over the future of Social Security and national economic policy."**
>
> — *Cardinal Roger M. Mahoney*

Programs such as Social Security, the minimum wage law, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Family and Medical Leave Act accomplish some of those goals, Cardinal Mahony said.

"This Labor Day, we need to reflect as Christians on the values we seek to advance in our economic and public life," he wrote. "We need to assess how often the principles that we believe are vital to maintaining our national commitment ensuring a life of dignity for our parents, ourselves and our children are reflected in the national dialogue over the future of Social Security and national economic policy."

As Congress considers changes to the Social Security system, certain goals from Catholic social teaching ought to be considered, Cardinal Mahony wrote.

They include:

— Respect for human dignity.

— Recognition of the common good.

— The scriptural mandate to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger "such as persons with disabilities, older Americans and immigrants."

— Subsidiarity, or the concept of social insurance covering illness, disability, unemployment and old age that includes participation by government.

Cardinal Mahony concluded by quoting from "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice," a statement on how to live out the church's justice teachings in everyday life, which was adopted by the U.S. bishops last November.

"Catholicism does not call us to abandon the world, but to help shape it," the statement said. "This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities, but transforming them." ▼

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

Director of Social Concerns: St. Francis of Assisi seeks a full-time Director of Social Concerns to shepherd the Catholic Social Mission within and outside our growing community. We are a Vatican II parish seeking a credible and compassionate witness of faith to inspire and empower the use of our time, talent and treasure. The director will oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of the peace and justice issues challenging us today. For complete job description: www.catholic-forum.com/st.francis. We offer a comprehensive benefits package. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Please send by October 1: Brief statement outlining your vision of Catholic Social Teaching as it can be realized on the parish level, resume, and 3 references to Search Committee, 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613. Direct inquiries and materials to Joan@stfrancis.raldioc.org. Fax: (919)847-8205x249.

Elementary Teachers: All Saints Catholic School (K-5) has the following part-time positions open: Music, Counselor, Substitute teachers. Please send resume and request for application to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277; Fax (704) 544-2184.

Music Positions: Vibrant 3500+families parish in Alpharetta, Georgia has several openings:
Organist/pianist needed to play 3 to 4 liturgies a weekend, weddings, funerals and holy days. Must be knowledgeable in post-Vatican II liturgy. Must be able to lead and accompany an assembly that loves to sing!
Choral Director needed for Adult Choir. Responsibilities include one weekly rehearsal and one weekend liturgy. Must be able to lead the choir in a balance of supporting the assembly's song and singing anthems alone. Other responsibilities include conducting combined choral/instrumental efforts for parish-wide special events. Must be knowledgeable in basic principles of Catholic liturgical celebration. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgical repertoire as well as a variety of sacred choral music.
Children's Choir Director needed for active children's choir. Responsible for one weekly rehearsal and one monthly children's liturgy.
Any or all of the above positions may be combined for the person with the right qualifications. Send letter of interest and resume to: Kathy Kuczka or Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 535 Rucker Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004.

Office Assistant: Personal financial planner needs responsible, articulate person interested in investments. Variety of tasks from customer service to filing to updating computer records. Part-time, flexible schedule of 25-30 hours per week in SouthPark office. Call Cynthia L. Anderson, CFP, at (704)643-7173 or fax resume to (704)556-0445.

Pro-Life Director, Archdiocese of Atlanta: Full time position for individual meeting the following requirements: practicing Catholic; college degree; substantial knowledge of medical, legal and political arenas as they relate to pro-life endeavors; public speaking and writing skills; computer literacy; and workshop leadership experience. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail:zjohnson@archatl.com

Youth Director: Part-time position for St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, N.C. 500-family parish. Theology degree and youth ministry experience preferred. Salary negotiable. Send resume to Fr. Peter Fitzgibbons, PO Box 882, Statesville, NC 28678.

REAL ESTATE

Bungalow for Sale: Taylorsville. Totally refurbished electrical and plumbing. 2 Bedrooms, 1 bath, laundry, dining, kitchen, living room. Cement block basement, attached shed. Fenced rear yard. Great for starter, retiree or rental. Close to town. $49,500. ReMAX, agent Linda B. (704)871-9882/1-800-467-9882. (Seller is St. Philip parishioner.)

For Rent - Beach Condo: 3 Bedrooms at Myrtle Beach available 8/28, all of September and October. Call (336) 924-2842.

Classified ads bring results! Over 104,000 readers! Over 42,000 homes!
Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
How to order: Ads may be faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Former principal, Douglas Rich, dies at 52

CHARLOTTE — Mr. Douglas Powell Rich, 52, of Charlotte, NC, died Sunday, August 22, 1999 at his home.

Born September 3, 1946 in Puerto Rico, he was a graduate of The Citadel in Charleston, SC. He served as a Major in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era and was a recipient of the Silver Star. He was employed by U.S. Textile Corporation in Lancaster, SC and previously had served as a Professor at The Citadel, as well as Principal of St. Michael's Catholic School in Gastonia, NC. Doug served as a Lector at St. Peter Catholic Church and as Chairman of the Capital Campaign.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated Wednesday, August 25, 1999 at St. Peter Catholic Church by The Reverend Eugene P. McCreesh. A Rosary was said on Tuesday at St. Peter Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn Rateau Rich, a teacher at St. Gabriel School; his father, Colonel David A. Rich, of Cocoa Beach, FL; a sister, Sharon Rich Mitchell, of Cocoa, FL; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Foundation for Fighting Blindness, PO Box 17279, Baltimore, MD 21297; St. Peter Catholic Church, 507 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Harry and Bryant Company is serving the family of Mr. Rich. ▾

Photo by Alesha M. Price

The Centro Catolicó Hispaño Choir

The Centro Catolicó Hispaño Choir perform at St. Ann Church Family Picnic Concert in the activity center on July 21 in Charlotte. They were a part of the celebration sponsored by the Catholic Evangelization Commission of Charlotte.

Stokes, from page 1

continued, and still continues, to volunteer in the Refugee Office, the clinic, a nursing home, and for Love, Inc., an organization that helps people in need.

Because of hip replacement and back operations, she was not able to work in a hospital setting; therefore, she decided that she could work as a volunteer nurse in whatever capacity she could when she was feeling physically sound. She can only work on certain days when she can sit or stand for certain periods of time. "I do what I can when I am able."

"I wanted to do something different for my community health rotation class, and I thought that this would be an interesting thing to do. I had no idea that I would simply fall in love with these people," said Stokes.

In order to communicate, she uses gestures and exaggerated facial expressions to convey what she wants from her patients. She also learned several key words and phrases in Spanish, Vietnamese, and other languages so that the refugees feel more comfortable.

"By piecing together what I can from their various languages and my own sign language, you can usually figure out what they are talking about," added Stokes.

Because she is trained as a nurse, she stated that "she is able to assess medical needs and have attention brought to that need. She is also able to educate them about basic preventative health care measures and simple things like phone calls and bills."

Barbara Douglas, an Administrative Assistant in the Refugee Resettlement Office said, "her deep faith in God is what motivates her. She is very sweet, considerate, and helpful. She has a strong bond with the refugee population and looks for ways to meet their needs."

It was this selfless attitude that prompted Hayden to nominate Stokes for three awards this year: The Nine Who Care Awards, sponsored by United Way of Central Carolina and WSOC-TV; the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award; and the Betty Dodson Klemm Outstanding Volunteer Award from the NC Refugee Program. Stokes made a clean sweep by winning all three awards.

Dr. Galea said, "If you saw her working in the clinic and the response to her caring attitude, you would know why Lynda is most-deserving of all. Patients feel comfortable when talking to her, and she sets them at ease."

"Sonia [Hayden] is very conscious to express appreciation to our volunteers, and over the past several years, Lynda has stood out among the volunteers, whether transporting people to and from appointments, helping us with our newsletter, asking for clothing and home furnishings for the refugees, and performing many other tasks," said Douglas.

At the State Refugee Conference in June, she was named the 1999 Outstanding Volunteer. In July, she received one of the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Awards and will be honored at a luncheon in the fall. She was selected as one of the finalists from Mecklenburg County in the individual category for the Nine Who Care and will attend the final selection luncheon in September.

Hayden stated, "Every year, we select a special volunteer that would serve as an example and to recognize work they have done with the Refugee Resettlement Office. We chose Lynda because of all her dedicated service to this office and to the refugees."

When asked why she began volunteering, Stokes replied, "I like people, and I try to help when I can. Even though I can't really identify with losing my home or family to war, I can sympathize. I know what it is like not to have, so I give what I can to whomever. I get so much more than I could possibly give. Their responses to my help are priceless, and the love I receive is beyond words."

"I would tell people who do not volunteer that they are missing out on a blessing," said Stokes. "We are put here to serve each other in whatever way we can. I think about what Jesus would do, and I put myself in their position. I know that I would want someone to help me." ▾

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P. O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
(803) 327-2097

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
A Continuing Silence
Sat., Sept. 25 or Sat., Dec. 3
A continuing community of prayer support gathers at The Oratory every 3-4 months. Participants are invited to come Friday evening for rest and quiet. Saturday includes Taize prayer and several sessions of silent contemplation.

Pre-register by Sept. 15, Nov. 29
Commuters: $30 Overnight: $50

AN INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY AND PRAYER
"Ever Wonder Why?" — A Response
Sat., Sept. 25 9:30am-3:30pm
Fr. Joe Pearce, C.O.
Designed for all liturgical ministers, Fr. Joe will be introducing and reviewing the principles of liturgy.

Pre-register by Sept. 15
Cost: $30 (lunch included)

Share your day and lunch with friends surrounded by God's beauty at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory
Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
Directed by Father Lawrence Hunt
Closing Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin
Wednesday, October 13, 10:30-3:30
Coffee & Danish 9:30-10:30
For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Name ________ Phone ________
Address ________
City ________ Parish ________

$7.50 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: Wednesday, October 6th
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Colchester Place
GARDENS & NURSERY
- Annuals - Spectacular array!
- Blooming pots
- Perennials - Wide variety
- Birdbaths and Fountains
- Lanscape Consulting Available

10605 Park Rd.,Charlotte
Next to Black Lion
(704) 341-2200
Members of St. Peter's

Parish honors past, celebrates future

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BREVARD — "Does anyone have any good news to share today?"

Most likely, this colloquial fare is standard for the conclusion of Mass at Sacred Heart parish. It's family, it's community. And for Father Carl Del Giudice, it's just part of the down-home friendliness that defines this close-knit mountain parish.

This however, was hardly an ordinary Sunday. The Transylvania County parish community gathered to celebrate its 50-year anniversary. Five decades, 20 priests, give or take a few.

It's been a long time since Suzanne Thomas Maney's father sold gladiolus to raise money to help build the first parish church. It's been a long time since Patricia Maley Sigar's grandfather hosted spaghetti suppers to add to the cause.

Both women were children at the time of the first parish, spending their girlhood years as *those Catholics* in a predominantly Presbyterian stronghold. They graduated from Saint Genevieve of the Pines in nearby Buncombe County. In their lifetimes, neither strayed too far from the beauty of the Pisgah Forest. They retain memories of a time when nine Catholic families became the cornerstones of Sacred Heart parish.

One August 21, it was a step back in time for the founding members, their families, their children, and now some of their children's children. Sacred Heart turned the anniversary into a weekend event. Saturday, it was reunion time as a steady stream of those old and young, new and founding parishioners filtered through the parish hall. Adding to their reminiscent joy, several former pastors returned to greet so many they ministered in years gone by.

"We're celebrating the events of our lives," said Father Del Giudice, who's been pastor for the past eight years. He took the opportunity to pay tribute to "the very hard work, courage and fortitude that built the community we have here."

In 1949, Sacred Heart Catholic Church became the spiritual home to a growing population of Catholics in the area. For $36,000, a modified English gothic design, 120-seat church, complete with living space for the pastor, opened its doors. The cozy parish served the community well for nearly 40 years. Today, the former first church building is home to the Transylvania County Arts Council.

The year of 1988 brought a new facility to a new, more expansive location. The lure of the mountains is evidenced not only in the community at large, but on the parish roster as well. It is a transformation from "being a small mountain church to a fairly good sized urban parish," says Father Del Giudice, quickly calculating about 1,200 members.

Father Carl Del Giudice chats with Elly Bellini and Renate Chapman as they queue up for the parish barbecue, which followed the 50th anniversary Mass of Sacred Heart Parish.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Monica Driscoll leans towards June Driscoll during the Saturday parish open house. The parish took the opportunity to thank founding parish families, while welcoming the entire parish to join the celebration.

Sunday brought the crux of the festivities: the Eucharistic celebration with Bishop William G. Curlin. "May God bless you and reward you a hundred fold for all the sacrifices, all that you have done here," said the bishop in precursory comments.

And on this day, the waning dog days of summer loosened its tight grip just enough to make for a perfect Sunday afternoon. Perfect for a parish celebration that would conclude with an abundance of the arguable markings of true southern fare, barbecue.

Well over 450 squeezed in the sanctuary to join in celebration of the Mass. It was a capacity crowd, but as friends and family, there was room for everyone, and certainly for more if need be.

At the onset of the Mass, Tom McGohey took the microphone. "Regulars know it's our custom to welcome visitors." A smattering of hands went up as he elicited their whereabouts, noting places from California to Pennsylvania and points in between. "It's nice to have all of you back," said McGohey. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336, or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY
Pastoral Care Training

This program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities, and homebound. Through the four-week training, volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts:

Each two-hour session held from 7-9 pm.

Monday, Oct. 4 — ***Parish Ministry*** — *BJ Dengler, Pastoral Coordinator*
Monday, Oct. 11 — ***Eucharistic Ministry*** — *Msgr. John McSweeney, St. Matthew, pastor*
Monday, Oct. 18 — ***Senior Sensitivity*** — *Bernadette Ford, Gerentologist*
Monday, Oct. 25 — ***Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency*** — *Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M., Pastoral Associate*

All sessions will be held at:
St. Gabriel Catholic Church Ministry Center
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte (at Sharon Amity)
Cost: $5.00
Registration required, call 364-5431.

Sponsored by
Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry, St. Gabriel Church, St. Matthew Church

MODULARCORP

Specialists in
Custom Modular Buildings to meet
your growing and changing needs

Turn-key and Professional Solutions

1803 East Wendover Ave., Suite E
Greensboro, NC 27405
(336) 275-8274 (336) 275-8649 fax
E-mail: modular@greensboro.com

Daniel Murray, President
St. Puis X Parishioner

- Schools
- Institutions
- Daycares
- Churchs
- Sales Offices
- Recreational Facilities
- Banks
- Medical Facilities

Member of: MODULAR BUILDING INSTITUTE

Visit our Web site!
www.modularcorp.com

Bridgeport National
Bindery, Inc.
AUG. 2000